

**Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
International Meeting to Support the Global Fund
Welcome
July 16, 2003**

MODERATOR: (French Audio)

PIERRE ANDRE WILTZER: (French Audio)

TOMMY G. THOMPSON: Hello and bon jour. I want to first thank Minister Wiltzer for his outstanding leadership and his hospitality, along with Minister Mattei and I thank them very much. I want to thank all of you. You're joining with us today to discuss the status, the goals, and the future of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. I certainly want to thank our host, the government and the people of France. Our two nations share a very long history. We have helped won and defend one another's liberty and we have marched together in the cause of science and public health. I want to especially take this opportunity to thank Ministers Mattei and Wiltzer, two outstanding Ministers who are dedicated and passionate, as well as France's willingness to convene and host this conference, combined with President Chirac's wonderful commitment to increase France's monetary contribution to the Global Fund in order to fight this fight against AIDS that truly demonstrates his dedication and the dedication of France to the Global Fund. I also want to thank Mare (Misspelled?) and Serge. This wouldn't have happened without two outstanding individuals that are members of the Global Fund who have worked extremely hard and I wish they would get a big round of applause for the job that they've done. (Applause)

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one of us shares in this dedication. As Chairman of the Global Fund, of the Board, it is really my privilege and honor to work with men and women of such passion and compassion for people of the world who suffer from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and need the support more than ever of the global community. They need the innovative programs that this Fund is supporting and the newfound hope that results from access to miracles of modern medicine.

Let me begin by speaking out about the Global Fund itself and how quickly it has emerged as an important and vital organization in global public health. Just a short 26 months ago I had the privilege of being with President Bush and Kofi Annan when President Bush announced the founding donation to the idea of a Global Fund. In 18 months, a short 18 month ago, we incorporated and since that time public and private donors have pledged \$4.7 billion dollars to the Global Fund. And let me repeat that number, \$4.7 billion dollars. That's bigger than any year and a half old company or organization I have personally ever heard of. Further, we on the Fund Board have committed \$1.6 billion to 155 projects in 92 countries. The Fund Secretariat, who is led by an outstanding man, Dr. Richard Feachem, who you'll hear from shortly. And we have an excellent staff and a very small staff because we want to keep it small so that the money flows through there quickly and out

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Secretariat and the Board has disbursed \$65 million dollars to date to these projects since January. Real money is being spent to save lives in places like Haiti, East Timor, Nigeria and many other countries. That number is going climb quickly to \$100 million disbursed by October, and then \$200 million by the end of the year.

As of now, 90% of the approved proposals from round one, and 40% of the approved proposals from round two have signed a grant agreement. And they have to sign that before they get their money. Proposals from rounds one and two almost tripled the number of people in developing countries that are on antiretroviral therapy, bringing the hope and the promise of modern science from the Global Fund to those who otherwise face a death sentence. For malaria, the Global Fund in the next two years will become the largest underwriter of insecticide-treated bed nets in the world. For tuberculosis proposals from round one and two, it will significantly expand and improve detection rates and expand the treatment especially against the new multi-drug resistant strains that are coming up throughout the world.

That, ladies and gentlemen, in and of itself is an impressive record by any measure. And despite the early successes, however, we are constantly trying to improve, both by increasing pledges - and today it's not a pledge conference

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those pledges to the people who need them most as quickly and as efficiently as possible. That is why we're all here today, to recommit ourselves to this Fund and this fight. This Fund must be as flexible and as adaptable as the diseases we work to conquer. This Fund must be part of a larger, multinational financial commitment to fight HIV/AIDS. And finally, the Global Fund represents a crucial complimentary element in the domestic, the bilateral and the global programs that form an integrated campaign against this insidious disease, HIV/AIDS.

And unless domestic and international efforts are integrated into a global effort, little progress will be made against this disease. The Global Fund cannot succeed in isolation. And while we're here with the international communities focused on the Global Fund today, please join me in calling on businesses, corporations, private entities, the faith-based community, NGOs and individuals to join our crusade against these diseases that are tearing apart families, communities and yes, even countries. It's going to take a very concentrated, coordinated effort among governments, private entities and individuals to win this battle. And we need all the help that we can get. And ladies and gentlemen, let me just quickly say this is a battle we cannot afford to lose.

Let me conclude by saying one of the central goals of projects funded through the Global Fund should be to provide

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programs become increasingly effective as care and treatment become more available and more successful. To base the key functions of the Global Fund should be to mobilize new funds and to build upon all and improve existing programs, all guided by overriding medical and public health expertise and experience.

My friends, I am very happy to see all of you here today. You are a dedicated lot and we need each and every one of you. We need the private sector, led by Ambassador Richard Holbrook. We need the faith-based community led by the bishop from the Vatican and the bishop from the Anglican Church in Cape Town and many other clergy who are here. We need the NGOs who are represented here by many of you. And the countries represented here by your administrators and other representatives. Let me say that this is a war like no other war that we've ever been involved in. More deaths have been caused from HIV/AIDS than all the wars combined. And it is growing. And now is the time to stand up and fight this insidious disease.

Today we're going to have a tremendous day of discussion, which much lead to a future of tremendous action. When today is over, we have to go home, re-dedicate ourselves to fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The millions of people who have lost their lives to these diseases and their loved ones deserve nothing less.

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actually turn your attention to the video screens, I would like to tell you that I had lunch on Monday of this week with Kofi Annan in my office. And Kofi is going to speak to us now but he told me to tell each and every one of you, thank you for coming, thank you for being such wonderful, dedicated individuals, but to remind you that this is something that the world cannot turn its head to. We have to be involved. It's overtaking all of us. And each and every one of us have got to redouble our efforts and make sure that those individuals that are suffering from this disease are going to be able to have the treatment that they need, the care and the compassion of everybody in this room and everybody that you represent.

So, on behalf of my government, on behalf of President Bush, on behalf of the people of the United States, I say thank you to each and every one of you for being here. And I thank you so very much for caring, for the passionate, for your passion and your compassion.

Now I ask you to turn your attention to the video screens for a very special message from our friend and leader, the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan. (Applause)

KOFI ANNAN: (French Audio)

By gathering today you are showing your commitment to mobilizing greater support for the Fund and ensuring that it lives up to it's full potential. By your example you are

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fight against these devastating diseases. The Fund is not there to replace national or international efforts. Those efforts are of vital importance and must continue. The Fund exists to fill a specific and substantial gap by providing effective and efficient financing to scale up our collective struggle. To mount an effective global response to HIV/AIDS alone, the total spending needs to rise to \$10 billion a year by 2005. The Global Fund is there to channel a significant part of that amount, but by no means all of it. And I repeat again, by no means all of it.

Today we have an opportunity to build on the leadership shown by a number of countries in the movement to support the Fund. We look to model this, to follow their example. That support can take many forms: direct financial contribution, practical support for operations, mobilizing within recipient countries. However you choose to do it, the biggest challenge before you is to ensure that substantial commitments are made and that new partnerships are created to enable the Fund to play its role to the fullest.

For the United Nations family and me personally, turning the tide on AIDS, TB and malaria is a priority second to none. We will remain full and committed partner in the collective struggle towards our common goal.

Thank you very much. (Applause)