

## **White House Summit on Malaria A World Where Malaria Is No More December 14, 2006**

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**ISAIAH WASHINGTON:** Welcome back. As [inaudible] described a hopeful world, a world where malaria is no more. This is a world I personally very much hope for in Africa. The burden to create such a world is incumbent upon all of us with African heritage. And some scientists tell me that everyone in this room, that's everyone in this room from Africa actually. As a young adult I often wondered where I had come from on that great continent. I learned in early 2005 that I share ancestry with the Mende people of Sierra Leone. DNA testing, thank you. I discovered that Sengbe Piah, or as we know him here in America as Joseph Cinque the capitol leader of the Amistad Revolt was a Sierra Leonean, more importantly he was Mende. My mind raced with emotion, and my heart filled with overwhelming pride. Not only am I a proud Texan, I am a descendant of a great Mende legacy, and now what should I do about this legacy?

I return to my newfound native homeland with an architect, a doctor, and a NAACP attorney, and a film crew; to gather research and become inducted as a tribal chief, I am now Chief Gondabay Manga, of the Engalu village of the Bogwai Chieftain.

Since that time I've decided to give back, to give hope, and to give my own helping hands to those in Sierra Leone who want to reclaim their independence. I established a Gondabay Manga Foundation to join the willing in Sierra Leone,

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and the United States and all over the world who are driven to help. The Gondabay Manga foundation's mission is to recapture the great spirit of Sierra Leone, to help all of her people, harness their collective and positive energy, and return Sierra Leone to greatness. I encourage all other African Americans to discover their genetic roots on the African continent.

I know that as the numbers increase, and more African Americans reach back to that ancestry, their actions will propel all of humanity forward. During my time spent in Africa I have been continually inspired by the people I meet. Some young people who I think will inspire all of us are the high school students at Mount Kenya Academy in Nyeri, Kenya. They were asked to write essays themed, "A World Without Malaria". These students detail their personal experiences with the disease, both in their own lives and the lives of their friends and family. The students ended their essays by stating what a world without malaria would mean to them. One of these students was selected for her essay, "What Is It? Malaria." Miss Rita Githiaka wrote the personal essay last year when she was 15 years old. She is one African who is fighting bitterly against malaria, a killer of her family and a potential erasure of her own heritage. In your programs you will find a personal essay written by Miss Rita Githiaka, a 15 year old Kenyan girl. In her essay Rita recalls how her best friend Claire was devastated by the loss of her mother to malaria. Claire's

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tears were dried by Rita's parents who adopted Claire. Malaria made these best friends sisters. But they have resolved to help all of their young sisters and brothers across Africa grow up in a world where malaria's devastation is no more.

Now it is my privilege to introduce a woman who's dedicated her tremendous talent to helping improve the lives of children around the world. U.S. Secretary of Education, Margaret Spellings.

**Margaret Spellings:** Thank you Isaiah, my fellow Texan also. I'm delighted to be here with you today, and thank you for coming together to achieve the safer and happier world that we all dream of and pray for. As we all have learned, malaria is one of the most common and most preventable diseases, and that's why I'm proud that all of us in the public sector and the private sector and non-profit organizations are working together on this very, very critical cause. I especially want to thank President and Mrs. Bush for hosting us, and for devoting these historic resources, \$1.2 billion, to cut the mortality rate from malaria in half. And I want to thank Melinda Gates, and the Gates Foundation for giving hundreds of millions for malaria research, treatment, and prevention, and thank them also for all they do in education as well.

This is a team effort, and it will take everybody from school children like Rita, to Abbott, to Scholastic, to Isaiah

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Washington, the Secretary of Education, and all of us to solve this critical problem.

The fight against malaria really also offers our nation's school children the chance to learn that they can make a difference. Because so many children are affected by malaria it makes sense that our children are part of this joint effort, this solution, as well. And I want to thank Malaria No More, for preparing the book *Nets Are Nice*, with a forward by Mrs. Bush. *Nets Are Nice* is available, along with related other resources for teachers, and it will reach thousands and thousands of first, fifth, and sixth grade classrooms, as well as our high schools. This book teaches students that each of us can make a difference. Each of us can make a mark. And as Mrs. Bush said earlier, "any individual who can raise \$10, can buy a net, and save a life, or maybe even two lives."

By teaching our children to help fight diseases like malaria, we help them build character and show them that service to others adds value to their own lives as well. Today's young people are volunteering more and more than they have in decades. And I think we can all take great hope and encouragement in that. This service helps children grow into active and involved citizens who help fight malaria, who will help find cures for cancer, who will end hunger, who will develop renewable energy sources, and all the various challenges that we face in our world today.

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So, thank you again, and I want to invite now, our wonderful First Lady, back to the stage to present, to honor some folks who are making such a difference. Mrs. Bush, welcome back.

We are going to recognize some folks who've been selected by Malaria No More and present a new award called the Dragonfly Award. Dragonfly Awards recognize these contributions that our young people are making to fight malaria. Such as raising awareness, and educating people, raising funds for nets, and so forth. And the award is named for the dragonfly because, as we know it is the natural predator of mosquitoes, and makes the perfect symbol for these awards. Mrs. Bush is, of course, the ideal person to be a part of this presentation as she has so evidenced her commitment to this issue, and to our children all around the world for such a long, long time. So the first award goes to the children of Agape, come on forward. These young people have traveled the world, raising awareness for diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS all around the world. The group includes about 25 children living at the Agape Care Center in South Africa, and many have been orphaned due to HIV/AIDS. Their choral group, which you were lucky enough to hear earlier, donated a portion of the proceeds of their 2006 tour, to helping stamp out malaria. So, thank you all for your great work, and congratulations.

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[Inaudible]

Our second award goes to the children of Holy Trinity School, right here in Washington D. C. And they're a good example of what U.S. schools and students can do to this great cause. They have made malaria a focus of their learning and their charity this year. They've raised \$2000 so far this year, and they've had lots of events, including a school-wide read-a-thon, and I bet we can challenge other schools to have a school-wide read-a-thon to help save lives in Africa. So, Holy Trinity students come on out and get your Dragonfly. Thank you all, again, for your wonderful commitment.

[Music playing]

**ISAIAH WASHINGTON:** Ladies and gentlemen, welcome the President of the Republic of Benin and Mrs. Daisuza [misspelled?] Yayi.

[Music playing]

**Male Speaker:** I have a message sent by Mr. Usur Endor [misspelled?], it's for Mr. President, the President and Mrs. Bush. Mr. President Bush, and Mrs. Bush, members of Congress, honorable guests, it is a privilege to be part of

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such a worthy cause, spearheaded by the White House. Even though I regret not being able to join you in person, I'm proud to be given the opportunity to speak to your prestigious audience. As an African, and artist, a leader, and a role model, I can no longer stand back and watch countless men, women, and children die needlessly from a preventable illness. Therefore while pledging my commitment to invest in the enthusiasm and creativity of all African's to combat the scourge of malaria, I also recognize and appreciate the role leaders like you play toward eradicating the illness. Every year, millions of people are incapacitated, and millions more die from malaria. As the largest killer in Africa it is especially deadly for pregnant woman and their newborn children. Therefore by engaging in efforts to mitigate the impact of malaria in Africa, this initiative will undoubtedly help regenerate hope in our communities. A few months ago I entered into a partnership with IntraHealth International, an NGO based in North Carolina, and created the Usar Endor Fund as a way to combat the effects of malaria on pregnant woman and children. Together I am going to work with this organization to mobilize the energy of my fellow Africans to fight malaria. I'm confident that the engagement of African leadership in equal partnerships with the effective organizations is what is needed. I remain hopeful for the future of Africa,

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through the kind of work at Intrahealth and other organizations have under taken. Thank you for making me part of the solution.

Conclusion: Mr. President, thank you for your leadership in fighting malaria, and your compassion for the people of Africa. Thank you for encouraging the individuals represented today to come together and raise awareness of this horrible but preventable disease so we may meet the individuals whose lives we save in the future. The summit has been a call to action, marshaling and exhorting existing participants in the fight to new heights and attracting millions of new entrants into the battle at the grass roots level. We have learned that no one government, or group of governments, no one international agency, or group of agencies, no one non-profit organization or group of organizations, and no one party can solve these horrific problems acting alone. Our hope is that by working together we can make malaria no more, and give African children the gift of growing up.

[Music playing]

**DAISUZA YAYI:** I can't find the mic, so I have to sing from here, the song is called "Power of Africa", it's

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going to be solo, because I'm singing, but I'll do it.

[Singing] Malaria no more, thank you.

**ISAIAH WASHINGTON:** Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, and Mrs. Laura Bush.

**GEORGE W. BUSH:** Thank you all. Thank you, please be seated. Thanks for inviting me to what sounded like a festive occasion. I'm honored to be here, I'm pleased to visit with you all here at the National Geographic Society, and I want to thank you for inviting me to come to this important conference.

I appreciate all of today's speakers, including my personal favorite, Laura. As you conclude this summit we turn our thoughts to those who carry the burden of sickness during this holiday season. There are members of our own families here in America who are ill, and they live in villages halfway around the world. For many of their illnesses there is a known relief, for many there's no known relief. Yet for malaria, we know exactly what it takes to prevent and treat the disease. The only question is whether we have the will to act. All of you've heard the call to act, and you've responded, and I appreciate your compassion. Because of you more children who once wanted to die are now preparing to live. And whole regions are replacing suffering

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and fear with hope and health. We can take pride in the progress we've made, and today we will renew our commitment to a world without malaria.

I just had a State visit, an important visit with a remarkable leader from Benin, Mr. President and Mrs. Yayi welcome to America, and thank you for being here. The President is committed to a free society. He understands the need to confront illness so his people can live in peace. And Mr. President, I thank you very much for your commitment, and your willingness to work with those who want to help to eliminate malaria in your country. I want to thank members of my cabinet who are here, particularly Madam Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, thanks for coming. I thank Randy Tobias, he's the Director of USAID; he by the way led the initiative to help put America squarely in the fight to eliminate HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa. Randy, you will have a wonderful legacy in your service to our country and I want to thank you. I appreciate Admiral Tony Ziemer, he is the U.S. Malaria Coordinator. I see a lot of people who are working hard in my administration on these initiatives and I thank you for your participation. I thank members of the diplomatic core who joined us, I want to thank members of Congress - I think that's Senator Leahy, Senator Frist, thank you all for coming, thank you for taking an interest in - Congressman Smith, I better stop, I think I'm

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going to leave somebody out. But I want to thank you all for your interesting this initiative. I appreciate John Fahey, he's the President/CEO National Geographic Society, and Gill Grovener. I want to thank Ray Chambers who's a chairman of the board of Malaria No More. Thank all the social entrepreneurs who are here. I think people understand that there is a call to act when we see a crisis at hand, and I want to thank you for acting. I appreciate Isaiah Washington, who is the emcee of this event. I want to thank all the program participants, thank you all for coming.

By bringing together such a wide variety of people the summit is sending a clear message that we are determined to defeat malaria. We're also sending a broader message about America's purpose in the world. In this new century there is a great divide, between those who place no value on human life and rejoice in the suffering of others, and those who believe that every life has matchless value, and answer suffering with compassion and kindness. The contrast is vivid, and the position of America is clear. We will lead the cause of freedom, justice and hope, because both our values, and our interests demand it. We believe in the timeless truth: "to whom much is given, much is required." We also know that nations with free, healthy, prosperous people will be sources of stability, not breeding grounds for extremists and hate and terror. By making the world more

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hopeful, we make the world more peaceful. And by helping others the American people must understand we help ourselves. One area in which America has a tremendous potential to help, is in the fight against malaria. At home, malaria was eliminated decades ago. It is possible to eliminate malaria. In Africa, malaria remains a persistent killer. I think our citizens will be amazed to hear that last year about a million Africans died of malaria. The vast majority were children under five, their lives ended by nothing more than a mosquito bite.

In some countries more people die of malaria than HIV/AIDS. And last week a new study showed that people who contract malaria become more likely to spread HIV. The burden of malaria costs sub-Saharan Africa an estimated \$12-billion a year, and if the disease continues to spread, the cost in lives and lost productivity is going to grow exponentially worse. Now is the time to act. Allowing Africa to continue on that path is just simply unacceptable. So we are acting, and we are leading. And with partners across the world, we are helping the people of Africa turn the tide against malaria. The goal of defeating malaria is a challenging goal, yet it can be done. It's not going to require a miracle, it just requires a smart, sustained, focused effort. And that's what we're here to talk about.

Experts have identified four key steps for combating

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malaria in Africa - distributing insecticide-treated bed nets, expanding and/or insecticide spraying, providing anti-malaria medicine to pregnant woman, and delivering cutting-edge drugs to people with the disease. These are four things that, if done, will save lives. They are not impossible things to do. I believe that our country must help, and continue to take the lead. That's why last year I announced an initiative to increase our commitment to fighting malaria in Africa, and I want to thank the members of Congress for supporting this initiative. We're spending a \$1.2 billion over five years to provide bed nets, and indoor spraying, and anti-malaria medicine in 15 African countries. We're focusing our efforts to eradicate malaria on 15 countries. We're insisting on measuring; this project is measurable. We can determine whether or not nets are being distributed, or medicine is being provided. But more importantly, we can measure whether or not we're saving lives. We work toward this historic goal to cut the number of malaria-related deaths in half. That's where we're headed for, as quickly as possible. The malaria initiative is off to a strong start. We've launched the program in three countries: Uganda, Angola, and Tanzania. I want our fellow citizens to hear this startling statistic: in a short period of time more than six million people have benefited. It's in our interests that the six million people we've helped, our lives have been

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improved. In Uganda, groups funded by our malaria initiative distributed more than 300,000 nets. And almost 300,000 doses of medicine to children and pregnant woman. In Angola the initiative supported a spraying campaign that protected the homes of more than a half a million people. And in Tanzania, the initiative paid for local health clinics to distribute more than 130,000 nets, and spray homes for more than a million people. We're in action; your taxpayers' money is working to save lives. The statistics are impressive, and behind them are the stories of families with renewed hope in the future. Not long ago the Zanzibar islands, off the coast of Tanzania, were a hotbed of malaria infection. Then, with the support of the malaria initiative, local groups launched a campaign called Cata Malaria [misspelled?], which is Swahili for "reject malaria." Workers went door to door to teach people how to use bed nets. They launched a campaign of TV and radio ads, and they spoke in mosques about malaria prevention and treatment. Now the people of Zanzibar are beginning to see results. When I only reported that in the first nine months of this year the number of malaria cases dropped almost 90-percent compared today the same time last year. One man said this, "Personally, the initiative gives me a leap of faith. The ultimate outcome is that we should have a malaria-free Zanzibar, there is no turning back." He's right, there's no turning back. We're going to continue

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to expand the malaria initiative to reach other countries across Africa, as quickly as possible.

Earlier this year, Laura announced that four nations will join the initiative in '07; Senegal, Malawi, Rwanda, and Mozambique. Today I'm going to announce eight more countries will join in '08; Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Zambia, Kenya, Liberia, Ethiopia, and Benin. President, I can assure the people that you're determined to beat malaria, and it's that determination by the leadership of a country that is required for our initiative to be as successful as quickly as it possibly can. You can count on us as a steady, reliable partner. Defeating malaria is going to require a lot more work than just the action of the U.S. Government. Beating malaria requires cooperation between government and grassroots volunteers. I want to thank the leadership of Malaria No More, which is energizing the grassroots and raising money and mobilizing thousands of volunteers to fight malaria. And there's a lot of people of our country who have called to serve, and to love; will do so. Rick Warren has got a church called Saddleback Church. He believes like I believe, "to whom much is given, much is required." They're going to send thousands of volunteers into African villages and clinics. These groups rely upon the skill of doctors and nurses, and for doctors and nurses who are serving in Africa

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to help achieve the goal of eliminating malaria, and I thank you on behalf of a grateful nation.

I'm pleased to announce that I'm going to expand a federal program called Volunteers for Prosperity which allows organizations that recruit skilled volunteers to receive federal grants more easily. I believe it's in our interest to use taxpayers' money to encourage these private sector initiatives. Organizations involved with the malaria initiative will find it easier to receive federal funds, I hope. The point is we're going to try to eliminate as much bureaucracy as possible to get money into the hands of those who are recruiting and encouraging volunteers to be on the front line of fighting malaria. I'm going to thank all the grassroots volunteers who are here. I want to thank you for doing what you're doing. I hope that you can do more, and I hope that this summit, which Laura and her team put together, enables you to go out and recruit. Because the quicker we eliminate malaria, the better off the world will be.

Defeating malaria requires cooperation between government and the private sector. When I announced the malaria initiative, I called on foundations and corporations to participate. The words I said, "You've got to be with us, the government alone can't solve the problem; we can address it, we can fund it, but we need your help." I want to thank the Gates Foundation; Melissa, thank you for being here.

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This foundation is a fantastic example of social entrepreneurship; it was caused to be because of fantastic business entrepreneurship. It is now using the business acumen, and the rewards of being smart, to fund unbelievable programs and I'm proud of what you're doing. I want to thank the Red Cross, and Bonnie thank you very much, you've trained thousands of health workers in sub-Saharan Africa, and you're going to train more. I want to thank the Global Business Coalition that thus far has brought more than 200 companies together to raise money for bed nets and other supplies; 200 is a little short as far as I'm concerned. I view it as a good start, kind of a down payment. I want to thank Exxon Mobile and Marathon Oil, which have funded anti-malaria projects in some of Africa's most heavily effected nations. I think it's in your corporate interests that the people of Africa see that you're willing to invest in the future of their countries. America's businesses and foundations are showing a lot of wisdom and generosity; I appreciate your support. Defeating malaria requires cooperation between our country and the international community. We've given nearly \$2 billion to the global fund to fight AIDS, and I want to thank the leader of the fund who is here today. By the way fight AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. And nearly a quarter of that money has been used for anti-malaria projects. We support the efforts to fight malaria being lead by the WHO

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and their new leader, as well as UNICEF, and my friend Ann Veneman, and the World Bank, where Paul Wolfowitz has made anti-malaria projects a high priority. Some of our allies in Europe have committed resources to these efforts, and frankly they should commit more. This is a global effort to fight malaria. The United States is proud to take the lead; I encourage other countries, "to whom much is given, much is required," to step up and give. I want to thank those who understand that malaria is a global problem, and we've got to work to solve it together. Defeating malaria requires cooperation between America and African nations. The malaria initiative is based on partnership, Mr. President, not paternalism. Leaders like you know your people, you know their problems, and you are determined to solve them. Our job is to help you. I fully understand that many times people have got great ambitions and great intentions but they have no money to help; and that's why this government is committed to providing money and technology to help the leaders accomplish the objectives that we've set forth.

African leaders also understand in the long run that defeating malaria requires more than nets and sprays, and drugs. It requires changing the conditions that help malaria thrive: poverty, and the lack of education, and unresponsive governments, and corruption, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. To help African leaders overcome these challenges, this

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administration has doubled development aid to Africa during my Presidency. And I propose to double it again by the end of this decade.

I've created the Millennium Challenge Account to support nations that govern justly. It doesn't make any sense for us to send taxpayers' money to countries that steal the money. We give to, the point of the Millennium Challenge Account headed by Ambassador Danilovich, is to encourage countries to invest in their people and to encourage economic freedom. And so far we've signed compacts with five African nations and we're working on more. We lost one of the most important initiatives in American history, as far as I'm concerned, and that is the Emergency Plans for AIDS Relief, which thus far has brought lifesaving drugs to more than 800,000 people on the continent of Africa in five short years. Government aid is one thing, but so is the capacity for us to help nations through trade. I appreciate the work of my predecessor President Clinton, and subsequent Congresses to pass and now extend the African Growth And Opportunity Act, which has enabled me to report to you that between Africa and America trade has doubled since 2001. And all these ways we stand with the people of Africa in their time of need, and by doing so we help lift a burden of unnecessary suffering. And we help reduce the appeal of radicalism, and we forge lasting friendships on a continent

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that is growing in strategic importance. As we come to the end of this historic summit every citizen can be proud of the work our nation is doing to fight disease and despair. Our development agenda in Africa and beyond is the most ambitious commitment America has made since the Marshall Plan. And once again our efforts are showing the world what kind of country America is. We're a nation of optimistic people, and generous people, and decent people who value human life. We're a nation that believes that we're fortunate, and that through our fortune we ought to help others. We're a compassionate people who care deeply about the future of the world, and it is my honor to lead such a people. God bless you all.

**ISAIAH WASHINGTON:** Thank you Mr. President, Mrs. Bush for your compassion for Mother Africa, and thank you for allowing me to be a part of this extraordinary historic event making malaria no more. Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, this now concludes the White House Summit on Malaria. Thank you all.

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