

**The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
2005 Awards for Business Excellence:
Invocation
September 28, 2005**

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TREVOR NEILSON: Thank you for joining us tonight. My name is Trevor Neilson. I am the executive director of the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS. We welcome you all to the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS Awards for Business Excellence. Tonight is going to be an incredible night. You can just feel the energy in the room. We are thrilled that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Senator Hillary Clinton, Angelina Jolie, and so many others are able to join us tonight, along with a roomful of business, political and civic leaders.

We will talk more about our award winners a little bit later. But the judges this year have picked out some outstanding HIV program and our companies are doing amazing work. We are very proud to honor them tonight. I would like to start the evening by welcoming Senator Bill Nelson and his wife, Grace, to give the invocation.

SEN. BILL NELSON: I was taught in the school that when we put our minds to a problem that we could find a solution to that problem. Seeing that on the great project that America has taken on, when in which I had the privilege of participating in, that we confront the scourge of AIDS. Can't do it alone in the quartile. Grace is going to open with the invocation.

GRACE NELSON: Let's pray together. Father of us all, I just want to acknowledge to you that our comfort makes us deaf to the cry of those suffering around the world and here at

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home. And blind to their pain. We don't want to continue in this way so please forgive us. And we ask that you blanket our heart with the love that feeds your heart. We know that those suffering from AIDS could be our own little girl, our own little boy, our own parents, or our spouse. Forgive us when we take this for granted. Give us we ask as a nation and a people the heart of love to clear for the most vulnerable, help us to think of ourselves around the world as a family treating one another as we would want to be treated ourselves. We ask that you would take what has been so generously offered tonight, multiply it and make more than enough to stop this dreaded disease. Thank you for your great love for us in this [inaudible] times are overwhelming. We ask that you bless our time together in this disease. Hopefully, Father. Amen.

RICHARD HOLBROOKE: Please welcome GBC chairman, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart.

[APPLAUSE]

SIR MARK MOODY-STUART: Good evening everyone and welcome. It has been almost a year since the GBC held its 2004 Awards for Business Excellence in the fight against AIDS in Berlin last July. Tonight I would like to welcome you as chairman of the GBC to this celebration in Washington and let you know that this is going to be another outstanding evening. You just heard that beautiful invocation from Sen. Bill and Grace Nelson. Later we will hear Secretary of State Condoleezza

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Rice, Senator Hillary Clinton, Academy Award winner and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie explain why we as business have to engage in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

First, I would like to share with you one or two thoughts on GBC and its accomplishments and where we might be going. Since its inception, the GBC has been dedicated to meeting the challenges of the AIDS pandemic by rallying the business sector's unique skills and expertise. In 2001, United States, United Nations secretary general Coffey Unhand asked Ambassador Richard Holbrooke to lead what become the Global Business Coalition. At that time, there were only seventeen companies, many of whom represented here tonight still. Though we are still a young organization we have grown faster I think than anyone could have imagined and predicted. And have achieved significant accomplishments. There are around now more than two hundred companies headquartered in twenty-seven countries around the world. Those companies of course operate in almost company on the planet. They have joined the ranks and through their programming on HIV/AIDS work on four continents. They are progressing the fight against AIDS. I think the United Nations, the global fund and governments all around the world recognizes us as the leading non-governmental organization focused on AIDS and business.

That growth comes across through the commitment from those two hundred companies and all of you here to that but it

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also it would not have happened without the leadership, the commitment, the creativity, the diplomacy, and frankly the down right arm twisting of Richard Holbrooke. I would like to thank Richard for effort.

[Applause]

In Beijing this last month, the Chinese government and the Global Business Coalition co-sponsored a joint summit on business and AIDS in China. Both Richard and I were present there. Before 450 senior level representatives of business, government, multi-lateral organizations and civil society, Vice Premier, Madame Wu Yi called on the business sector to help reverse the frightening AIDS statistics in China and supported by our GBC China working group. Soon through our GBC Beijing office generously hosted by Solu Dutong [misspelled?] a growing number of corporations in China are taking steps to combat the epidemic.

In July, Richard Holbrooke led a delegation of GBC member company representatives to Johannesburg where he officially opened our African headquarters in Anglo Americans office and we learned first hand of the really outstanding work that is being done by many companies in South Africa. Many of those companies again represented and are honored here. Their work is not only with work on AIDS in the workplace and in the community but also very importantly in reaching out to the

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small business who in much of Africa and much of the rest of the world actually employ the bulk the people who are in work.

Throughout the year and away from the limelight, our GBC expert teams in New York, Paris, Johannesburg, and Beijing and Geneva has assisted member companies in the design and development of tailor made approaches to addressing the HIV challenge that in that workplaces the leverage their assets, business skills, and networks. This work based on GBC business AIDS methodology [inaudible] for sure is one of the most exciting and impactful developments that we have from the GBC.

I myself am going to be going back to London tonight and I will have to leave shortly. And will continue the advocacy and recruiting work with many European countries who are members. Also, in November in India and China we will be developing that work later this year. And I look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to next year's function, which will be held in London. I look forward to that. Thank you very much indeed and have a very good evening.

[Applause]

RICHARD HOLBROOKE: Some of you may have heard of our next speaker. Not only is she an Academy Award winning actress and a remarkable humanitarian deeply committed to refugee issues. She is also a UN Ambassador. She has a passionate, passionate advocacy for the world's poor. I learned today that she even has the Universal Declaration of Human Rights hanging

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on her wall. And that declaration helps guide her philanthropic work.

Angelina Jolie is tirelessly pursuing basic human rights for all and has come here to Washington to help us advocate that business must do more and government must do more. Some members of Congress heard that advocacy first hand this morning. Angie also is living her values. She has adopted a baby from Ethiopia, adopted a young boy from Cambodia, something that she and I have in common in our lives that I hold very dearly.

Angelina Jolie has decided that she has a role in the world and the role is to use her influence to make a difference. She has joined us here tonight to talk a little bit about what the international business community might do in the fight against AIDS.

Ladies and gentlemen, Angelina Jolie.

[Applause]

ANGELINA JOLIE: Thank you very much. Thank you so much. I am very happy to be here tonight to raise awareness for one of the most depressing issues of our day. While we have come to talk about AIDS, all of our thoughts and prayers go to those struggling to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and Rita. The devastation that is almost impossible to comprehend. The people on the Gulf Coast will need our help and support for years to come.

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AIDS is also a kind of natural disaster. Just as we need a coordinated emergency response to overcome the destruction of hurricanes, we also need to come together to coordinate a response to the global AIDS emergency. Our response to build clinics. [Applause] A response that would help to build clinics and guide us in training doctors and support the more than fifteen million AIDS workers that live in a vacuum and isolated by the pain. Yet, there are two central difference between AIDS and a hurricane or a solenoma.

First AIDS is a quiet killer. Most of the thirty million people that AIDS has killed died quiet, lonely, painful death. No news helicopters. Second difference is that we know our difficulties. As countries like Thailand has shown us the right levels of funding and commitment, we can dramatically reduce the pandemic. Aggressive public health campaign, access to condoms, and reproductive health services access to testing and counseling and access to life saving [inaudible] can stop this disease. Unfortunately, they are not getting these.

Three weeks ago in London, the International donor country pledged 3.7 million dollars to the global [inaudible] that is about half. [Inaudible] these are the same governments who gathered and installed [inaudible] an announcement much faster, that they would provide universal access to AIDS treatment for all who needed it by 26. A goal they will never achieve with the level of funding.

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Here we are. Business must play a role in the fight against this disease. The reason we are all gathered here tonight is to recommit ourselves to the fight against this disease. And to recognize those business leaders who are leading the fight. The central primase of the Global Business Coalition and [inaudible] is that every company in the world has a role to play in the fight against AIDS.

Let me give you a few examples of what companies can do. First, they can prevent and treat the disease within their workforce. Companies have an opportunity and a responsibility to be put in place efforts to education their employees giving them access to testing and counseling and ensure access to life saving medicines. Second, companies can use their products and services in the fight against the disease. The company that makes shoes can put them on the feet of AIDS orphans. Companies that make computers can work with physicians to better track patients in the spread of the disease. Media companies can donate airtime. Finance companies can help ensure that money is [inaudible]. All of these things and more are already happening. Finally and most importantly, CEOs can pressure government to do more. Elected officials whether in Africa or right here in Washington listen carefully to what CEOs have to say. CEOs are among the most powerful voices in the world and with that comes [inaudible].

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Forty million people are now infected. If we don't all use the power we have to help then hundreds of young people will die. Recently this issue became very personal to me. You see I adopted a baby girl from Ethiopia and she is one of nearly one million AIDS orphans in her country alone. Upon arriving in the States, she had to be admitted to a hospital for severe dehydration and malnutrition. While we were there, other symptoms appeared and there was a fear that she might HIV positive. I was sat down by a nurse who meant very well, but said don't worry honey, in this it is not a death sentence. What does that mean? I don't know what that means. If you are poor, you don't have a right to life.

That we haven't come together in this world to treat this disease properly and equally isn't an excuse. And we will never get it under control if we are selective about how gets treated. [Applause]

The terrible numbers associated with AIDS have a way of numbing us. We cannot be numb and we cannot count on our governments for assistance. Everyone in this room has the power to save lives and those of you who are not already, I hope by the end of this evening [inaudible]. Thank you for joining us tonight.

And now I would like to introduce Ambassador Holbrooke.
[Applause]

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RICHARD HOLBROOKE: Thank you, Angie. Thank you for flying all of yesterday from western Canada to be with us and spending the whole day with us in the Senate and here tonight. I had a thirty-minute speech planned for this honor but then the Secretary of State's security people said she is going to leave after her speech and if I gave a thirty-minute speech, she was going to leave during it. So, before I introduce the Secretary of State, I want to say one word about the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief. [inaudible] whose leader Randall Tobias who was in Geneva at the global funding raising right now.

There is a lot of partisanship in Washington, as we all know. But there are some issues, which are or should be bipartisan and AIDS is definitely one of them. We at the Global Business Coalition have supported Peter Pirot [[misspelled?] as everyone in this room has. Republicans, Democrats, members of the business community. Differences over the details of Peter Pirot which are there are inevitable but in my view they are tactical disagreements. They are bureaucratic disagreements. They are important but they are not part of the politics that are of this city. The President's Initiative supported by all of the members of both parties in this room are following efforts made before that by members of both parties, including Senator Clinton who will speak later, are very important.

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So we are here tonight in a bipartisan spirit. In that regard, we are greatly honored following the precedent set two years ago in our first dinner here in Washington when Colin Powell, Senator Frist and Senator John Kerry addressed us. Our next speaker is the sixtieth Secretary of State of the United States. One of the leading figures in the world today. a great friend of the issue of fighting AIDS. One of the people who helped shaped the President's positions on this issue. She has put together a superb team at the State Department including - three members of her team are here tonight - Undersecretary of State, Nick Burnes; assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Affairs; Chris Hill, has just been deeply involved in the North Korean negotiations; and Mark DeBall, the deputy head of the President's Office on AIDS Relief. So with that, I just want to welcome an incredibly busy Secretary of State. We thank you so much for taking time out of your schedule. I present to you the Secretary of State of the United States, Condoleezza Rice.

[Applause]

CONDOLEEZZA RICE: Thank you very much, Richard, for that warm introduction. I am glad to know that I saved you a few minutes during dinner. But I can't think of a more passionate public service than this [inaudible] Thank you for the years of leadership and thank you for keeping HIV/AIDS at the forefront of the international agenda. And thank you Senator and Mrs. Nelson for that beautiful invocation. You

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enormously inspire. Thank you for that. Mrs. Nelson, in particular, I know of your tremendous efforts. Thank you for all you do every day.

Remarks, members of the board of directors and the corporative advisory board, executive director Neilson and especially this years winners of the business excellence awards. I congratulate you and all companies participating in the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS for addressing one of the great humanitarian issues of our time. Indeed of any time.

As I look around the room, I see so many familiar faces of friends, colleagues and leaders and heroes. Angeline Jolie, your tireless advocacy work and compassion and grace and personal commitment has brought AIDS and other compelling humanitarian issues to the attention of public that otherwise might not have been reached. We are all so very grateful to you.

And Senator Clinton, it is really a pleasure to share the program with you. I especially want to thank you for your dedication to fighting the global AIDS scourge, particularly as it affects women and girls. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Congress as we completely develop innovative ways to address the challenges women and girls face in protecting themselves from this awful disease.

We are here tonight to recommit ourselves to taking conservative action to bring hope to those that are afflicted

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and affected by HIV/AIDS. Our global AIDS coordinator, Ambassador Tobias, asked me to send to everyone his warm congratulations and his appreciation for your partnership. As Ambassador Holbrooke said, Randy is in Geneva at a board meeting of the global fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. I just want to say that Randy and his team are doing a terrific job.

As President Bush has said, confronting HIV /AIDS is the responsibility of every nation and the moral imperative for the United States. HIV/AIDS is not only a human tragedy of enormous magnitude. It is also a threat to the stability of poorer countries and to entire regions of the world. To turn the tide against this devastating pandemic, President Bush launched his historic fifteen billion dollar emergency plan for AIDS relief. With strong bipartisan force, the largest commitment any nation has ever made in an international health initiative. I want to underscore that we continue to get the strong support of the United States Congress from both sides of the aisle and I would just like to take a moment to thank those of you who are here from the Congress. I think I have never seen a better bipartisan spirit. Thank you very much for your support of the initiative.

The emergency plan is combatting the disease in 123 countries across the globe through prevention, treatment, and care. And placing special emphasis on fifteen countries where

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the need is most urgent in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. The early result from this far-reaching initiative has been encouraging. But governments alone cannot win the fight against HIV/AIDS. All elements of civil society and especially the private sector must play a leading role. President Bush believes deeply in the importance of private sector leadership. That is why I am so delighted that the members of the Global Business Coalition are our strong partners in putting the emergency plan to work on the ground.

In Ethiopia for example we are working with Coca-Cola to support an integrated job skill program for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. Some of these children are heads of households, raising young brothers and sisters. The job skills that children learn best benefit the entire family. In South Africa, the emergency plan is providing support for Anglo American; strive to provide antiretroviral treatment not only to minors but also to the family of those minors. The US Indian HIV/AIDS private sector corporate initiative announced this July will improve access to quality antiretroviral drugs especially for pediatric treatment. These are many of the partnerships we are forging with the corporate communities are designed to strengthen the capacity of hope in patients. Ultimately only locally owned, locally managed efforts will proceed.

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The countries fighting AIDS all know what they need to do to help their people. If we support the sound national strategy proposed government and involve local partners we will just fight the disease more effectively, we will also foster long term growth and stability and security in the countries that assist its workers.

In closing let me share a personal reflection with you. I feel very privileged to have taken part in some of the earlier discussions that led to the emergency plan. I remember one meeting in particular in the Oval; the President said that he felt our initiative should include taking on the challenge of supporting treatment on a massive scale. He asked everybody in the room what they thought of this. of course, there was debate at the time, if you couldn't cure, then it makes sense to at least try and prolong life. That question brought to mind my own personal story. You see when I was fifteen years old my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer because of treatment she lived an additional sixteen years until I was thirty. What a difference in my life to have my mother for me to grow up and go to college and become a professor at Stanford. How sad to have lost her when I was eighteen.

[Applause]

The importance of expanding life even if you cannot cure, and certainly we hope one day for a cure for this awful disease, but even the extension of life is being appreciated

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now by people who are taking it back of the breakthrough of treatment that are possible. These are the words of Alissa [misspelled?] a 42-year-old widow living with HIV/AIDS in Luanda, Alissa is being treated by antiretroviral services by the Ugawani [misspelled?] Medical Center in Tekiwee [misspelled?] with the support of the emergency plan. "I am ready for every part," she said, "as long as I can increase my life for a few or many years because my three young children need me. Even the ones who are still married need me. I want to advise other people who have AIDS not to despair. To be strong and have hope. I will give them testimony on the medication is helping and programs that my life is going on. And how grateful I am for the Hope Center and toward God who is working miracles for me."

That is the charge that you have to try to be a part, a small part, of those miracles. Those miracles that give people hope, that give people a chance to live their lives and that one day we will find a cure for this terrible disease. I want to thank you, the members of the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS for the extraordinarily important part that you play in this a great moral responsibility of our time. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

RICHARD HOLBROOKE: Secretary Rice, thank you so much.

I know that your day is yet over. You have got a third day and

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several meetings to go. Thank you for being here and joining us
and we'll send you a videotape of [inaudible]. [Laughter]

[Applause]

RICHARD HOLBROOKE: While you eat we are going to dim
the lights and show you a short video about five or six minutes
on the Global Business Coalition, please begin your meal and
the quicker you finish, the quicker we can get onto the next
part of the evening. Thank you very much.

[END RECORDING]