



The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

February 19, 2003

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to thank you for your State of the Union Address announcement on HIV/AIDS, and, as the president of The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, to offer our support.

The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS (with Juergen Schrempp, CEO of Daimler Chrysler, as our Chairman) is a rapidly expanding alliance of over 100 major international companies dedicated to combating AIDS through the business sector's unique skills and expertise. We are ready to work with you and your Administration by mobilizing the business sector as a new and willing partner, particularly in expanding workplace education, testing and treatment programs.

You have rightly targeted fourteen of the hardest-hit countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. However, I urge you to consider extending the reach of your initiative to include Asia, which, if unchecked, threatens to become an equally devastating epicenter of new infections – particularly China and India.

We also welcome your support for the Global Fund Against AIDS, Malaria and TB. The five-year 1 billion dollar commitment is an important step forward. However, I urge you to increase this contribution significantly. In this regard, Secretary Thompson's appointment as Chairman of the Fund is particularly welcome. The Global Business Coalition is an active member of the Fund's Private Sector Delegation and we look forward to continuing to work with Secretary Thompson make the Fund a success.

Incidentally, on June 11th we will hold our annual dinner, at the Kennedy Center. I am delighted that Secretary Powell has agreed (schedule permitting) to deliver the keynote address. Senators Frist and John Kerry, and the Reverend Franklin Graham, will also speak. Glenn Close will be the MC.

Mr. President, please be assured of the Coalition's commitment to collaborating with your Administration to attack of HIV/AIDS. We would welcome any suggestions you or your team may have on how we can assist you.

Yours sincerely

Richard Holbrooke

cc: Secretary of State Colin Powell
Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson
Mr. Juergen E. Schrempp, CEO Daimler Chrysler