



THE CSIS TASK FORCE ON HIV/AIDS: STRENGTHENING U.S. LEADERSHIP

SECOND FULL SESSION OF THE TASK FORCE EMINENT PERSONS PANEL

Thursday, February 27, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Hart Senate Office Building
Room 902
Washington, D.C.

President Bush's announcement of a \$15 billion initiative to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa and the Caribbean is a bold, historic step, but implementation will require sustained, high-level attention by both the Executive Branch and Congress, according to [a statement by the CSIS Task Force on HIV/AIDS](#), presented today to Task Force co-chair Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN). The statement was issued at the second full meeting of the Task Force's eminent persons panel, which is drawn from Congress, the administration, public health experts, the corporate sector, activists, and others. Participants included Under Secretary for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky, Deputy Director of UNAIDS Kathleen Cravero, Drew Altman, President and CEO of the Kaiser Family Foundation, Seth Berkley, president of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan, among others.

The statement offers the following recommendations:

- Make the proposed appointment of an HIV/AIDS "Tsar" an early priority and give him or her a global profile, a robust clear mandate, and direct access to the secretaries of State and Health and Human Services;
- Ensure robust and sustained support for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria to expedite delivery of substantial assistance to acutely affected countries;
- Significantly enlarge bilateral cooperation with China to pre-empt a full-scale HIV/AIDS pandemic in that country, and forge a coherent, forward-looking strategy to address the second wave of HIV/AIDS, which is beginning to strike large, populous states-Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Russia, and China-that are of key strategic importance;
- Formulate an integrated strategy to reduce the acute vulnerability of women and girls to HIV/AIDS, expanding opportunities for economic

- empowerment, strengthening access to justice, and increasing their treatment and prevention options;
- Revise the U.S. food relief and development strategy to mitigate the crushing impact of HIV/AIDS on rural household economies and worsening food insecurity.

The task force statement draws on four more detailed analyses outlining pragmatic policy steps:

[*Averting a Full-Blown HIV/AIDS Pandemic in China*](#), the report of a CSIS delegation to China co-chaired by former Secretary of Health and Human Services Louis Sullivan and former U.S. Ambassador to China Stapleton Roy, which calls for a sustained leadership dialogue between top-level U.S. cabinet officials and their Chinese counterparts and expanded operational collaboration between the two countries.

Fatal Vulnerabilities: Reducing the Acute Risk of HIV/AIDS among Women and Girls, authored by Janet Fleischman of Human Rights Watch, chair of the Task Force committee on women and girls, which urges integration of a gender component into HIV/AIDS programming to mitigate the increasing "feminization" of the global pandemic.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria: Progress Report, authored by Todd Summers, chair of the Task Force Committee on Resource Mobilization and Coordination, which calls on Congress to substantially increase pledges to the Global Fund as part of the President's new global AIDS initiative.

A fourth report, *HIV Testing Requirement for Immigrants and Visitors to the United States: Time to Reconsider?*, calls for a reopening of debate on mandatory HIV-testing for prospective immigrants to the United States.