

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Letter to Thomas P. Rona

FROM:
Acting Director of Global Issues
3G00 HQS

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE 16 March 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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1. DDI
7E44 HQS

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L-255-10

17 MAR 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director for Intelligence *[Handwritten Signature]*

FROM: Acting Director of Global Issues

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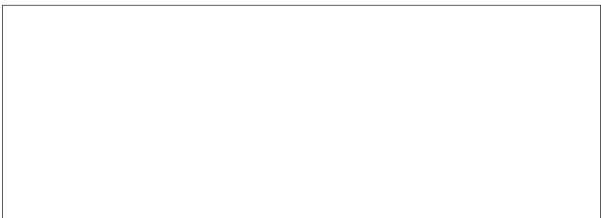
SUBJECT: Response to White House Query Regarding Work on AIDS

1. Action Requested: You sign the attached letter to Thomas P. Rona, Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President.

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2. Background: On 1 March Mr. Rona wrote with a query about the Agency's work on the AIDS pandemic. The attached letter details the analytic work accomplished and in process in the NIC and DI and discusses the Agency's and Intelligence Community's involvement in a recently-initiated modeling effort. We have referred Mr. Rona to D/OGI for future questions of an analytic nature and to D/ORD for questions regarding the modeling project.

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Attachment:
As stated



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Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

88-1193

18 MAR 1988

Mr. Thomas P. Rona
Deputy Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mr. Rona:

Thank you for your inquiry of 1 March concerning the status of Agency efforts regarding AIDS. We believe AIDS poses a range of political and economic implications for US security, and we have devoted an increasing amount of resources to the problem during the past few years. In particular, we have launched several projects that by late 1989 should substantially enhance our quantitative as well as qualitative analysis of the AIDS problem.

Our analysis to date has focused on identifying fundamental intelligence questions posed by the AIDS pandemic. In this sense we have oriented our research toward assessing the general political, economic and military problems that the further spread of the disease could pose, both within specific countries and internationally. Thus far we have:

- o Produced a Special National Intelligence Estimate on the broad epidemiological, economic and political implications for sub-Saharan Africa, the region hardest hit by AIDS thus far.
- o Drafted a larger intelligence analysis, to be published this spring, that outlines the pandemic's possible impact worldwide--including implications for economic growth, political stability, and diplomatic and trade tensions--and that surveys current foreign government policies to deal with the disease.
- o Launched more detailed studies of potential AIDS implications for specific regions, including the Near East, Western Europe, and the Soviet Union. The latter effort also examines the Soviet AIDS disinformation campaign against the United States.

SECRET

Mr. Thomas P. Rona

- o Provided briefings on these results and our longer-range AIDS research plans to several US Government agencies and officials--including State Department, Export-Import Bank, the Surgeon General, and the Chairman of the President's Commission on AIDS.
- o Established intelligence collection guidance on AIDS for the Intelligence Community. [redacted]

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Recently we have also been involved in efforts to create an AIDS modeling and data base capability that we expect to begin bearing fruit by 1989. The project, supported by the Intelligence Community through the Agency's Office of Research and Development, will combine the resources of the Community, the Bureau of the Census, and the Agency for International Development (USAID). Within the next year the project will:

- o Develop an epidemiological model of AIDS transmission that is oriented toward foreign, rather than US, experience with the disease.
- o Create a demographic projections model that will be incorporated into the AIDS transmission model.
- o Establish an unclassified data base of AIDS-related variables for a limited number of industrial countries; these data ultimately will be supplemented by a Third World country data base being developed separately by USAID.

We expect to have the transmission/demographic model validated and applied to a handful of key industrial and Third World countries by the end of CY 1989. Additional countries will be modeled as intelligence needs require. [redacted]

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We believe the modeling effort--built from the ground up with intelligence needs in mind--will enhance our overall ability to provide policymakers with realistic assessments of the AIDS problem. Although cost considerations will preclude modeling a large number of countries in the short run, we will be able to attempt more rigorous estimates of the disease's spread in the hardest hit countries and more accurately assess its likely impact on key segments of those societies. This capability, when combined with classified intelligence information, would clearly strengthen our ongoing analysis of potential political and economic impacts, as well as help us address questions regarding the effectiveness of specific AIDS prevention strategies.

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Mr. Thomas P. Rona

Indirectly, the modeling and data base effort should also improve our qualitative evaluation of the relative vulnerability of countries currently less affected by the disease to an eventual increase in HIV incidence. [redacted]

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I welcome your interest in this important research. Should you require further information on our research, please contact [redacted] Director of Global Issues, on questions concerning our analytical efforts, and [redacted] Director of the Office of Research and Development, on the data base and modeling project. [redacted]

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Sincerely,

[redacted signature box]

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Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

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[redacted]

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DDI/OGI/ECD, [redacted] (16 March 88)

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Distribution:

- Orig - Addressee
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - Ex Registry
- 1 - Ex Secretary
- 1 - DI Registry
- 1 - C/NIC
- 1 - D/ORD
- 1 - D/OGI
- 2 - OGI/ECD

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OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
 EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20545

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
 ROUTING SLIP**

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
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2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI	X			
6	DDA				
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8	DDS&T				
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10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OCA				
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17	D/OGI/DI		X		
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SUSPENSE _____
 Date

Remarks

Executive Secretary
 4 Mar '88
 Date

3637 (10-81)

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OSTP 883002(LS)

Copy 1 of 3**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508**

March 1, 1988

Dear Mr. Gates:

(S) As you are aware, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is not only an urgent domestic issue but involves foreign policy and implications for national security. The United States Government requires a solid base of information on the incidence of the disease and the prevalence of the virus worldwide for making decisions. I anticipate a need by OSTP and other Government agencies, such as the Departments of State and Defense, for finished intelligence based on rigorous and systematic analysis. In particular, we anticipate interest in reports and finished analyses on: projections of the number of AIDS cases and fatalities in foreign countries over the next five to ten years; the anticipated impact of AIDS on demographic trends; AIDS' possible impact on political stability of key Third World governments and, following thereon, the availability of strategic minerals; the implications for foreign military capabilities; and the responses of foreign governments to the AIDS epidemic, including the progress of vaccine development and treatment programs in other countries.

(S) Our most immediate need is for reliable information on the extent of the epidemic worldwide--the number of AIDS cases and levels of HIV infection. Unfortunately, the United States Government will not be able to rely totally on openly published statistics such as those by the World Health Organization. It appears that many countries are suppressing or underreporting such information out of concern for domestic and international reactions. Thus, intelligence agencies such as your own have an important role to play in filling the gaps in our knowledge of the international dimensions of the epidemic through expert collection efforts and analysis.

(S) I have learned of initial efforts by the intelligence agencies to address the AIDS issue, including a research and development proposal for a data base and model. This data would also provide a valuable contribution to understanding the epidemiology of AIDS in the United States. Recently, the President directed the development of advanced scientific models to estimate prevalence and rates of AIDS spread as well as to guide future data collection. This is a very

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important effort whose success will depend equally on the quality of information available and the application of innovative modeling capabilities. Any information gleaned abroad which can shed light on the dynamics of the spread of HIV is very important to the U.S. program.

(U) We would appreciate being kept up to date on your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Rona". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Thomas P. Rona
Deputy Director

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied