

this past January. This is the letter that I and other members of the CBC, AIDS activist groups and the faith-based community wrote to President Bush on December 18, 2002 asking him to announce a presidential initiative to address this vexing problem.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2002.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: As members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are writing to draw your attention to the growing spread of HIV/AIDS throughout the developing world. It would be impossible to overstate the devastation caused to date by the global AIDS pandemic, or the urgency of the need for a greater response from the United States and the global community. With 42 million people currently living with HIV/AIDS—29.4 million of them in Sub-Saharan Africa—14 million children already orphaned by the disease, and 70 million more people expected to die by 2020, we must do more now. We must respond on an appropriate scale to address the greatest plague in recorded history.

The United States, as the world's wealthiest nation, must take greater action by contributing its fair share, and in doing so we can help galvanize the global response that we so desperately need. As you prepare to travel to Africa in January, and as you prepare your budget for fiscal year 2004, you have a remarkable opportunity to demonstrate United States leadership against AIDS at a moment when the world will be watching. We urge you to launch a major new U.S. initiative to fight AIDS, as well as tuberculosis and malaria. TB is the leading killer of people with HIV, claiming 2 million lives each year despite the existence of an effective and inexpensive cure, while malaria kills nearly one million people each year, most of them young children in Africa.

An expanded U.S. Initiative to fight AIDS must:

Provide at least \$2.5 billion for implementation of global AIDS programs in 2004, as well as additional funds to combat TB and malaria. At least 50 percent of this should go to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Prioritize treatment, as well as prevention and care, for those affected—including an expanded mother-to-child transmission initiative that would detect and treat entire families, and including funding and personnel as needed to implement the WHO call to treat three million people with HIV by 2005.

Promote developing countries access to sustainable supplies of affordable medicines for AIDS and other diseases such as opportunistic infections in accordance with the Doha Ministerial Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and oppose any attempts to limit the scope of the Declaration.

Expand programs for children orphaned by AIDS.

Seek debt cancellation for impoverished countries, so they can invest in poverty reduction and AIDS programs.

Most importantly, a U.S. initiative should consist of new monies and policies that complement existing U.S.-supported programs and are additional to the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). The MCA, however, also must help meet the Millennium Development Goal of halting and reversing the spread of these diseases.

We cannot win the war against AIDS without greater financial resources and a clear plan of action for the United States. Programs around the world are ready to scale up prevention, treatment, and care to save lives

now, and to develop the systems needed to save tens of millions more in the future. Each day we delay in mounting a comprehensive—and compassionate—response to the global AIDS and TB pandemics, the cost in human, social, and economic terms grows. You will have our strong support and the support of the American people for a bold new initiative to save families and communities affected by the AIDS crisis, to extend the parent-child relationship, and to secure the future of young people.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee, Donna Christian-Christensen, Edolphus Towns, Charles B. Rangel, Julia Carson, Juanita Millender-McDonald.

Maxine Waters, Danny K. Davis, Robert Scott, Elijah E. Cummings, William "Lacy" Clay, Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

Eddie Bernice Johnson, Bobby L. Rush, Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Diane E. Watson, Gregory W. Meeks, Major R. Owens.

Harold Ford, Jr., John Conyers, Jr., Alcee L. Hastings, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Donald M. Payne, Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., Bennie G. Thompson, Melvin L. Watt, Corrine Brown, Chaka Fattah, Jesse Jackson, Jr., James Clyburn, Albert R. Wynn.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE AND
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT
OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, a decade ago we began witnesses to genocide in Europe. By stirring up nationalism, harassing opposition and intimidating the population as a whole to go along with his plans, the regime of Slobodan Milosevic led Serbia into a war of aggression against its neighbors within the former Yugoslavia. Millions were displaced, hundreds of thousands killed and tens of thousands raped or tortured, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In response, largely at the urging of the U.S. Congress, sanctions were put into place and, ultimately, military intervention was employed to stop Milosevic.

In 2000, the voters of Serbia removed Milosevic from power. In place of his regime, an opposition consisting of genuine reformers and true democrats along with a fair share of Serbian nationalists took control of government. Since that time, the ruling opposition fell into polarized camps, making recovery and reform difficult. This situation also created a challenge in U.S. foreign policy. On the one hand, the United States wants to encourage Belgrade and facilitate reform. On the other, the United States must ensure that the legacy of Slobodan Milosevic has been fully shed, a prerequisite for recovery throughout southeastern Europe.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill, H.R. 1047, considered yesterday contains a provision granting the President the authority to restore normalized trade relations for Serbia and Montenegro. I support this provision; normalized trade relations should be restored. Whatever problems might remain, the fact is that there has been progress since Milosevic was re-

moved from power, and Serbia and Montenegro should not be placed on the same list of states not granted normalized trade relations as Cuba, North Korea or Laos. Other countries with far worse records, including Belarus and the Central Asian states, at least receive the benefits of normalized trade relations on a conditional basis which Serbia and Montenegro is denied.

By fixing this, I hope Belgrade recognizes that we want reforms to succeed and recovery and reform take place.

Belgrade also needs to know, Mr. Speaker, that restoring NTR does not mean satisfaction with Belgrade's performance to date. While there has been progress, that progress has been too slow, and some issues remain unresolved. Chief among these issues is Belgrade continued resistance to full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague. It is especially outrageous that persons responsible for the crimes committed at Vukovar and Srebrenica continue to be at large and perhaps even protected by Yugoslav or Serbian authorities.

While trade relations may not be conditioned on further progress, U.S. bilateral assistance to Serbia is. If there is not a major improvement in Belgrade's cooperation with The Hague by June 15, assistance to Serbia will stop. The Administration must certify progress before assistance continues past that date, and the State Department has made clear that a precondition for certification is the apprehension and transfer of Ratko Mladic, indicted for the massacre of thousands at Srebrenica, and Veselin Slijivancin and Miroslav Radic, indicted for their role in the massacre of about 200 individuals taken from a hospital in Vukovar, Croatia.

As co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I urge Belgrade not only to meet their international obligations relating to ICTY not just to the point of obtaining certification for another year. Cooperation should be full. Only then can the conditionality on assistance be removed for good.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
CENTER

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to introduce legislation which amends the Small Business Act to authorize a Small Business Development Center in an eligible State to apply for an additional Small Business Administration grant to be used solely to provide specified services to assist with outreach, development, and enhancement on Indian lands of small business startups and expansions that are owned by Indian tribe members, Alaska Natives, or Native Hawaiians.

I introduced this legislation during the 107th Congress where it passed the House and unfortunately was not considered in the Senate. I am pleased to reintroduce this legislation today and wish to thank Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELAZQUEZ for their support of this legislation as well as Representatives GRAVES, FRANKS, RENZI, MATHESON, KILDEE, HAYWORTH, MARK UDALL, MILLENDER-