

being who cherishes life, I believe it is our duty to answer that call.

#### CLEAN WATER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I am going to mention one final topic as we wait for the final wrapup business to be concluded. It is a topic that is related to the topic I just discussed because it centers on the continent of Africa. It focuses on a different issue, but an issue that has real global consequence.

I traveled to Africa last year with our colleagues from this body, Senator WARNER, Senator DEWINE, Senator ENZI, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator COLEMAN. We visited a project to bring clean water to people. This was down in the southern part of Africa in Mozambique. The project is to get clean water to the village of Tshalala, Mozambique.

This particular project is funded by a wonderful organization whose leadership I admire tremendously, supported by generous people all over this country, indeed, around the world, the group called Living Water International.

Now, this was out in the bush. It was out in a very rural area. The project was located in a neighborhood that was small. It was a very dusty, very poor neighborhood. But that neighborhood had clean water, and it came from a simple well with a hand pump. We all pumped from this well. It functioned easily. It became the whole centerpiece, of course, and the real focus for that entire community.

Access to clean water is a women's issue. It is a public health issue. It is a sanitation issue. But I started by saying it is a women's issue because it is the women in Africa—all over the continent in Africa, in Mozambique and in Tshalala—who, before having a well, would be the ones who would walk for, not just minutes, but hours in order to get water for their family. But women in that part of Tshalala did not have to walk miles with jugs of water to provide for their families. Instead, the well supplied their households with clean drinking and bathing water.

What Living Water International does is very simple. It teaches residents to drill wells. It trains them in sanitation and equips them with the tools and knowledge to maintain water equipment.

The pump we saw in Tshalala cost, in American dollars, about \$2,800. It improves the standard of living. It spares many of the women that backbreaking labor. It saves them time and allows them to be with their children. This well saves the lives of dozens of villagers.

From a public health standpoint, from a sanitary standpoint, it saves lives. It is exactly the sort of resource that is lacking in much of the world. Clean water ranks high among the world's health problems. The statistics are staggering. They should alarm any person of conscience.

What are they? According to the World Health Organization, over 1.8 million people die each year as a result of diarrheal disease. Almost all of it is caused by waterborne illness—1.8 million people.

Over 40 percent of the world's population, most of it in undeveloped regions of Africa and Asia, live without access to clean water. Without intervention, the problem could get much worse. In the next 50 years, 3 billion people will join the human family. Most will live in areas that lack clean water.

Economies in the poorest regions of the world will be unable to develop unless good water systems are in place. Agriculture alone consumes anywhere from 70 to 90 percent of available water supplies. Manufacturing, likewise, is nearly impossible without clean water.

Just as important, unsafe water poses a clear security threat. Water basins do not follow national borders, and conflict over them will escalate as safe water becomes even scarcer. These conflicts may come to threaten our own national security.

Modest, pragmatic, clean water projects that yield real measurable benefits will make things better. While we would like to build First World water systems everywhere, we obviously have to acknowledge limits of time and resources.

Over the last several decades, the United States, the United Nations, Japan, and dozens of other nations and organizations have worked to bring the world clean water. Despite sincere efforts, we have not made enough progress. There is much more to be done. Access to clean water has even declined in some parts of the world.

Our experiences in Africa showed us the magnitude of the problem we face. They offer four important lessons about how we can improve access to clean water, to safe water, to healthy water around the globe.

First, any strategy must involve the entire community that it serves.

Local businesses, nonprofits, and individuals should own, maintain, and improve the water sources that serve them. Without adequate local support and local expertise, water systems will fall apart.

We should also promote cost-sharing with water users to create a sense of ownership. At the Tshalala well, for example, community members contribute 5 percent of the total cost toward maintenance.

Second, the U.S. and other developed nations must mobilize both public and private resources to confront this problem.

This may require legislative action. A strategy should leverage resources to increase our projects' scale and avoid duplication of effort. Private organizations can provide a vast reserve of humanitarian and hydrological expertise. We should work to build coalitions of governments, international organizations, water utilities, and other private

enterprises, foundations, scientific institutions, and NGOs.

Third, education should play a key role in any strategy.

Simple hand washing, for example, prevents disease transmission. But a single set of dirty hands can contaminate an entire water source. This aspect is going to take more than simple outreach. Real hygiene improvements will happen only if people have access to adequate, reliable, convenient water resources.

Fourth, where appropriate, clean water should rank high among our health aid priorities.

The developed world spends billions on health aid. Health care professionals have long understood the strong connection between clean water, basic sanitation, and good health.

Last year, USAID spent less than \$325 million for international drinking water supply and sanitation. Less than \$20 million of this amount went to Africa—the very region that has the most severe water crisis. Clearly, these are inadequate sums.

Our large and worthy investment in the battle against HIV/AIDS in Africa and around the world cannot succeed without clean water; they are interrelated. And neither can our vision for a safer, healthier, and more prosperous world.

The people of the world need clean water to live. They deserve it. With our help and firm commitment, they can get it.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONDOLEEZA RICE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to applaud President Bush on his nomination of Dr. Condoleezza Rice for Secretary of State. She is an outstanding choice, and the American people are fortunate to have a public servant of her talent and intellect.

During her tenure as National Security Advisor, Dr. Rice has been a steady and trusted confidant to the President. In her role of crafting policy and helping guide decision making, she has demonstrated extraordinary skill. But this should come as no surprise.