

they make a very persuasive case for Mr. Natsios' immediate dismissal.

[From the Washington Post, June 15, 2001]

DEAD WRONG ON AIDS

(By Amir Attaran, Kenneth A. Freedberg and Martin Hirsch)

Andrew Natsios, the Bush administration's new chief of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has made a very bad start with regard to one of his agency's primary missions: dealing with the scourge of AIDS in Africa. Natsios has made comments recently on the prevention and treatment of the disease in Africa that are, to say the least, disturbing, if not alarming.

His comments appeared last week in the Boston Globe and in testimony before the House International Relations Committee. On both occasions he argued strenuously against giving antiretroviral drug treatment (the AIDS treatment used in the United States today) to the 25 million Africans infected with HIV.

Although Natsios agrees that AIDS is "decimating entire societies," when it comes to treating Africans, he says that USAID just "cannot get it done." As Natsios sees it, the problem lies not with his agency but with African AIDS patients themselves, who "don't know what Western time is" and thus cannot take antiretroviral drugs on the proper schedule. Ask Africans to take their drugs at a certain time of day, said Natsios, and they "do not know what you are talking about."

In short, he argues that there is not a great deal the agency he leads can do to help HIV-positive Africans. Under his guidance, USAID will not offer antiretroviral treatment but will emphasize "abstinence, faithfulness and the use of condoms" as the essence of HIV prevention. (He also supports distribution of a drug that blocks transmission of the disease from mother to child, and drugs to fight secondary infections.) While this might save some of those not yet infected with the virus, it in effect would condemn 25 million people to death, and their children to orphanhood.

As the administration's man in charge of international assistance, including helping Africans with AIDS, Natsios should know better. His views on AIDS are incorrect and fly in the face of years of detailed clinical experience.

Take the issue of whether AIDS should be dealt with by prevention or treatment. In backing prevention to the total exclusion of treatment, Natsios favors only modest changes in the strategies that USAID has relied on for the past 15 years, which by themselves have clearly failed to stem the pandemic. This is why expert consensus now agrees that prevention and treatment are inseparable—or, in the authoritative words of the UNAIDS expert committee, "their effectiveness is immeasurably increased when they are used together."

The same conclusion has been reached by countless other experts, including 140 Harvard faculty members who recently published a blueprint of how antiretroviral treatment could be accomplished. Harvard physicians are now treating patients in Haiti, and others are achieving similar treatment successes in Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Uganda.

It is also disturbing that Natsios chooses to exaggerate the difficulties of AIDS treatment, as if to singlehandedly prove it would be impossible throughout Africa. Whether Africans can tell "Western time" or not is irrelevant; nearly all antiretroviral drugs are

taken only twice a day—morning and evening. Sunrise and sunset are just as good as a watch in these circumstances. Nor is Natsios correct when he says the drugs have to be "kept frozen and all that." Not a single antiretroviral drug on the market today needs freezing. In fact, some bear warnings not to freeze them.

Natsios also said that "the problem with [delivering] antiretrovirals . . . is that there are no roads, or the roads are so poor." In fact, millions of AIDS patients live in cities such as Cape Town, Dakar or Lagos, where the streets are teeming with cars.

Natsios says that antiretroviral drugs are "extremely toxic," so that as many as "forty percent of people . . . who are HIV positive do not take the drugs . . . because they get so sick from the drugs that they cannot survive." This is a view shared by no one in the medical establishment today. Clinical and epidemiological studies by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health have shown that these drugs are safe for most people and prolong life by many years.

Two facts are clear.

The first is that, in Abidjan and Johannesburg, as in Manhattan, AIDS prevention and treatment must go hand in hand. And we can accomplish this if the Bush administration contributes adequately to an international trust fund for that purpose (it has so far promised only \$200 million, or just 72 cents per American).

The second fact is that Andrew Natsios, by virtue of his unwillingness to acknowledge the first fact and his willingness to distort the true situation in Africa before Congress, is unfit to lead USAID and should resign.

HONORING THE COURAGE OF MELISSA HOLLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a woman that is the picture of courage, Melissa Holley. Melissa is an inspiration to all, with her determination and desire. She has overcome an enormous obstacle and although the struggle is far from over, Melissa continues to push herself.

On June 25, 2000 Melissa's life was permanently altered. Melissa was involved in a roll-over accident on U.S. Highway 550 a mile south of Ridgway, Colorado. The car damaged Melissa's vital spinal nerves and crushed two vertebrae. Melissa lost all feeling below her chest. The doctor's at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado said that her paralysis was irreversible. After a 48-hour search, her father, Rob Holley, found a radical new procedure that regenerates nerve cells, it was a long shot at best, but Melissa showed her courage by saying, "Only shot I had, what have I got to lose."

On July 9, 2000, Melissa was flown to the Sheba Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel and underwent surgery. The doctors braced her spinal cord, and injected her with microphages to promote healing. Melissa's recovery from surgery has been a slow and painful process. She continues to use a wheelchair, and exercises twice a week in a swimming pool. There

has been a visible improvement, and Melissa now stands for an hour each day. This remarkable young lady is returning to college this spring at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Melissa has not only managed to take a long shot and turn it to her advantage, but this year she helped prepare another young man for this procedure.

Throughout this experience Melissa has managed to stay upbeat and determined. She has impressed doctors with her attitude and perseverance, and inspired many with her strength of character. Melissa has shown courage that is rare, and for that, Mr. Speaker, she deserves the praise of Congress.

A TRIBUTE TO DARIAN LEE WILLIAMS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor and tribute to Darian Lee Williams for his devotion to his community during his brief life on the occasion of the Mike Moody and Darian Williams Memorial Basketball Game.

Throughout his entire education, Darian attended public schools within the New York City School System. He graduated from Erasmus High School in 1995. Darian continued his education after high school by pursuing a degree at Manhattan Community College and most recently attended a Technical Computer Institute.

In addition to playing trumpet in the school band, Darian loved playing sports. He played basketball for the Black Men Who Care team in addition to many other out-of-school athletic programs. Darian was also a member of the Erasmus Hall High School Varsity Basketball team. Throughout high school, Darian received numerous awards and trophies for his excellence in both basketball and football.

Through his childhood friend Ernest Glover, Darian was introduced to the Mount Sinai Baptist Church. He became a member and was baptized in 1997.

"Disco" was known by his friends as having lived and enjoyed life to its fullest. He loved to socialize with his many friends and was adored by all the people who met him.

Mr. Speaker, Darian Lee Williams devoted his short life to serving his community and church. As such, both he and his family are more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in remembering and honoring the life of this remarkable young man.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARTHA C. MOORE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Martha C. Moore on the 13th day of May 2001 was awarded a Doctorate of Public Service, conferred upon her by the Muskingum College Board of Trustees; and

Whereas, Ms. Martha Moore has throughout her lifetime, demonstrated a steadfast commitment to teaching and public service across the nation, within the state of Ohio, and in scores of local communities; and

Whereas, Ms. Moore has exerted principled influence on significant policy initiatives through her role as state and national party committee woman with the Republican Party; and

Whereas, Ms. Moore has encouraged young women to assume important roles in the American political process through her work with The Ohio Federation of Republican Women—work that ultimately generated the Martha C. Moore Mentoring Project; and

Whereas, Ms. Moore's devotion to education and civic responsibility resulted in her induction into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame; and

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of Martha C. Moore, a citizen of Ohio whom I am proud to call a constituent.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2052, SUDAN PEACE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2052) to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan:

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Chairman, the people of Sudan have suffered terrible devastation in recent history, and even today as we sit in this Chamber.

One report tells of a woman who asked visitors surveying the destruction in her village, "Why do people in the West care about saving the dolphins, but not about saving us?"

A poignant, sharp statement asked out of great need for help—A good question about why people in the West for so long have ignored the plight of those sold into slavery, those whose villages, hospitals, schools and churches are bombed by the Khartoum regime that says it wants peace, but does not act that way.

Studies have shown that the devastation and destruction of tribes and peoples in Sudan is genocidal.

Statistics show that over 2 million people have died in Sudan—Do we not care?

I care—and that is precisely why I stand in firm support of Congressman TANCREDO and the Sudan Peace Act. I urge other Members to vote for this act to support the people of Southern Sudan, to fight against the destruction of entire tribes of people, and to fight against slavery that exists today.

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE STANLEY
MOSK

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today and pay tribute to

a dear friend and a legend of the California Supreme Court, Stanley Mosk, who passed away in his San Francisco home yesterday, June 19, 2001.

Justice Mosk, grew up in San Antonio, Texas and attended the University of Chicago as an undergraduate and law student, before receiving his Juris Doctorate from Southwestern University in Los Angeles in 1935. Judge Mosk's long career as a public servant began in 1939 when he was appointed Executive Secretary to California Governor Calbert L. Olson. After serving the Governor for four years, Stanley Mosk was named Justice of the Superior Court at the age of 31, making him the youngest Superior Court Judge in California.

Mr. Speaker, after serving in this position for 15 years, Judge Mosk sought political office, running for California's Attorney General in 1958. He easily won and received more votes than anyone else on the statewide ballot. Judge Mosk's victory was the first for Jewish person on a statewide ballot in California. During his six year tenure as Attorney General, he established a civil rights section, promoted police training and brought landmark anti-trust and consumer actions to trial. He also argued for California water rights before the U.S. Supreme Court. After deciding against running for Senate, Judge Mosk was appointed to the California Supreme Court by Governor Pat Brown. For the past thirty-seven years, he has been a fixture of the state Supreme Court, becoming its longest serving member in the Court's 151 year old history.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Mosk was recently described by the Los Angeles Times as the "the influential, widely acclaimed and contentiously independent senior member of the Court." He was a vigorous advocate of individual liberties and wrote more than 600 opinions that included dozens of landmark rulings that left a unique and far-reaching imprint on both civil and criminal law. Among his most controversial and more famous opinions was the Regents of the University of California vs. Bakke. In this landmark case, Judge Mosk found that race-based university admissions were unconstitutional, a ruling which has influenced public policy for the last twenty-five years. Despite the criticism he received for his ruling Judge Mosk never wavered from his decision.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Stanley Mosk was a true legend of California and he will be sorely missed. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this outstanding public servant.

IN HONOR OF SPEAKER SHELDON
SILVER, ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 25TH YEAR OF SERVICE AS A
MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK
STATE ASSEMBLY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Hon. Sheldon Silver. Mr. Silver is one of New York's greatest public servants, representing

Manhattan's Lower East Side in the New York State Assembly for 25 years where he currently serves as Speaker. Speaker Silver has worked diligently to improve the lives of his constituents, as well as the lives of all New Yorkers. His outstanding legislative achievements will serve as a model for future members of the New York State Assembly for years to come.

In 1976, Speaker Silver was first elected to the Assembly. In 1985, Speaker Silver was named chair of the Assembly Election Law Committee and served as co-chair of the Temporary State Commission on Voting Machine Equipment and Voter Registration Systems. In 1987 he became chair of the prestigious Assembly Committee on Codes. In 1992 Speaker Silver was appointed chair of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, and on February 11, 1994 he was elected Speaker of the New York State Assembly. Speaker Silver is dedicated to re-establishing the Assembly as the guardian of New York's middle-class and working families.

During his tenure in office, Speaker Silver has had many significant legislative achievements. He has always made education a priority, and his education initiative, LADDER (Learning, Achievement, Development by Directing Educational Resources), led to the enactment of the first statewide prekindergarten program for all 4-year old children in the nation. In addition, LADDER emphasized educational standards to ensure that all students received proper and complete education. It also focused on reducing class sizes to improve teacher to student ratios and reduces overcrowding. Many of us in Congress continue to advocate for these educational policies, Mr. Speaker, but Sheldon Silver of New York implemented them for our state years ahead of the curve.

Additionally, Speaker Silver has made a strong effort to curb drug usage in New York. Under his leadership, the Safe Streets-Safe Cities Program was enacted, which established harsher penalties for drug-related crimes. It also declared money laundering illegal in order to assist law enforcement in their battle against organized crime.

Speaker Silver has also been a vocal supporter of women's health issues, as well as reducing energy costs. He has also been a national leader in ensuring religious freedom for all people. These are just a few examples of literally hundreds of positive legislative actions that Speaker Silver has taken to improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Speaker Silver, and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing his extraordinary contributions to the State of New York and to our great nation.

HONORING MARK DiCARLO, DELAWARE COUNTY'S FATHER OF THE YEAR

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

Mr. WELDON. Mr. Speaker, with Father's Day weekend just behind us, I'd like to take a