

B. Thomas Henderson
4106 Bradwood Road
Austin, Texas 78722

1999 NOV 15 15:27

11-15-99

Send to Burkhardt?

cc:
clerks

Yes
No

✓

C

BC

SIG

PH

November 8, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, thank you for your gracious and thoughtful phone call while I was recently in the hospital. As many times as we have talked in person over the years, and even just since you have been President, it still gave me quite a rush when the White House operator said, "Please hold for the President."

Knowing that you took time from your incredibly busy schedule to wish me well in my recovery, means more to me than you can possibly imagine. Tall cotton for a country boy from Mountain Home (Texas, that is!). Your call even made the *Austin American-Statesman* (leaving some to conclude that I must be at death's door, if the *President* was calling). I'm sure they must have envisioned some sort of "last rites" call or something worse, but it clearly got their attention! I am extremely flattered by and grateful for your very kind and generous expression of concern. I also appreciate the warm "get well" note from the First Lady and you. Thanks for caring!

The good news is that I am recovering well and feeling much stronger every day. The PCP (AIDS-related pneumonia) seems to be clearing up on schedule. The bad news is that means I really have to work hard at keeping myself in check and not trying to get back to "normal" too soon. I knew that I had been pushing hard but kept trying to believe that I was really pacing myself at a sustainable level. Obviously, I was wrong and will have to drop the pace back another notch or two. Hard for me to do, but I DO get the message!

I had been planning to send this letter for some time before becoming ill. As I mentioned in our phone conversation, at EPA I am working diligently on designing and overseeing the preparation of the air quality improvement plans required under the Clean Air Act for the Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston/Galveston areas. As you are well aware, I have been working on this issue, with Garry and others, for the past 10-12 years. These plans, when fully developed, will have a major bearing on the quality of the air that millions of Texans will breathe for the next 10-20 years or longer.

The opportunities you provided through the Federal Fleet Conversion Task Force back in 1993 were significant. Now, however, we are in an unprecedented position to make major progress by adopting and implementing serious air pollution control strategies to improve Texas' air quality. I want to do everything in my power to move that ball as far and as fast as possible while the opportunity is present! Thank you for the chance to continue at EPA that important work.

With that in mind, and knowing something had to give somewhere in what was rapidly becoming an insanely over-committed schedule, I had previously decided that, when my term as a member of your Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) expired on December 31, 1999, I would ask that I not be re-appointed to the Council. It has been a singular and distinct privilege and honor to serve you, this Administration, and, most importantly, people with HIV/AIDS throughout the world for the past four years as a PACHA member. I am profoundly grateful for that opportunity.

The Members of the Council are some of the most dedicated, talented, committed, selfless and passionate (as well as just plain fun-loving!) people I have ever had the pleasure of working with -- on any issue, at any time. They have, over the past four years, become very much "family" to me, and I love, admire and respect each one, in his or her own special way, immensely. In addition, Sandy Thurman, Todd Summers, Daniel Montoya, Sean Maloney and others, both in the Office of National AIDS Policy and the White House, as well as many capable and dedicated people at the Department of Health and Human Services, among them Kevin Thurm, Dr. Eric Goosby and Dr. David Satcher, contribute daily to this important effort. They serve you and those of us infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS well.

Secretary Shalala, in her address to the Council at our most recent meeting in Washington early last month, referred to PACHA as the "single most critical group of official Presidential Advisors in history". Deserved or not, that is neither a moniker we shirk nor a description for our work which causes us great concern. In fact, aggressively agitating for the focus, resources and action needed to end the AIDS epidemic is a task we have taken on willingly and with great relish. I thank you for affording me the opportunity for my voice to be heard loud and clear on these issues at the highest levels. (I'm sure there are days when you see me coming with another note in hand, that you have second thoughts about your judgment in that regard, but thanks, nonetheless!).

During your Presidency, much has been accomplished in the AIDS arena of which you can be justly proud. Focusing world attention on the issue with your "White House Conference on HIV/AIDS"; appointing persons of special dedication and talent to head your Office of National AIDS Policy; securing unprecedented increases in funding for AIDS research and treatment; and committing our nation to the goal of developing and disseminating an AIDS vaccine within a decade, to name just a few, are major accomplishments and should be viewed by all as such. However, your recent initiative to deal with drug pricing, in addition to its obvious merit for the general populace, is in my view, THE SINGLE most important issue which must be dealt with in order to ensure

adequate access to early HIV treatment. You may recall that we specifically raised this issue with you in our meeting last December.

Progress is clearly being made, but, oh, Mr. President so much remains to be done! We have advanced very little toward your stated goal of "reducing new infections until there are none". In fact, we have accomplished little in even reducing the number of annual new infections, in the United States alone, from its current relatively steady level of 40,000. We have not done nearly well enough in making the case that one of the most effective means of stemming the rising tide of new infections is by tackling head-on the issue of substance abuse and its relationship to HIV infection.

In fact, the Secretary of Health and Human Services has not even done a very effective job of simply disseminating the clear and uncontradicted scientific evidence that programs like needle exchange actually *work* to reduce new HIV infections without increasing illicit drug use. We must do all in our power to lay out the facts, the *real* science, and to make sure that the truth is not drowned out by voices of ignorance or intolerance. Accomplishing that may require special efforts to educate some even within the Administration, particularly Drug Policy Director Barry McCaffrey.

As the epidemic expands to encompass more African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Asian-Americans and especially, more women, new ways of dealing with those infected with, at risk for and affected by this disease must constantly be found. And we must not forget that a whole new generation of young, gay men who have not experienced the horror of watching all their friends and peers go through the agony of living and dying with AIDS, now face the daunting reality of dealing with their sexuality -- particularly their gay sexuality -- in a world where one mistake or one impulsive action can change their lives forever.

Because so much remains to be done, both at home and abroad, deciding to leave the Council at this point has been a very difficult decision for me. But I believe it is time to pass this torch to someone else; to give another person the huge opportunity you have given me to be involved at the highest governmental levels of this fight. New perspectives, greater commitment of resources, new ideas and new vigor are needed to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

With that in mind, I would like to recommend your serious consideration of Mr. Eugene Sepulveda of Austin to fill my vacancy on the Council. Eugene is himself HIV+ and has been actively involved with AIDS issues in our community for many years. He previously served as Chair of our local HIV Planning Commission and of Leadership Austin. He has served on the Board of Governors of the Human Rights Campaign and as Chief Financial Officer of Minco Technology Labs, and is currently with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Austin. He would be an excellent choice to bring new perspective, vigor and commitment to the Council.

Additionally, one specific "new idea" that occurred to me as I was watching hurricane news coverage while in the hospital, was that the Federal Emergency Management

Agency (FEMA) really DOES understand and regularly practice crisis-management in ways that other federal agencies have simply never experienced. With hurricane season winding down for this year, maybe detailing someone from FEMA who truly understands how to mobilize people, resources, community good-will and other crucial elements of successful natural disaster relief programs, from FEMA to the Department of Health and Human Services for a 6-month- or- so stint could help HHS in its efforts to focus on dealing with AIDS crisis management. This could significantly help in cranking up the efforts of the Surgeon General and others to attack the epidemic in the most effective ways possible. Such cross-fertilization of ideas and methodologies could prove very useful.

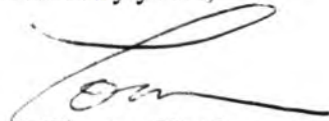
The Scriptures say that for everything there is a season. For those of us living with HIV/AIDS, the season for fighting AIDS will continue for the remainder of our lives. But just as the seasons of the year change, bringing new challenges and new perspectives, so too must our "seasons" change in continuing the fight. I believe now is the time for my "seasonal" role to change.

Thank you again for the challenging opportunity to serve as a member of your Presidential Advisory team on HIV/AIDS for the past four years. I look forward to continuing this battle, with you and others, in whatever new role or roles present themselves. (And I'm sure it won't come as any great shock to you or others when I continue from time to time to offer my two-cents-worth, solicited or not!).

Please don't forget, Mr. President, there is still plenty of time left during the remainder of your term to further strengthen your legacy regarding overcoming AIDS. I know you well enough to know that you would never want it said that you and your Administration settled for too little, when you could have gotten more. I don't expect that to be the case.

With greatest respect and warmest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,



B. Thomas Henderson

Member

Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

Cc: Sandra Thurman

Todd Summers

Daniel Montoya

Kevin Thurm

Dr. R. Scott Hitt, Chair

Members, Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

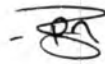
November 13, 1999

MR. PRESIDENT:

Nancy thought you'd want to see these before your
departure tomorrow.

Sean Maloney

WE'LL PREPARE REPLIES ON
YOUR BEHALF



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
11-13-99

11-15-99

NSC
Send to ~~Bush~~
for reply?

Yes ☒
No ☐

Carl

BILL ALEXANDER

Tel: 398. 70. 600. 691

November 12, 1999
Skopje, MacedoniaPresident Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington

99 NOV 12 PM 5:44

Dear Mr. President:

I am presently in Macedonia observing the presidential election. I noticed in the press that you will be leaving Washington soon for visits to Greece, Turkey, and perhaps Kosovo. Before you leave I want to share a few thoughts with you that may be useful during the trip.

I wrote you last summer (I do not have a copy of the letter available here) to advise of the potential impact of the impending Macedonia presidential election in the Balkans. From the response that I received I sense that you did not see my letter.

The same topic is again addressed in the attached article (*The Washington Times*, November 11, 1999) by Janusz Bugajski, Director of East European Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

I submit this insightful op-ed piece for your attention because the NSC reached a different conclusion last summer which, in my judgment, is politically flawed. The consequences of error here are serious and may impact your policy in the Balkans.

Your leadership has given hope and courage to many of the people here. The nationalist party (VMRO) now in power sees itself as a model for pluralism and democracy for Macedonia and the region. This beginning offers a new destiny and the potential of changing the tides of history. Progress takes time but somehow it must be accelerated.

Onward. And, good luck on the trip.

Sincerely,



By Janusz Bugajski

Macedonia is the linchpin of the Balkans and the only republic of the former Yugoslavia that has thus far avoided war. The upcoming presidential elections present a critical challenge to the survival of this vulnerable multi-ethnic state.

Unfortunately, the international community is paying insufficient attention to the potential impact of Macedonian's elections. Western leaders must remain vigilant over any sparks of instability in the country that will reverberate negatively throughout a region that NATO has been trying to secure for the last decade. The government in Skopje has weathered a series of domestic and regional storms during the past year but may now face its biggest test.

The ruling coalition was forged at the end of 1998 despite all the odds and in the midst of an accelerating crisis in neighboring Serbia. It combines the former nationalist VMRO organization and the largest Albanian party, the PDA. Contrary to widespread warnings of ethnic conflagration, VMRO's policies turned out to be pragmatic. In a series of moves to defuse tensions, the Albanians were offered positions in various government organs, several political prisoners were released, and concessions were made on Albanian-language higher education.

This spring the VMRO-led coalition managed to handle the destabilizing effects of the Kosovo refugee crisis. As hundreds of thousands of Albanian

Preserving Macedonia

A critical moment for the Balkans

refugees poured into an impoverished and unprepared Macedonia, observers forecast descent into all-out civil war as the country's precarious ethnic balance was destroyed. But the authorities coped with the challenge despite provocations by Serb extremists and growing resentment among Macedonia's Slavic majority. The situation was finally saved by NATO's successful operation against Serbia and the rapid return to Kosovo of virtually all the deportees.

Not only has VMRO survived these crises but it has significantly contributed to regional security by assisting NATO through various confidence-building initiatives. Earlier this year, Macedonia recorded a major breakthrough in its relations with Bulgaria when the two countries resolved a long-standing linguistic dispute and signed an interstate treaty. Relations with Greece, Albania, and Turkey have also steadily improved.

Unfortunately, the current

presidential elections have sharpened the country's political disputes and threatened to unsettle ethnic coexistence. In the first round of the ballot on Oct. 31, the Social Democratic candidate Tito Petkovski gained 33 percent of the vote, while VMRO representative Boris Trajkovski only registered 21 percent. There are now fears that a low voter turnout or an Albanian boycott in the second round runoff on Nov. 14 will favor Mr. Petkovski.

Mr. Petkovski has deliberately whipped up the specter of Albanian separatism to frighten and mobilize Macedonian voters. His nationalist rhetoric is ominously reminiscent of the Milosevic phenomenon in Serbia, and indeed the two ex-communist activists share a similar political pedigree. A Petkovski victory would not only radicalize ethnic relations but it could directly assist Slobodan Milosevic in his clandestine campaign to destabilize the region and draw attention away from

The international community is paying insufficient attention to the potential impact of Macedonian's elections. Western leaders must remain vigilant over any sparks of instability in the country that will reverberate negatively throughout a region that NATO has been trying to secure for the last decade.

Belgrade's culpability for the Balkan morass.

In stark contrast, Mr. Trajkovski and VMRO Prime Minister Ljupco Georgievski have focused on pressing economic issues in their election campaign and have rejected nationalism and ethnic division. They have followed a consistent pro-NATO and anti-Milosevic stance. A Trajkovski presidency is more likely to promote ethnic reconciliation and regional stability than a Petkovski victory. And it appears that only a large Albanian turnout will ensure Mr. Trajkovski's success.

Although Macedonian presidents have limited constitutional powers, there are two reasons for serious concern if Mr. Petkovski were to win. First, a divided national leadership, with VMRO in government and the Social Democrats in the presidency, will sharpen political polarization, potentially paralyze the parliament, provoke Albanian and Macedonian radicalism and aggravate inter-ethnic conflicts.

Second, an unstable Macedonia will threaten NATO's mission in Kosovo by opening a new ethnic battlefield on the southern flank. It will also undermine the EU-sponsored Balkan Stability Pact designed to reconstruct and develop the region. Resources and investment will simply not materialize in an unstable political climate. The Balkan states will all be affected and could sink even further behind their Central European counterparts. With such dangers looming for Macedonia and its neighbors it is imperative for the majority of voters to choose ethnic peace and economic progress over conflict, chaos, and degeneration. And Washington cannot watch the result with indifference.

Janusz Bugajski is director of East European Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Washington Times 11/11/99

By James D. Stigall

Macedonia is the Republic of the Balkans and the only republic of the former Yugoslavia that has thus far avoided war. The upcoming presidential elections present a critical challenge to the survival of this vulnerable multi-ethnic state.

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The ruling coalition was forged at the end of 1998 despite all the odds and in the midst of an accelerating crisis in neighboring Serbia. It combines the former nationalist VMRO organization and the largest Albanian party, the PDA. Contrary to widespread warnings of ethnic confrontation, VMRO's politics turned out to be pragmatic. In a series of moves to defuse tensions, the Albanians were offered positions in various government organs, several political prisoners were released, and concessions were made on Albanian-language higher education.

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presidential elections have sharpened the country's political disputes and threatened to unsettle ethnic coexistence. In the first round of the ballot on Oct. 31, the Social Democratic candidate Tito Petkovski gained 13 percent of the vote, while VMRO representative Boris Trajkovski only registered 21 percent. There are now fears that a low voter turnout or an Albanian boycott in the second round runoff on Nov. 14 will favor Mr. Petkovski.

Mr. Petkovski has deliberately whipped up the specter of Albanian separatism to frighten and mobilize Macedonian voters. His nationalist rhetoric is obviously reminiscent of the Milosevic phenomenon in Serbia, and indeed the two ex-communist activists share a similar political pedigree. A Petkovski victory would not only radicalize ethnic relations but it could directly assist Slobodan Milosevic in his clandestine campaign to destabilize the region and draw attention away from

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The international community is paying insufficient attention to the potential impact of Macedonia's elections. Western leaders must remain vigilant over any sparks of instability in the country that will reverberate negatively throughout a region that NATO has been trying to secure for the last decade.

James D. Stigall is director of East European Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

See Reported Article

MEMORANDUM

VIA FACSIMILE No. 202. 456. 2883

TO: NANCY HERNREICH

FM: BILL ALEXANDER
Tel: 389. 70. 600. 691
Skopje, Macedonia

Washington address:
20599 Broadax Place
Ashburn, VA 20147
Tel: 703. 723. 1456
Fax: 703. 723. 1465

DT: Friday November 12, 1999

Dear Nancy:

Attached is a letter to the President which I would appreciate being included in his travel folder on the impending trip. I discussed this subject with him briefly during a telephone conversation recently.

My regards to Louis Mc. When he comes to Washington please let me know so we can get together.

All the best.



AES Corporation
The Global Power Company

November 11, 1999

Dennis W. Bakke
President
Chief Executive Officer

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr President:

Congratulations on your decision to make the first ever trip of a US President to Bulgaria at the end of this month. As you well know, it is a troubled region but also one with some considerable potential and of major geo-political significance, so we at AES consider your trip very timely and very important.

We have also recognized the potential of the region for the development of privately financed power generation projects. This will allow AES to carry out its ultimate purpose to serve the world's need for clean, safe, reliable and low cost electricity.

We have been looking at a number of projects in Bulgaria for several years now, but recently we have been fortunate enough to have been "elected" the lead developer on a new 600 MW lignite-fired power generation project in the east of the country (called Maritza East 1) which could amount to around \$800 million of new investment. Some highlights of the project are as follows:

1. *Closing Down the "Unsafe" Nuclear Plant:* Perhaps most importantly, our project will help, in part, enable the Bulgarian government to begin planning for the decommissioning of four, aged, Russian designed, nuclear units that some experts have deemed extremely hazardous, due to the lack of any safety containment structures. This very sensitive decommissioning issue is one of the key negotiating points for Bulgaria in their EU accession discussions. While accepting that these units will have to close some time in the future, Bulgaria has requested compensation for their early closure (i.e. financing of replacement power generation) and/or grant assistance for the expensive decommissioning operations.
2. *Closing Down the Polluting Coal Plants:* Our project will also enable the Bulgarian government to decommission significant amounts of old, inefficient polluting coal-fired generation.
3. *Environmentally Compliant:* Our project will meet all Bulgarian, EU and World Bank environmental standards and will be one of the cleanest coal plants in Europe.
4. *Of Strategic Importance for Bulgaria:* Our project will enable the further utilization of Bulgaria's sole indigenous energy source, lignite, removing the need to rely on foreign (mainly Russian) imported fuels, obviously helping the balance of payments and "security of supply".

1001 North 19th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22209
(703) 522-1315
Telecopier (703) 528-4510



The President
November 11, 1999
Page 2

5. *Of Strategic Importance for the Region:* Finally, our project could enable Bulgaria to increase the level of exports to Turkey and its other neighbors (currently at a level approximately equivalent to the size of our plant), although the current planned customer of our power is the domestic market. Turkey, especially, has always struggled to meet their electricity demand growth, the shortfall being further exacerbated by the terrible earthquake earlier this year.

In closing, we are very pleased to have recently (yesterday) received a non-binding letter of support from OPIC containing some indicative terms and conditions for lending up to \$200 million to the project and we are greatly encouraged by their level of interest and commitment. They have clearly, wholeheartedly, embraced your initiative of making the Balkan region a priority for new US-backed investments. AES can make a difference in Bulgaria.

We hope this information is helpful during your short visit to Bulgaria and any support you are able to give our project would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



DWB/jh

cc: George Muñoz, President and CEO, OPIC (via Fax: 202-408-5133)

TELEFAX

DATE: November 12, 1999

'99 NOV 13 P 137

TO: The President
c/o Nancy Hernreich

ORGANIZATION: The White House

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-6703

FROM: Dennis Bakke

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: - 2 -

Nancy,

Please call our office at 703-358-0508 to confirm receipt
and delivery to the President prior to his departure on Sunday
for his 10-day overseas trip.

Thank you,



The AES Corporation
1001 North 19th Street
Suite 2000
Arlington, VA 22209
(703) 358-0508
Fax: (703) 276-6758