

many lives. I commend the President for his leadership in this effort.

In truth, however, this effort has just begun. This initiative should be just a first downpayment by the U.S. in our fight against AIDS. We must fully fund this initiative in 2004 and do more. It is also up to us to now work with the President to shape this initiative for maximum impact. We must invest wisely to protect and save as many lives as possible as quickly as possible. As we work with the administration to take this initiative from an idea into action, we have important decisions to make. I offer you a few key points today regarding how we can use these funds in order to save the greatest number of lives and protect our global health and stability.

We must frontload this money, and ensure that it reaches as many countries as possible.

These funds are needed immediately, and if we do not invest enough now, we will pay far more later, in money, in lives lost, and in the social, economic, and spiritual cost to the families, communities, nations, which are hardest hit. There are 10 million children in sub-Saharan Africa alone, children who ought to be free to play, to learn, to enjoy their young lives who have lost one or both parents to AIDS. This represents a country the size of Belgium. In 10 years, at current rates, this number will quadruple. But we have a choice. Will we allow this to happen? Every year we delay, the slower we are to scale up, the greater the cost. This epidemic is not waiting for us, it is accelerating. So we must accelerate our response. We must increase funding in the fiscal year 2004 budget we will soon consider.

The 14 countries in Africa and the Caribbean targeted by President Bush are important ones. However, there are many, additional countries where we must urgently address AIDS now. For instance, in Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland and Zimbabwe, where 60 percent of all deaths under 60 are due to AIDS, TB, and malaria, people need help immediately too.

Our own National Intelligence Council has identified five populous nations of strategic importance to the United States as the "next wave" of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, including India and Russia. India alone contains some one-third of the world's tuberculosis burden, and since HIV fuels the TB epidemic, TB rates will skyrocket in these countries as HIV spreads. HIV rates are growing faster in Russia than any other region of the world, and the dangerous drug-resistant strains of TB that are more prevalent in Russia than anywhere in the world will pose a serious, deadly and expensive medical problem if they explode in synergy with AIDS. We cannot wait; we must act now.

Another point of key importance regarding the President's proposed initiative is we must allocate far greater resources to the important new global

fund to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria, but the initiative fails so far to do so.

I fear that the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief may underfund the global fund, our best new means of addressing these epidemics. This is particularly ironic given that Secretary Tommy Thompson has just been appointed the chair of the global fund's board. The global fund is a relatively new mechanism that is centrally important in scaling up the global response to AIDS. The global fund is innovative. It is independent. It is efficient. And it is fully operational. By tomorrow, at the close of their meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, the fund's board will announce a second round of grant awards to programs in affected countries that are providing needed prevention, treatment, and care for these three diseases. In this second round, the fund will approve projects that will produce the following estimated results:

For just \$325 million, or about 2 percent of the proposed \$15 billion, 270,000 more people will receive antiretroviral, ARV, drugs in developing countries, adding to 220,000 people who will receive ARVs from the first round of the global fund's grants. In total, the global fund will support a sixfold increase in the number of people being treated with ARVs in Africa.

With \$300 million, some 2 million more people will be treated for tuberculosis over the next 5 years through expansion of the highly effective DOTS, Directly Observed Therapy, Short-course, treatment services.

For just \$18 million, or one-tenth of one percent of \$15 billion, 10 million more people in Africa will be treated for malaria through the use of the new and highly effective anti-malarials, artemisinin-based treatments.

This work is highly impressive, and it is critically important.

The global fund estimates very conservatively that it will need \$6.3 billion in 2003 and 2004, to be able to finance the high-quality proposals it anticipates receiving. The U.S. should provide at least \$2 billion or more in 2004, with additional resources in 2003, scaling up in future years.

Now, after this second round of grants is announced on Friday, the fund will be virtually out of money, and unable to even request a third round of proposals later this year. I commend the efforts of my many colleagues over the past year, colleagues from both sides of the aisle, led by Senators FRIST, KERRY, DEWINE, DURBIN, BOXER, and many others—who have provided leadership toward expanding the United States' investment in the global fund. Now is not the time to back down on U.S. leadership at the global fund, but the time to greatly increase our investment in the fund to rapidly and effectively scale up global efforts. Providing our fair share of global fund resources as a part of a new AIDS initiative would leverage major increases in other donor contributions as well.

One more point on funding. It is of vital importance that the President's emergency plan for AIDS relief not draw resources away from existing development programs such as bilateral tuberculosis or child survival efforts or other development priorities.

And, finally, we must look at the problem of AIDS in conjunction with the problem of tuberculosis, for the two are inextricably linked from a medical perspective. Tuberculosis, which is the leading killer of people with HIV worldwide, is carried by one in three people worldwide. The disease drains human resources from struggling economies and poverty-stricken regions.

Tuberculosis is readily curable with drugs that cost as little as \$10 per patient in developing countries with the DOTS treatment, but only one in four people who need DOTS have access to it. If we do not act now to bring tuberculosis under control globally, then TB infection rates will rise precipitously with the spread of HIV; and this is of particular concern given the existence of dangerous drug-resistant strains, which are far more expensive and difficult to treat. With just \$200 million invested annually, the United States can provide its fair share of the resources needed to meet international TB control targets by 2005, as laid out in a groundbreaking blueprint called the Global Plan to Stop TB.

In closing, I again salute President Bush for his wise and compassionate leadership in proposing a bold new U.S. initiative to fight global AIDS. I urge that this be just a first step in our scaled up response, and that we invest resources aggressively. Now, that we reach as many affected countries as possible, and that we provide our fair U.S. share of the total resources needed by the global fund to fight AIDS, TB, and malaria.

TRIBUTE TO ANDRE AGASSI

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to my friend and fellow Nevadan Andre Agassi, who won the Australian Open tennis championship over the weekend. Andre is from Las Vegas, where the community knows him to be not only an outstanding athlete but also an outstanding person who gives generously to many worthwhile causes and helps those most in need.

Blessed with amazing talent, Andre was a natural who began his professional career as a very young boy. Although he is still quite young by most standards, for a professional athlete, especially a world-class tennis player he is considered old. He will turn 33 this year and is now one of the true veterans of the men's tennis tour. He has demonstrated a tremendous dedication to fitness and training to enable him to compete—and win—against much younger players.

Andre demonstrates the same relentless determination to succeed off the

court, and to help others have an opportunity to achieve. The people of Nevada appreciate Andre's commitment to the community and his longstanding philanthropic work.

Andre Agassi is an example of how a celebrity can use his fame, fortune, and connections for the public good. He has contributed millions of dollars and helped raise millions more for charitable organizations. And his involvement in these projects extends beyond signing large checks: he gives his time and energy to these programs, helps develop a vision and plan for them and knows what's going on with them.

He established the Andre Agassi Charitable Foundation to assist organizations that support children and that provide assistance to victims of domestic violence.

The foundation provided much of the funding for the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy. Agassi Prep, as it is called, is a charter school serving at risk children. Many of the students live in poverty. The vast majority of them are from single parent households. Most of the students attending the school are African American.

Andre's goal is to improve their lives through education and prepare them for college.

I had the opportunity to visit this wonderful school and see the students learning in the classroom and then present a performance. I was encouraged by their enthusiasm for knowledge and the respect that they showed for their teachers and for one another.

In addition to the charter school, there is the Andre Agassi Boys and Girls Club in west Las Vegas, a minority community, providing a safe and positive environment for youth. The club functions as a place where children can participate in fun, recreational activities and also learn about the dangers of becoming involved with gangs or drugs.

So Andre Agassi is making a difference in the lives of so many children and their families in Southern Nevada, some of whom are unaware that this weekend Down Under in Australia, thousands of miles and many time zones away, Andre won another major tennis championship, the eighth Grand Slam title of his career.

To accomplish this, Andre won seven straight matches over 2 weeks. This extends his victory streak to 21 consecutive matches at the Australian Open, a tournament he won in 1995, and then again in 2000 and 2001. Unfortunately, he was not able to defend his championship last year because of an injury. But he recovered and worked hard to get his form back and once again triumphed.

Another reason tennis fans are celebrating Andre's latest victory is his recent suggestion that if he won this tournament, his wife, Steffi Graf, herself a legend in the tennis world and winner of numerous championships, would come out of her retirement to team up with him and play mixed doubles at the French Open this year.

He and Steffi are a formidable pair and should create a lot of excitement on the clay courts in Paris.

Several years ago Andre won the men's singles at the French Open and became the first tennis male player in more than three decades to win all four of the Grand Slam tournaments—Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, the Australian Open, and the French—during his career. These events are played on different surfaces—grass, hardcourt and clay—that emphasize different skills and strategies, so it is very difficult and rare for a single player to have the versatility needed to excel on all of them.

Andre has already established himself as one of the all-time greats in the history of tennis and provided fans with many memories. He has been playing professional tennis now for more than half of his life. Even though he is playing some of the best tennis of his life and shows no signs of slowing down, we know that sooner or later, I predict within the next 10 years, Andre will win his last Grand Slam at age 40.

He and Steffi are the parents of a young boy, Jaden Gil, and I'm sure Andre will want to be actively involved in family life after his professional tennis days are over. I am also certain that Andre will continue his great work on behalf of children in Las Vegas, and he can look forward to watching with pride as the students of Agassi Prep grow up, graduate and achieve success.

I am happy to recognize once again the accomplishments of a great Nevanadan and great American, Andre Agassi.

REMEMBERING THE LEGACY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an extraordinary man in American history. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., without exception, led a fearless life dedicated to the cause of human rights and world peace. His example inspired a generation of Americans to rise above what had been two centuries of injustice and inequality and usher in a new day of enlightenment and freedom. For that great gift, for having imagined what America ought to be and setting us on that course, we will forever be in his debt.

Had Dr. King been spared on that fateful day in 1968, he would have turned 74 years of age this month. He would have watched his children, Martin, Dexter and Yolanda, grow into strong and responsible adults. He would have watched a generation of young people mature into adults, struggling to keep the spirit of his dream alive. He would have seen the birth of an entirely new generation, charged with carrying America's torch into a new century.

Had Dr. King lived, he would have witnessed, and undoubtedly experienced, countless changes in America and the world . . . but would he believe

we had truly arrived at the "promised land" he spoke of in his "I Have a Dream" speech? Or would he find some unfinished business? What would he say?

Would Dr. King still speak of the "debilitating and grinding poverty" that disproportionately affects minority communities? In America today, like America of the 1960s, disproportionate numbers of minorities live in dilapidated housing with low or no income. They have far too few resources to feed their families, to clothe their children, or to pay the price of higher and higher rents, and certainly not enough to afford a down-payment for a home of their own. Too many seniors have to make the unfair and unacceptable choice between heat and prescription drugs. And too few of them have the retirement savings of which they had dreamed. And in these sorry economic times, there is no safety-net, children can't support their aging parents.

What would Dr. King say? We live in the richest Nation in the world, yet certain current economic policies sometimes neglect working-class men and women and turn a blind eye to the poorest among us, all in the name of stimulating our economy. If we want to boost the economy, we should first boost the vast majority of Americans who can't spend because they don't have an opportunity to earn. Our focus should be on providing equal access to professional and educational opportunities, and not on dispensing one-way tickets to low-paying jobs with dead-end possibilities. If we are concerned about our country's economic health, we should be concerned about economic opportunities for all.

What would Dr. King say? Last year, hate crimes climbed by more than 17 percent, and offenses targeted specifically against Muslims jumped 1,600 percent. Just this month, as the Nation prepared itself to honor the memory of Dr. King, racial threats were mailed to more than 30 African-American churches and businesses in Kansas City, MO. And, sadly, Kansas City is no different than many cities in America. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9,730 hate crimes were reported in the United States in 2001, that is more than 26 hate crimes a day. And it is not counting the untold numbers of crimes that go unreported, nor the numbers of crimes against individuals solely because of their gender or sexual orientation or disability, all of which are not captured under current Federal law.

Hate crimes are not simply crimes against individuals; they are crimes against whole communities and have marked the demise of great nations. To paraphrase Dr. King, "history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals" that tolerated "this self-defeating path of hate." And yet Congress in its infinite wisdom has failed to pass basic legislation that would strengthen the ability of Federal, State and local governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes; failed to remove unnecessary obstacles to Federal