MEMORANDUM FOR NANCY J. RISQUE
FROM: ROBERT W. SWEET, JR.
SUBJECT: AIDS Statistics

Background: In May 1987, the President directed HHS "to carry out a comprehensive program to determine the nationwide incidence of the HIV virus and to predict the future of its occurrence" and "to initiate epidemiologic studies to determine the extent to which the HIV virus has penetrated the various segments of our society."

Chronology of Events

- June 12, 1987 -- PHS and CDC met and discussed ways to carry out the President's order.

- July 7, 1987 -- CDC hosted a meeting with forty specialists, including individuals from the National Academy of Sciences, the Public Health Service, and the Bureau of the Census, on the design, and implementation of a national HIV prevalence survey.

- September 1987 -- CDC recommended an additional family of surveys to be conducted before the national HIV prevalence survey is conducted.

- October 1987 -- in response to the recommendations of the Public Health Service, the President directed that the following actions be taken:
  - a family of surveys will be conducted in order to gather more data on the spread of HIV;
  - continued collection and analysis of the data and quarterly reports to the Domestic Policy Council on the results;
  - initial steps will be taken to prepare for a full nationwide household survey.

- November 1987 -- PHS submitted a draft plan on how to conduct the family of surveys, continue data collection and prepare for the national household survey.
PHS submitted a draft Report to the HPWG describing how they planned to conduct the family of surveys, collect further data, and conduct the National household survey;

The Health Policy Working Group is scheduled to meet on Thursday, November 19, 1987 to discuss the HHS final draft Report on AIDS.

1986 Coolfont Estimate

In May 1986, a group of approximately 100 health experts from CDC met in Coolfont, West Virginia to discuss the AIDS epidemic and as part of their deliberations arrived at an estimate of the number of HIV infected persons in America. This estimate, 1-1.5 million people has been widely used since that time by CDC and the press. According to CDC officials present at this Coolfont Conference, the estimated number of 1-1.5 million persons infected with HIV was based primarily on a 1948 estimate of the number of homosexual men, IV drug users, those who have had occasional homosexual contact and hemophiliacs in the U.S. Very little HIV testing had been done at that time, thus very little data was available for use in scientific modeling efforts.

1987 Efforts to Estimate the Extent of HIV Infection in the U.S.

The November 30, 1987 report to the President by the Domestic Policy Council will outline new efforts by CDC to use scientific modeling techniques in obtaining a more accurate estimate of the extent of the HIV infection in the U.S. New data collected from the family of surveys and the National household survey will be very helpful in this effort.

Outline of the Report to the President on HIV Prevalence

I. a) President's decision in May 1987 to do a nationwide study to determine the prevalence of HIV in the U.S.

b) President's decision in October 1987 for a family of surveys, continued data collection, and National household survey.

c) Current knowledge on the accuracy of the AIDS antibody test and the effect of false positives on statistical analysis.

II. Explanation of the 1986 Coolfont estimate of HIV in the U.S.

III. Explanation of various models for analyzing new and existing data on the HIV infection in 1987.
IV. Sources of HIV data such as from the military, the Red Cross, sentinel hospitals, and clinics.

V. Current HIV infection rates in various groups where HIV testing has been conducted.

VI. Current trends in HIV infection in certain risk groups using various scientific models.

VII. Estimates of future infection rates in these groups and for the general population through the year 2000, based on current knowledge.

Schedule for Submitting the Report to the President

- November 19, 1987 - Health Policy Working Group meeting to review draft Report to the President being prepared by CDC.
- November 30, 1987 - Final draft of Report to the President submitted to Chairman of the HPWG.
- December 3, 1987 - DPC meeting to review draft Report to the President.
- December 3, 1987 - Report transmitted to the President.
- December 4, 1987 - Following the DPC meeting, Dr. James Mason would go to the White House press room for a briefing on the contents of the Report.