



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

30 April 1999

Dear Mr. Heibold,

The magnitude of the AIDS crisis - particularly in Africa - makes partnerships between the public and private sectors critical if we are to make significant headway in developing effective therapies and helping people in need. Through its initiative, "Secure the Future: Care and Support for Women and Children with HIV/AIDS", Bristol-Myers Squibb is providing a remarkable instance of leadership in creating and sustaining such partnerships. The United Nations, and in particular UNAIDS, is proud to be a part of this historic effort.

I am of course impressed by the generous financial support offered by Bristol-Myers Squibb in this effort, but even more so by the initiative's guiding philosophy, which recognizes the problem of AIDS in Africa as a multidimensional crisis requiring bold and innovative action on a variety of fronts and in partnership with local organizations. I note that "Secure the Future" promises advances on the scientific front, while also supporting a variety of community programmes that can sustain and reinforce the progress gained in the laboratory and elsewhere on the research front.

The fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa has been intense and often overwhelming, with many organizations and individuals - most notably the victims themselves - struggling against near-impossible obstacles. All of us fighting against this terrible epidemic have renewed hope that real progress can be made in the foreseeable future. We look forward to working with you to get this critical programme off the ground.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Annan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping tail.

Kofi A. Annan

Mr. Charles A. Heibold, Jr.
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Bristol-Myers Squibb Company
New York