

Kill Malarial Mosquitoes NOW!

2/3

A Declaration of the Informed and Concerned

We, the undersigned, are justifiably concerned, anguished and outraged that:

- Over 500 million human beings suffer from malaria in Africa and around the world annually. This is more people than live in the United States, Canada and Mexico combined.
- Well over a million of these people – mostly children and pregnant women – are killed by malaria each and every year.
- Malaria wreaks an enormous economic toll, incapacitating otherwise productive people, leaving thousands with brain damage, and keeping millions at home to care for the sick, instead of producing goods and services to lift Africa and other regions out of unacceptable, abject poverty.
- The United States, Europe and other advanced economies have failed to use every available means to stop the devastation that malarial mosquitoes inflict upon the world's poorest citizens. They are the same methods we used to eradicate malaria in our countries. Yet, we have mindlessly withheld them from other people for over 30 years – to tragic, almost genocidal effect.
- Almost *none* of the \$200 million that US taxpayers contribute to world malaria control each year is actually spent to kill or repel the deadly mosquitoes that inject parasites into the bloodstreams of their victims. These shortsighted policies fail to recognize that spraying small amounts of DDT on the interior walls of homes can effectively kill or repel malarial mosquitoes – giving long-lasting protection to the families within.
- Amazingly, some in government even oppose using malaria control monies to kill the parasite that malarial mosquitoes transmit from person to person! These individuals would block or limit funding for the purchase of medicines such as artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs), which cure malaria and inhibit its spread wherever they are used.
- DDT as yet plays no part in the program announced by President Bush in July 2005, to spend an additional \$1.2 billion on malaria control over the next five years. Without DDT and ACTs, this spending will be needlessly wasted, along with millions of additional lives.

We understand the facts about DDT and its historic opponents, as summarized in the Background and References, below. We now seek humane, heroic action by US leaders to alter the ugly course of human history with regard to malaria.

Our objective: To end malaria's worldwide reign of terror

We want to slash disease and death tolls in Africa and worldwide, by changing the way the US government funds malaria control. We want cost-effective measures that actually kill and repel malarial mosquitoes, eliminate parasites, cure malaria patients – and save lives.

We therefore ask Congress and the President to:

- Ensure that at least **2/3** (two-thirds) of annual Congressional appropriations for malaria control are earmarked for insecticidal and medicinal commodities – with up to half of such monies targeted to the treatment and cure of infected patients.
- Specifically direct such funds to the actual purchase and deployment of: (1) DDT, or any other proven, more cost-effective insecticide/repellent, for Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in any given malarial locality; and (2) of ACTs, or other equally effective and durable drugs, for treatment of malaria patients and reduction in transmission rates.
- Require that this **2/3** formula be mirrored in the annual malaria control spending by any agency receiving US malaria control monies – such as US Agency for International Development, World Health Organization, World Bank, UNICEF and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.
- Direct that this **2/3** proportion will be subject to reduction **ONLY** if replaced by corresponding expenditures for any malaria control measure (such as larvaciding) that has been proven equally or more cost-effective in reducing malaria morbidity and mortality rates in specific localities – as certified, in advance of such expenditure and replacement, by the directors of the US Centers for Disease Control, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences or similar independent agency, based on controlled epidemiological studies in the field.

In full accord with the UN Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, this objective contemplates DDT use *only* for indoor residual spraying (which results in zero-to-negligible external environmental residue) – and *not* for aerial or any other form of outdoor application.¹ It does *not* contemplate the use of insecticides, including insecticide-treated mosquito nets, not shown to be *more* cost-effective than indoor residual spraying with DDT for all members of affected populations.

In the absence of empirical evidence to the contrary, we the undersigned regard as inadequate – and therefore morally unacceptable – any policy that permits any sum in excess of one-third of US anti-malaria funding to be expended on contractors, “technical assistance,” conferences, “capacity building, overhead, bed nets or similar measures, rather than the proven insecticidal and medical interventions described above.

Bureaucrats, contractors, academics, insecticide companies, anti-pesticide activists and other self-interested parties have frequently protested that DDT for indoor residual spraying is no panacea – and falsely claimed that alternative methods work equally well in controlling malaria. However, the fact is, *nothing* in the history of man has proven more effective than the combination of insecticides such as DDT and effective medicines like ACTs for saving human lives from the scourge of malaria.

DDT enabled the United States, Europe and most advanced economies to eradicate malaria. It must now be permitted and encouraged to start saving lives in Africa, Asia, Latin America and other parts of the world where malarial mosquitoes continue to kill thousands of innocent children and parents every day. Because:

- Allocation decisions on US appropriations for malaria control must be made by Congress and the White House within weeks;
- The US foreign aid and multilateral aid bureaucracies have proven themselves incompetent and unwilling over many years to make effective commodity purchases and allocation decisions;
- Most of the world, including the World Health Organization, has *endorsed* DDT for indoor residual spraying through the UN Stockholm Convention; and

- Americans and most of the world embrace life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness as fundamental Human Rights – and yet the effect of current malaria policies is to deny those Human Rights to billions of the world’s poorest people;

Now, therefore, we the undersigned Coalition of the Informed and Concerned hold that the burden of scientific and moral proof rests with any who would argue that more than one-third of US and world malaria control spending should support measures *other than* DDT for indoor residual spraying and ACTs (or any other proven, more cost-effective interventions) for combating this horrific disease.

If and when the opponents of DDT and ACTs can show and obtain certification as provided above that something else works better to save human lives from malaria, we the undersigned will readily – even eagerly – accede to something less than this *two-thirds* formula.

Until then, however, we will fight furiously for every human life now hanging in the balance, as a function of current, myopic, errant and unconscionable US malaria control policies.

We urge all people of conscience, moral conviction and human decency to join us in ending malaria’s reign of terror in Africa and the developing world. We hereby implore Congress and the President to stop the misguided malaria spending, stop the talking, and finally take real action to:

Kill Malarial Mosquitoes NOW!

Signatories:

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Desmond M Tutu	Archbishop Emeritus, Nobel Peace Laureate, South Africa
Andrew Spielman, PhD	Professor of Tropical Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health
Admiral Harold M. Koenig, MD	Former Surgeon General of the US Navy (retired), Maryland
Patrick Moore, PhD	Co-founder of Greenpeace
Kenneth D. Christman, MD	President, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Ohio
Elizabeth Whelan, ScD	President, American Council on Science & Health, New York
Robert S. Desowitz, PhD	Professor Emeritus, Tropical Medicine, U of Hawaii and N Carolina
Theeraphap Chareonviriyaphap	Professor of Entomology (PhD), Kasetsart University, Thailand
Abere Mihrete, PhD	Director, Anti-Malaria Association, Ethiopia
Harry C. Alford	President & CEO, Natl Black Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC
Roy Innis	National Chairman, Congress of Racial Equality, New York
Rabbi Daniel Lapin	President, Toward Tradition, Washington
E. Calvin Beisner, PhD	Associate Professor, Knox Theological Seminary, Florida
Reverend Robert Sirico	President, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, Michigan
Samuel C Wolgemuth	Vice Chair, World Relief Corporation, Illinois
Ed Crane	President, Cato Institute, Washington, DC
Herb London	President, Hudson Institute, New York
David M. Beasley	Former Governor of South Carolina

Signatories:

Physicians, infectious disease experts and scientists 1

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Amir Attaran, D Phil, LLB	Canada Research Chair, Institute of Population Health; Faculty of Law University of Ottawa, Canada
Roger Bate, PhD	Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC
Theeraphap Chareonviriyaphap	Professor of Entomology (PhD), Kasetsart University, Thailand
Kenneth D. Christman, MD	President, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, Ohio
Robert S. Desowitz, PhD	Professor Emeritus, Tropical Medicine and Medical Microbiology, University of Hawaii, and ScD (London), North Carolina
Admiral Harold M. Koenig, MD	Former Surgeon General of the US Navy (retired), Maryland
Patrick Moore, PhD	Co-founder of Greenpeace Chairman and Chief Scientist, Greenspirit Strategies, Canada
Andrew Spielman, PhD	Professor of Tropical Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health
Donald E. Waite, DO, MPH	Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University, Michigan Author of <i>Environmental Health Hazards: Recognition and Avoidance</i>
Elizabeth Whelan, ScD	President, American Council on Science & Health, New York
Richard Andre, PhD	Professor, Medical Zoology and Emerging Infectious Diseases, Maryland
Robert J. Cihak, MD	Past President, Association of American Physicians and Surgeons Columnist for NewsMax.com and JewishWorldReview.com, Washington
Ildefonso Fernández-Salas	Director, Laboratory of Medical Entomology and Graduate Program in Medical Entomology, University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico
John P. Kabayo, PhD	Coordinator, Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign, African Union, Ethiopia Former Member of Parliament of Uganda
Nancy Kerkvliet, PhD	Professor of Toxicology, Oregon State University, Oregon
Lance Laifer	Co-Founder, Hedge Funds vs. Malaria, Connecticut
Sylvie Manguin, PhD	Research Professor in Medical Entomology, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France
Jean Mouchet	Professor of Public Health, Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (IRD), France
Pauline NM Mwinzi, PhD	Senior Research Officer, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya
Richard Tren	Director, Africa Fighting Malaria, South Africa
Leslie M. Burger, MD, FACP	Major General, U.S. Army (Ret), US Veterans Health Administration
Maj. Gen. Vernon Chong, MD	U.S. Air Force (retired), California
Capt. Thomas J. Contreras, PhD	Medical Service Corps, United States Navy (retired) Former Commanding Officer, Naval Medical Research Institute
Admiral W J McDaniel, MD	United States Navy (retired), Washington
Admiral Melvin Museles, MD	US Navy (ret), former Assoc Dean, Military Medical School, Florida
Jane M. Orient, MD	President, Doctors For Disaster Preparedness, Arizona
James L. Pendleton, MD	Past President, Assn of American Physicians & Surgeons, Pennsylvania
Donald R. Roberts, PhD	Professor of Health, Specialty in tropical public health, Maryland
Yasmin Rubio-Palis, PhD	Chief Biologist, Ministry of Health, Venezuela

Signatories:

Physicians, infectious disease experts and scientists 2

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Jerome C. Arnett, MD	Private practice, internal and pulmonary medicine, West Virginia
Robert F. Conkling, MD	Private Family Practice, Virginia
John Dada PhD, RN, MPH	Programs Director, Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria
Charles G Erickson MD	Pediatric Consultant Lincoln, Nebraska
Dr Fatai A. Fehintola, PhD	Senior Lecturer and Consultant Physician/Clinical Pharmacologist Department of Clinical Pharmacology, University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria
Marjorie Mazel Hecht	Managing Editor, <i>21st Century Science & Technology</i> , Virginia
George Isajiw, M.D.	Private Practice, Pennsylvania
Dr. Ronel Kellerman	MBChB(Pretoria), DTM&H (Liverpool), MSc (LSTMH) Specialist, School of Public Health, Wits University, South Africa
Jeffrey Kemprecos	Director, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Turkey
Jay Lehr, PhD	Science Director, Heartland Institute, Illinois
Joyce Lockard, PhD	Virologist (retired), Oregon Member, American Association of University Women
Angela Logomasini	Director, Risk and Envir Policy, Competitive Enterprise Inst, Virginia
Abere Mihrete, PhD	Director, Anti-Malaria Association, Ethiopia
Henry I. Miller, MD	Fellow, The Hoover Institution, Stanford University, California
Lorraine Mooney	Medical Demographer, Africa Fighting Malaria, England
Daniel Pasquier, MD, PhD	Neurologist, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia
Arthur B. Robinson	President, Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, Oregon
Gilbert Ross, MD	Executive and Medical Dir, Amer Council on Science & Health, NY
Sally L. Satel, MD	Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC
Syrulwa Somah, PhD	Professor of Environmental Health, North Carolina A&T State Univ Executive Director, Liberian History, Education Development, Inc.
Hoangizaw Tegegne	Coordinator, Canadian Initiative Against Malaria, Ethiopia
Jasson Urbach	Coordinator, Africa Fighting Malaria, South Africa

Signatories:

Religious and human rights leaders 1

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<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Desmond M Tutu	Archbishop Emeritus, Nobel Peace Laureate, South Africa
Harry C. Alford	President & CEO, Natl Black Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC
E. Calvin Beisner, PhD	Associate Professor, Knox Theological Seminary, Florida
J. Ligon Duncan III, PhD	Senior Minister, First Presbyterian Church, Mississippi
Roy Innis	President, Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals
Rabbi Daniel Lapin	National Chairman, Congress of Racial Equality, New York
Garry J. Moes	President, Toward Tradition, Washington
Bishop Bernard Njoroge	Advisory Board member, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance, California
Reverend Robert Sirico	Editor/Publisher, Graybrook Institute; Former editor, Associated Press
Daniel Wolgemuth	Episcopal Bishop of Nairobi, Kenya
Samuel C Wolgemuth	Member of the Kenyan Constitutional Commission
Mary Jo Anderson	President, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, Michigan
Reverend Paul W. Baer	President and CEO, Youth for Christ/USA
Michael Bauman, PhD	Former President and CEO of Freedom Communications, Inc, Illinois
Reverend John Michael Beers	Vice Chair, World Relief Corporation (relief and development arm of The National Association of Evangelicals)
Rabbi Joel Berman	Contributing Editor, <i>Crisis Magazine</i>
Corbin Boekhaus	Host, Pediatric Ward, University Medical Center, Arizona
Ray Bohlin, PhD	Pastor Emeritus, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Arizona
Istvan Borzasi	Professor of Theology and Culture, Hillsdale College, Michigan
Raquel Burciaga	Dean, Ave Maria University, Florida
Scott Bryant	Ohev Tzedek – Sha'arei Torah Congregation, Ohio
Reverend Jeffrey E. Carroll	Student, Divinity School of Wake Forest University, North Carolina
Reverend Chanshi Chanda	President, Probe Ministries, Texas
Reverend David F. Chandler	President, Convention of Hungarian Baptist Churches of Romania
Father Stuart Cranshaw	Mission Amen Lima, Peru
Father Phillip W. DeVous	Westminster Theological Seminary
Scott Erbe	Trinity Community Church, Maryland
Todd R. Flanders, PhD	Acton International Affiliate, Zambia
Doug Floyd	Pastor, Trinity Covenant Church, Connecticut
Pheiga Gabisinpou	Priest in Charge, Holy Trinity Church, Wyoming
Joseph E. Gorra	Spiritual Advisor, Welch Cancer Center
Reverend Scott R. Greenway	Chaplain, Thomas More College, Kentucky
Reverend Bo Helmich	InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Western Michigan University

Signatories:

Religious and human rights leaders 2

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<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Ismael Hernandez	Executive Director, African Caribbean American Catholic Center, Fla
Reverend Irfon Hughes	Pastor, Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, Volant, Pennsylvania
	Member of Advisory Board, Interfaith Stewardship Alliance
Jerry Johnson, MACS, MPhil	Director, The Apologetics Group, Virginia
John R. Khushal	Associate Director, India Campus Crusade for Christ, India
Reverend Malcolm M. King III	Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Tennessee
Reverend David S. Klompfen	Pastor, Dutton United Reformed Church, Michigan
Kris Mauren	Exec Dir, Acton Institute for the Study of Religion & Liberty, Michigan
Father C. Eugene Morris	Director, Office of the Permanent Diaconate, St. Louis, Missouri
	Asst Professor of Sacramental Theology, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary
Harold Orndorff	Campus Minister, Christian Student Fellowship, Northern Kentucky U
Father Hector R G Perez, STD	St. Stephen Congregation, Florida
Scott Rae	Professor, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, California
Rolf and Sherri Ronstadt	Directors, International Ambassadors for Christ, Illinois
William Sweetman, PhD	Lecturer in Theology, University of Otago, New Zealand
Kenneth Gary Talbot, PhD	President and Professor, Whitefield Theological Seminary, Florida
Matthew A. Tapie	Assistant Minister, Farmers Branch Church of Christ, Texas
David Thurman	Chaplain
Bekeh Utietiang	Student in Theology and Religious Studies, Catholic U of America
Reverend Curtis Walters	Pastor, Covenant Christian Reformed Church, Michigan
Rabbi Daniel M. Zucker	Chairman, Americans for Democracy in the Middle-East, New York.
	Professor of Hebrew Language, Long Island University
Linda Bly	Healthcare and women's rights advocate, Vermont
Cyril Boynes, Jr.	Director, Global Role Models Fund, New York
	International Affairs Director, Congress of Racial Equality
Niger Innis	National Spokesman, Congress of Racial Equality, New York
Fiona Kobusingye	Malaria educator, farmer and businesswoman, Uganda
Norris McDonald	President, African American Environmentalist Association, Maryland
John Meredith	Member, Project 21, Virginia
Anthony Okonmah	Executive Director, Foundation for Democracy in Africa, Florida
Austin Ruse	President, Catholic Family and Human Rights Initiative
Lee H. Walker	President, New Coalition for Social and Economic Change, Illinois

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 1

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<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Ed Crane	President, Cato Institute, Washington, DC
Mattias Bengtsson	President, Centre for the New Europe, Belgium
Thomas R. DeGregori, PhD	Professor of Economics, University of Houston, Texas
Paul Driessen	Senior Policy Advisor, Center for Defense of Free Enterprise, Virginia Senior Policy Advisor, Congress of Racial Equality
Hannes Gissurarson	Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Iceland Former Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Iceland
John C. Goodman	President, National Center for Policy Analysis, Texas
Herb London	President, Hudson Institute, New York
Benny J. Peiser, PhD	Faculty of Science, Liverpool John Moores University, England
C. S. Prakash, PhD	Director, Ctr for Plant Biotechnology Research, Tuskegee U, Alabama
Brian S. Wesbury	Adjunct Professor of Economics, Wheaton College Member, Academic Advisory Council: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
Talal Abu-Hassan	Program Officer, Center for International Private Enterprise, Virginia
Nizam Ahmad	President, Free Bangla Market, United Kingdom and Bangladesh
James Ahiakpor, PhD	Professor of Economics, California State University East Bay, CA
Paul J. Allen	Fisheries Research Biologist, Ball State University, Indiana
Alex Avery	Research Director, Ctr for Global Food Issues, Hudson Inst, Virginia
Dennis Avery	Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, Virginia
George Ayittey	President, Free Africa Foundation, Washington, DC
Thompson Ayodele	Director, Institute of Public Policy Analysis, Nigeria
Charles Baird	Co-Chairman, Dept.. of Economics, Cal State University at East Bay
Whitney L. Ball	Executive Director, Donors Trust, Virginia
Thomas Behr, PhD	Professor, Department of History, University of Houston, Texas
George Bennett	Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Millikin University, Illinois
Eneas Biglione	Latin American Fellow, Atlas Foundation, Virginia and Argentina
Mr. Greg Blankenship	Executive Director, Illinois Policy Institute
Hardy Bouillon, PhD	Director of Academic Affairs, Centre for the New Europe, Belgium
David Burgess	Adjunct Professor, Institute of World Politics, Washington, DC
Peter Burgess	CEO, Transparency and Accountability Network, New York
Paul Caprio	Executive Director, Family-PAC Federal, Illinois
Kenneth W. Chilton, PhD	Director, Institute for Study of Economics and the Environment Associate Professor of Management, Lindenwood University, Missouri
Paul A. Cleveland	Professor of Economics, Birmingham-Southern College, Alabama
Jody Clarke	Communications Director, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Virginia
Bitrus Cobongs	President, Africa Center for Mentorship, Texas
Gregory Conko	Senior Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Virginia
B. M. Craven, PhD	Reader in Public Accountability, Newcastle Business School, England
Douglas E Daugherty, Sr.	Coordinator, Chattanooga Resource Foundation, Tennessee

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 2

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<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Eustace Davie	Director, Free Market Foundation, South Africa
Henry L. Deneen	Executive Director, Center for Global Strategies, South Carolina
Thomas DeWeese	President, American Policy Center, Virginia
G. Edward Dickey, PhD	Affiliate Professor of Economics, Loyola College of Maryland
Vicki Dunne, MLA	Member for Ginninderra, Shadow Minister for Education, Australia
Richard T. Dykema	Chief of Staff/Legislative Director, Representative Dana Rohrabacher U.S. House of Representatives, California
Edwar Escalante	President, Andes Libres, Peru
Michael Fumento	Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute, Virginia Syndicated columnist, Scripps Howard News Service
Castle J. Funatake	Grad Research Asst, Envir & Molecular, Toxicology, Oregon State U
Glenn Goforth	Headmaster, Providence Classical School
Simon Gusah	Project Manager, People-Centered Development for Tivland, Nigeria
Mark Y. Herring	Dean of Library Services, Winthrop University, South Carolina
Peter Holle	President, Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Manitoba, Canada
James L. Johnston	First Vice President, Heartland institute, Illinois
Robert O. Kalbach, Ph. D	Assoc. Professor of Chemistry, Finger Lakes Community College, NY
Ruth Kava, PhD, RD	Director of Nutrition, Amer Council on Science & Health, New York
Drew L. Kershner	Professor of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law, Oklahoma
Carl Lecher, PhD	Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Marian College, Indianapolis, IN
Michael Lee	Department of Finance, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland
Leonard P. Liggio	Professor and Executive VP, Atlas Economic Research Fdn, Virginia
Brad Lips	Chief Operating Officer, Atlas Economic Research Fdn, Virginia
Romulo Lopez-Cordero	Senior Fellow, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Virginia
Leon Louw	Executive Director, Free Market Foundation of South Africa
Ashley March	Director of Foundation Relations, Cato Institute, Washington
Joseph P. Martino, PhD	Yorktown University, Colorado
Alister McFarquhar, PhD	Downing College, Cambridge University, England
Jude Chua Soo Meng, PhD	Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Steven Milloy	Investment Advisor, Free Enterprise Action Fund, Maryland Publisher, JunkScience.com
Alberto Mingardi	General Director, Istituto Bruno Leoni, Italy
Barun Mitra	President, Liberty Institute, India
Deroy Murdock	Senior Fellow, Atlas Economic Research Foundation, New York
Eric O'Keefe	President, Parents in Charge Foundation, Illinois
Gary J. Palmer	President, Alabama Policy Institute, Alabama
E.C. Pasour, Jr.	Agricultural and Resource Economics, North Carolina State University
Sylvia Chafuen de Pasquier	President, Instituto de Ciencia, Economía, Educación y Salud, Bolivia
Joel Patrick	Admissions Coordinator, Criswell College, Texas

Signatories:

Educators and public policy experts 3

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements.

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Daniel S. Peters	President, Ruth & Lovett Peters Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio
John G. Pierce	Adjunct Professor, Modern Languages, Columbus State Comm. College
William S. Pierce	Professor Emeritus of Economics, Case Western Reserve University
Daniel D. Polsby	Dean and Foundation Professor of Law, George Mason University School of Law, Virginia
Arthur Pontynen, PhD	Professor, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh
Scott A. Pullins, Esq.	Executive Director, Consumer Alert, Ohio and Washington, DC
Howard S. Rich	President, U.S. Term Limits, Washington, DC
John H. Riskind, PhD	Professor of Psychology, George Mason University, Virginia Editor, <i>Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy</i>
Brooke Rollins	President Texas Public Policy Foundation, Texas
James Roumasset, PhD	Professor of Economics, University of Hawaii
Richard O. Rowland	President, Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Craig Rucker	Executive Director, Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow, Virginia
D. Eric Schansberg, PhD	Professor of Economics, Indiana University at New Albany, Indiana
Stephen Suleyman Schwartz	Executive Director, Center for Islamic Pluralism, Washington, DC
Todd Seavey	Editor, HealthFactsAndFears.com, New York
Tracie Sharp	President, State Policy Network
Thomas R. Simmons, PhD.	Professor, Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, Massachusetts
Daniel Mead Smith	President, Washington Policy Center, Washington
Carlo Stagnaro	Director, Free Market Environmentalism, Istituto Bruno Leoni, Italy
Cesar Fernandez-Stoll	President, Ferstoll Management Consultants, Ontario, Canada
Patti Strand	Executive Director, National Animal Interest Alliance, Oregon
Priscilla Tacujan	Atlas Economic Research Foundation, Virginia and Philippines
Jose L. Tapia-Rocha	President, Instituto de Libre Empresa, Peru
Geert van Calster, Dr. PhD	Co-director, Institute of Environmental and Energy Law, Belgium
Elena Draghici Vasilescu, PhD	University of Oxford, England
H Christo Viljoen, Ph.D	Deputy Vice Chancellor (emeritus), Stellenbosch Univ, South Africa
Mario Villarreal	Research Fellow, American Enterprise Institute. Mexico
Bob Williams	President Evergreen Freedom Foundation, Washington
Xu Yiqiao	Program Manager, Atlas Economic Research Fdn, Virginia and China
Tawanda Zidenga	PhD candidate, School of Biosciences, Ohio State University, Ohio and Zimbabwe

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 1

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<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Doug Bandow	Columnist, Copley News Service, Virginia
David M. Beasley	Former Governor of South Carolina
Christina Dlamini Irvin	Member, Royal Family of Swaziland
Zbigniew Jaworowski	Former Chairman, UN Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation. Poland
Tibor R. Machan, PhD	Professor of Economics, Argyros School of Business and Economics Chapman University, California
Alan Oxley Chairman, Australian APEC Centre, Monash University, Australia	
Robert Whelan	Deputy Director, Civitas: Institute for the Study of Civil Society London, UK
Amb. Curtin Winsor, Jr. PhD	Ambassador to Costa Rica (1983-85), Virginia Former Trustee of Africare and Trustee of William H. Donner Fdn
Dr. Robert D. Wolgemuth, LHD	Wolgemuth & Associates, Inc., Florida
Jennifer Burr Altabef	Attorney, Dallas, Texas
Kalajine Anigbogu	President, Global Real Estate Services Ltd, Illinois and Nigeria
Steven Baer	Trustee, Chicago Freedom Trust, Illinois
Alexander Barnett, PhD	Artistic Director Classic Theatre International. Maryland
Kalman Lee Benuska	Structural Engineer, California
Richard & Joanne Beyer	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Randal & Deborah Birkey	Oak Park, Illinois
Russell Boast	Associate Producer, <i>The Malaria Project: 3 Billion and Counting</i> , Calif
Richard J. Boerner	President, Seco Investments, Inc.
James T. Brankin	CEO NetWeavers, Texas
Samuel A. Brunelli	Senior Vice President, Team Builders International, Florida
Marcel D. P. Burgler, CCIM	Principal Associate Broker, Prime Development Grand Rapids, MI
Christina Carroll	Murray State University, Murray, KY
Alan Caruba	President, The Caruba Organization, New Jersey
Mark R. Crovelli	PhD candidate, University of Colorado at Boulder
John D'Aloia, Jr.	Captain US Navy (retired), Columist
Michael F. Denny	President, American Wine Distributors, San Francisco, California
Michael K. Doane	Director, Biotechnology Acceptance, Monsanto Company
John Dziak	Graduate student in statistics, Penn State University, Pennsylvania
Timothy Egan	President, High Park Group, Canada
Randy Eminger	Energy and Environment Analyst, Texas
Karl B. Erickson	Oregon State Government, Independent Writer, Oregon
Luis Felipe	Student in business administration, Santiago, Chile
Elizabeth A. Foreman	Public Educator, Tucson, Arizona
Hajiya Ashe Galadima	Bama Local Government, Nigeria
Gus Gianello	Day Trader, Ontario, Canada

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 2

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<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Indur Goklany	Environmental Policy Analyst, Virginia
Nancy Watson Good	Co-Founder, ChicagoCare Crisis Pregnancy Centers, Illinois
Gary J. Green	Consultant, Energy, Environmental, Health & Safety Risk, Arizona
Roland Gunn	Vice President, Peterson Companies, Virginia
Ivan Habanec	Consultant, London, UK
William Hearmon	Director, Red Chilies Enterprises, Botswana
Jenny Hone	Editor, <i>Scrip Magazine</i> , United Kingdom
Richard & Barbara L. Hubbard	Associate Real Estate Brokers, Cirrus Realty Group, Phoenix, Arizona
Busisiwe Irvin	Film Co-Star, <i>Roll Bounce</i>
Paul Jacob	Citizens in Charge Foundation, Virginia
Alexander Jech	Graduate student in philosophy, Notre Dame University, Indiana
Frances Brigham Johnson	International Property Rights Working Group, Virginia
James and Ulrike Karanja	Bad Endbach-Hartenrod, Germany
Kelvin Kemm, PhD	CEO, Stratek Business Strategy Consultants, South Africa
Gertrude Kihunrwa	Mother and malaria control advocate, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Carol W. LaGrasse	President, Property Rights Foundation of America, New York
Johnny Lattner	1953 Heisman Trophy Winner (Notre Dame)
Pierre Little	Publisher, <i>Atlantic Business Journal</i> , New Brunswick, Canada
Michael W. Lutke	Republic, Missouri
Jim & Mary Martorana	Lakewood, California
Mark Mathis	Exec. Director, Citizens' Alliance for Responsible Energy, New Mexico
Roy Miller	Phoenix, Arizona
Henry K. Mngerem	Georgia and Nigeria
Martha Montelongo	Commentator and radio host, California
William Nesler	CEO, West Coast Aerial Applicators, Liberia
William Pickell	CEO, Washington Contract Loggers Association, Washington
Franklin Raff	Executive Producer, Network Radio, Radio America, Virginia
Francesco Ramella, PhD.	Freelance Consultant, Italy
Ramon Reblora	LCDR Ramon B Reblora PCG, Coast Guard, Philippines
Marjorie Ridley	Comfort, Texas
Peter Schaefer	International Development Specialist, Virginia
Jeffrey C. Silleck	Executive Director, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers
Sebastian Soto	Fulbright/APSA Congressional Fellow, Washington, DC and Chile
Chauncey Starr	President Emeritus, Electric Power Research Institute, Palo Alto, CA
Louis A. Stock	Chemical Industry Engineer (Retired)
Garnett Stover, Dr.	President, Stover Chiropractic, Virginia
Dale Stuart	CPA, Rogers, Arkansas
James E. Swinnen	McGlinchey Stafford, PLLC, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Signatories:

Business, political and government executives, and other people of conscience 3

Note: Organizational affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily imply any formal organizational endorsements of the Declaration.

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Title and Affiliation(s):</i>
Tom Tevlin	President & CEO, Greenspirit Strategies Ltd, British Columbia, Canada
John Tillman	President, Americans for Limited Government, Illinois
Michael Vassar	Actuary, Aon consulting, New York
Vaclav Venc	Partner, Customs Business Solutions, Olomouc, Czech Republic
Mabe Akhos Wathyso	General Secretary, Grapedeco International, Nairobi, Kenya
Michael R. Wetzel, ACF, CF	Forester, Richardson Bell & McLeod, Georgia
Jeffrey Widmann	Operations director, West Coast Aerial Applicators, South Dakota
David Williams	Forth Worth, Texas
Jerry Zandstra, PhD	Candidate for United States Senate, Michigan
Taras & Christina Zvir	Washington DC
Jeffrey C. Zysik	Managing Director, Tax & Administrative Services, Charitable Entity Administration, Florida

Kill Malarial Mosquitoes NOW!

Background: The truth about DDT and opposition to it

The wide-ranging attacks on and near-banning of DDT is arguably history's most devastating embrace of junk science. DDT is one of the single most effective tools for fighting malaria, a disease that *kills over 1 million people annually*. Most of these deaths are among children and pregnant women, and those lucky enough to survive malaria are often left brain-damaged and facing a blighted future.²

About 2.2 *billion people* live in malarial regions, and over *half a billion people* suffer acutely from the potentially fatal disease every year. Over 70 percent of them live in Africa.³

Malaria is not just an unnecessary human tragedy; it is also an economic disaster. The disease imposes a huge economic toll on malarial countries – discouraging foreign investors, incapacitating otherwise productive people, keeping millions at home to care for the sick, instead of producing goods and services, and exacting enormous healthcare costs that reduce budgets needed for other health, social and environmental programs.⁴ The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that malaria may exact an economic cost of more than \$12 billion per year.⁵

On a cost-benefit basis, malaria control ranks among the top priorities for measures to improve the world, according to the Copenhagen Consensus 2004, a panel of world-leading economists sponsored by *The Economist*.⁶

Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes, which carry deadly or debilitating protozoa from infected to non-infected people. Killing or repelling malarial mosquitoes has the bonus effect of halting other mosquito-borne diseases such as yellow fever and dengue fever. Shortly after the Second World War, DDT was used to eradicate or dramatically reduce malaria in the U.S., Europe, Canada, Australia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, India, and many southern African countries.

In 1971, WHO said DDT is the “major single factor that made the concept of time-limited eradication possible.” It recommended continuing insecticide availability, “particularly DDT.”

Why? Because sprayed once or at most twice a year on mud and thatch huts and cinderblock homes common in Africa and other poor countries, DDT keeps most mosquitoes from entering, irritates those that do so they rarely bite, and kills most that land on the walls.

DDT both repels AND kills mosquitoes. Even mosquitoes resistant to DDT's insect-killer properties are repelled from homes and buildings whose walls have been sprayed with the insecticide, thereby protecting all the people therein.

No other pesticide – at any price – is as effective, long-lasting, cost-effective and safe as DDT for killing and repelling malarial mosquitoes. In fact, DDT keeps up to 90 percent of mosquitoes from even entering a home. However, to kill (but generally not repel) DDT-resistant mosquitoes, alternative pesticides like synthetic pyrethroids and carbamates can also be effective.

No anti-malaria vaccine exists today, and there is little prospect of an effective vaccine being commercially available in the next ten years. Until that day, as history has shown, the best way to reduce or eliminate the incidence of malaria is to prevent the disease in the first place, by controlling the *Anopheles* mosquitoes that carry it. The historical strategy is able to be combined with new and extremely effective artemisinin-combination therapy (ACT) medicines, which both cure malaria in afflicted patients, and which interrupt the chain of malaria parasite transmission from an ill person person, to the mosquito, and to the next uninfected victim. DDT targets the mosquito, and ACTs

target the malaria parasite. Used together, they are stunningly effective, as recent studies from Southern Africa especially show.

Many malarial countries have woefully inadequate healthcare and transportation systems. As a result, many of those in need of treatment go without, and many die. If proper malaria controls were in place, fewer people would be infected, and those that are infected would have a better chance to receive effective drugs and treatment.

The US government promotes the use of anti-malarial drugs and insecticide-treated bed nets. These have a place in malaria control. But they cannot and should not replace other interventions, such as indoor spraying with insecticides, which dramatically reduce malaria cases and deaths.

In fact, indoor residual spraying with DDT reduced malaria cases and deaths by nearly 75 percent in Zambia over a two-year period – and by over 80 percent in South Africa in just one year.⁷

Having reduced malaria rates so dramatically, South Africa was then able to provide ACT medicines to a much smaller number of people who still became critically ill. In just three years, it slashed malaria rates by an astounding 96 percent.⁸ Other countries successfully followed South Africa's lead, and others also want to.

It is therefore critical that the USAID, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Roll Back Malaria and other agencies help ensure that malaria endemic countries have ready access to DDT. Indeed, according to its own website, "the WHO recommends indoor residual spraying of DDT for vector control."⁹ These agencies must ensure that countries can reduce their malaria levels far enough that all who nevertheless get the disease can be treated with ACTs (or other equally effective) therapies that will continue to be in extremely short supply for the foreseeable future.

Insecticide-treated nets certainly help to a limited degree. However, they often get torn. They only protect one person at a time. People often don't use them, because the insecticide irritates their skin – or they forget ... kick them off when it gets too unbearably hot under the net to sleep ... don't have enough for every family member ... have no way to hang them up properly ... or are still doing homework or housework when mosquitoes arrive.

Sleeping under a bed net is nearly impossible during torrid African nights, says Omololu Falobi, a journalist in Nigeria. Use the net anyway, and you get heat rashes all over your face and body. Most villages have no electricity to power fans or air conditioners, and many of the same environmentalists who oppose pesticides also oppose electricity generation on any scale that would power these cooling systems. Even in cities like Lagos, power outages are frequent, rendering fans and AC useless. "Even if you have a generator, says Falobi, you don't want to put it on throughout the night, for fear of carbon monoxide poisoning."

Medicines that actually cure malaria (Artemisinin-based) are in critically short supply. Although some USAID bureaucrats also oppose devoting agency funds to ACT medicines, official agency statements raise its expectation that there will be 55 million pediatric treatments by 2006. But those treatments must treat 500 million critically ill malaria patients worldwide. That means 445 million will not even have a chance to get treated. Indeed, even under the most optimistic scenarios, there will be sufficient supplies of ACT drugs to treat fewer than 1 in 4 patients for at least the next several years. DDT is absolutely critical to preventing malaria in the first place; treatment alone will never work.

Expanding the production of Artemisia is also critical, however, and USAID, pharmaceutical companies and others are working hard to do so. More resources must be devoted to these efforts, too.

In highly endemic areas, people can get 1,000 *infectious* mosquito bites in a single year! Even with a 90% reduction in mosquitoes in the home (via DDT indoor spraying) or outside (through the use of other insecticides), they could still get 100 infectious bites per person per year. It is certain that some people will get malaria even with regular, effective spraying programs. That was and is the experience in South Africa and other countries, and those patients must have access to the very best medicine treatments in our repertoire.

Because they massively or completely eliminate malaria parasites (gametocytes) from the victim's blood, ACTs have another equally vital benefit. They significantly reduce the probability that a malaria-infected person can pass the infection to a mosquito, and in turn to the next person who gets bitten. Indeed, the gametocidal effect of artemisinins may be comparable in magnitude to entomological (insecticidal) effects of DDT. Some research has found that one ACT drug (Coartem) slashed the proportion of patients carrying transmissible parasites to around 1/25 of what it had been when using older malaria medicines, such as SP or chloroquine, which are no longer clinically appropriate. In fact, these obsolete medicines may fail in 50 to 80 percent of the cases.

Recognition of these facts is the principal reason that South Africa was able to go from an 80 percent reduction in malaria disease and death rates, using DDT alone – to a 96 percent reduction over 3 years, using DDT in combination with Coartem.

Drugs designed to prevent (through prophylaxis) the onset of malaria (Chloroquine, Malarone, Doxycycline and others) are likewise inadequate for 2.2 billion people at risk from malaria. In any event, people living in malarial areas cannot take malaria prophylaxis over an extended period of time, because of the expense and the side-effects they will suffer

Only by slashing the number of people getting malaria, can malaria-wracked countries get the best drugs to those who still get sick. To do that, they need insecticides, especially DDT.

DDT and other insecticides helped eradicate malaria in the United States and Europe, saving countless lives. Today, insecticides are still our first line of defense against West Nile virus and other diseases. It is callous and hypocritical for the United States to tell African and other malarial endemic nations that they cannot spray insecticides, when we use aerial and ground spraying every day. Moreover, we spray insecticides directly into the environment, whereas spraying for malaria control only sprays insecticides inside houses.

The USAID once funded very effective indoor residual spraying programs around the world. It can and must revive America's and the world's once-proud anti-malaria programs.

Used by trained specialists in indoor residual spraying programs, almost no DDT gets into the environment. It's safe for humans, too. In its latest review of DDT, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences admits it cannot prove that DDT harms human health.

Indeed, about the worst thing opponents can say is that “measurable quantities” of DDT are “present” in human fatty tissue and mother's breast milk, and “could” inhibit lactation or cause low birth weight babies. But these alleged problems are all but irrelevant compared to the risk of losing hundreds of thousands of children to malaria, year after year.

To a large extent, Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement and inspired the US EPA's 1972 domestic ban of DDT. That US ban has since then expanded into a de facto global ban on its use. Carson's facts, however, were wrong.¹⁰

Extensive hearings on DDT before an EPA administrative law judge occurred during 1971-1972. The EPA hearing examiner, Judge Edmund Sweeney, concluded that “DDT is not a carcinogenic hazard to man DDT is not a mutagenic or teratogenic hazard to man The use of DDT under the

regulations involved here does not have a deleterious effect on freshwater fish, estuarine organisms, wild birds or other wildlife.”¹¹

Overruling the EPA hearing examiner, EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus banned DDT in 1972. Ruckelshaus never attended a single hour of the seven months of EPA hearings on DDT. His aides reported that he did not even read the transcript of the EPA hearings on DDT.¹²

How could this have happened? Because banning DDT was a political, not a scientific, decision. And its author was President Richard M. Nixon.

“On February 10, 1970 he announced: ‘we have taken action to phase out the use of DDT and other hard pesticides.’ In December 1970, the administration created the EPA to implement executive environmental policy. As a 1975 study out of Northern Illinois University notes, ‘This is important. Long before the EPA hearings were convened and even before the EPA was created, Ruckelshaus’ boss, President Nixon, had stated that DDT was being phased out. This leaves the hearings themselves superfluous, satisfying only a court requirement.’”¹³

The DDT ban by EPA was followed by a USAID and WHO shift away from killing mosquitoes and toward other methods of malaria control (drug treatments, mosquito nets and more nebulous notions like “capacity building” and “integrated vector management”). However, these methods have not proven even remotely as effective as indoor residual spraying and other pesticide programs.¹⁴

A now debunked, odiously Malthusian population control logic also supported the de facto DDT ban in Africa and other poor regions. A USAID official reportedly said of those whom malaria would kill as a result, “Rather dead than alive and riotously reproducing.” Others have made similar statements.¹⁵

Physician-author-medical researcher Michael Crichton has said the de facto ban on DDT to control malaria “has killed more people than Hitler.”¹⁶ This is all the more tragic because, in the nearly half-century since *Silent Spring* was written, no connection between DDT and cancer, birth defects or any other human malady has ever been scientifically demonstrated. The only documented environmental effects of residual DDT are possible reproductive harms to raptors, including thinning of their eggshells, and even these have not been demonstrated conclusively.¹⁷

DDT junk science drove the world to the brink of imposing a universal ban on DDT via the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The convention, known as the POPs Treaty, would have made the de facto ban legally binding and permanent. However, conscientious scientists and public health officials rallied to carve out a “DDT exemption” in the treaty. That exemption:

- 1) restricts DDT use and production to disease vector (e.g. mosquito) control only and does not permit the insecticide’s renewed use for agriculture;
- 2) requires that countries using DDT must follow WHO guidelines for disease/vector control;
- 3) requires that countries notify the WHO if they use DDT;
- 4) requires that rich countries pay the “agreed incremental costs” of more expensive alternatives to DDT (this is located elsewhere in the treaty); and
- 5) encourages rich countries to support research and development of alternatives to DDT.

What the treaty does NOT require is equally important.

- 1) It does NOT require that a country notify WHO before it sprays DDT; thus, in an epidemic, a country may spray first and report to the WHO later.

- 2) It does NOT require that a country obtain the WHO's approval at any time.
- 3) It does NOT require that poor countries bear the added cost of alternatives to DDT.
- 4) It does NOT set a deadline by which countries must stop using or producing DDT.
- 5) It does NOT restrict DDT use to malaria control, but allows its use for controlling any vector-borne disease.¹⁸

And yet, environmental imperialist ideology and inertia inside US-funded aid agencies keep ensuring the deaths of millions each year: USAID spent \$80 million on malaria in 2004, but *not a dime of it actually purchased insecticides* – and only \$4 million may have gone toward promoting or buying insecticide-treated bed nets. Most was spent on conferences, consultants and training programs.¹⁹

Overall, the world spends about \$400 million a year in connection with malaria, most of it US money. Almost none of it is actually spent on killing and repelling mosquitoes.

Although signed in 2001 by the Bush Administration, the POPS treaty has not yet been ratified by the United States Senate. Ratification, if it occurs at all, should be conditioned on prior legislation tying US aid monies to DDT deployment for killing and repelling malarial mosquitoes.

Even big media have seen the light on DDT. In recent years, the *New York Times*, *Washington Times*, *Newsweek*, *Forbes*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and other papers have run editorials strongly advocating the use of DDT to control mosquitoes and reduce malaria. *The New York Times Magazine*, *New Yorker*, *Time*, *Washington Monthly*, *Washington Post*, *Christian Science Monitor* and numerous other periodicals have carried articles and opinion columns advocating expanded DDT use to combat malaria and save lives.

Even some Greenpeace and World Wildlife Fund officials have conceded the life-saving need for DDT. “If alternatives to DDT aren't working, you've got to use it. If there's nothing else and it's going to save lives, we're all for it,” their spokesmen have said.²⁰

DDT proponents advocate it primarily for indoor residual spraying on unpainted mud or cinderblock walls, which usually is the most cost-effective way to kill/repel malarial mosquitoes. This is akin to Americans spraying Raid insect killer on the walls of their homes, though DDT application typically would not involve aerosols and would have to occur far less often. With indoor spraying, there is a vanishingly-small risk that DDT will even reach the environment.

DDT opponents, however, downplay or ignore the undeniable disease, disability and death tolls that their anti-DDT policies have wreaked in Africa and other malaria-endemic regions.

They falsely equate indoor residual spraying (IRS) with aerial spraying – which itself involves only hypothetical, unproven risk to birds, and may be cost-effective and appropriate (whatever the insecticide) in swampy areas near population centers.

They elevate minor hypothetical environmental risks from pesticides over major, very real human risks that those pesticides would reduce or eliminate.

DDT opponents ignore the fact that Dade County, Florida and numerous other U.S. communities routinely spray insecticides to control mosquitoes and other insects that carry far less lethal diseases, like West Nile virus, or simply prove irksome to residents and tourists. They refuse to acknowledge that, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the US government sprayed much of the flooded and devastated areas with insecticides, to halt the spread of insect-borne diseases.

DDT opponents choose birds over little boys and girls, in a false dichotomy that requires the sacrifice of neither. They advocate the development and distribution of vaccines, bed nets and treatment drugs, plus the implementation of sanitation and other programs. But these interventions will likely take

decades to become effective, if they ever do so – and during that time malaria will needlessly slaughter millions more people, who would live if their countries could acquire and deploy DDT and other pesticides now.

We recognize that achieving our objective may require aggressive and public discrediting of these institutional opponents of DDT for IRS – who may, even now, be willing to sacrifice the lives of countless millions of men, women and children in Africa and on other continents, before the altar of junk science, nature worship and callous eco-imperialism. We will not hesitate to expose these organizations or the individuals who set their policies.

Deploying DDT in developing countries is good for the United States. Cutting malaria and other mosquito-borne disease rates: (1) permits strides in education, individual productivity and economic growth in Africa and elsewhere – reducing foreign aid claims on U.S. politicians and taxpayers; (2) eliminates or quells the kinds of misery and non-productivity that often underlie regional unrest and result in requests for US military intervention, and (3) diminishes the ever-present danger of outbreaks, and even pandemics, of exotic, insect-borne diseases in the United States as a result of global travel by infected persons.

Probably no other single action by the United States has the potential for saving more lives, reducing or eliminating more disease, curtailing more human misery, and promoting greater development and prosperity than support for DDT use to control malaria.

Adding this insecticide to the world's disease control arsenal, by compelling USAID and other aid and healthcare agencies to support its use, would arguably be the greatest single humanitarian and human rights action taken in the past quarter century. Its potential for changing world perceptions about the United States is likewise extensive.

By contrast, failing to *Kill or Repel Malarial Mosquitoes NOW* will clearly and inevitably result in the needless sickness of billions of children and parents in Africa and other malaria endemic regions of the world – and the needless deaths of millions. It will be seen by the world as a callous continuation of a DDT ban that Michael Crichton properly called “one of the most disgraceful episodes of the twentieth century history of America.”

It is fraudulent science, incompetence and adamant refusal to face reality – rather than deliberate, calculated murder – that has spawned and perpetuated this slaughter. But the death toll equals or exceeds that of the Holocaust (6 million men, women and children) every five years. Since the ban on DDT was first implemented, the body count has surpassed that of all World War II.

People of compassion and conscience simply cannot permit the slaughter of innocents to continue.

We know we can safely use DDT and other insecticides to save lives through humanitarian and environmentally sound programs.

We must muster the moral clarity and political willpower to do so – NOW.

References:

- ¹ However, insecticides/repellants other than DDT are contemplated herein for outdoor or indoor applications, including rotation with DDT for IRS, if adjudged most cost-effective for malaria control by national health administrators for any given country.
- ² Testimony of Dr. Anne Peterson, Assistant Administrator for Global Health, USAID, before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations, October 6, 2004.
- ³ Murru, Maurizio, "Malaria and DDT: Myths and Facts," *Health Policy and Development*, Vol. 2, No. 2, August 2004.
- ⁴ *Ibid.* See also Roger Bate and Richard Tren, *Malaria and the DDT Story*, Institute of Economic Affairs (2003), www.iea.org.uk and Roger Bate, "The Blind Hydra: USAID policy fails to control malaria," testimony before the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs, Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information & International Security, May 12, 2005.
- ⁵ WHO, Fact Sheet on Malaria, www.who.int
- ⁶ See *The Wall Street Journal*, June 8, 2005 (editorial): "The brainchild of Danish statistician Bjorn Lomborg, the Consensus is an attempt by leading economists (including three Nobel Prize Laureates) to set priorities for spending on development using traditional cost-benefit analysis. 'We need to know what we should do first,' says Mr. Lomborg. 'Not being willing to prioritize does not make the problem go away: It simply becomes less clear – and, most likely, more expensive to solve in the end.'" In a responsive June 21, 2005 letter to the editor of the same periodical, physician James Horton said that malarial "disease control was crucial to the rise of the [American] South. The lesson from Southern history is that Third World economies improve when we address the burdens of diseases like malaria."
- ⁷ See Richard Tren and Roger Bate, "South Africa's War on Malaria" *Policy Analysis* No. 513, March 25, 2004, Cato Institute, Washington DC; Gautam Naik, "Novartis drug shows promise against malaria," *Wall Street Journal*, October 3, 2005 ("Malaria infections and deaths plunged 96% in a three-year period," Naik noted, when South Africa combined new Artemisin-based drugs with DDT indoor spraying in KwaZulu-Natal Province, a region the size of Indiana.)
- ⁸ See Karen Barnes, David Durrheim, et al., "Effect of Artemether-Lumefantrine policy and improved vector control on malaria burden in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa," *PLoS Medicine* (Public Library of Science), Volume 2, Issue 11, November 2005; <http://medicine.plosjournals.org/perlserv/?request=get-document&doi=10.1371/journal.pmed.0020330>
- ⁹ See <http://www.who.int/malaria/docs/FAQonDDT.pdf>
- ¹⁰ For example, Carson claimed "exposure to DDT, even when doing no observable harm to birds, may seriously affect reproduction. Quail into whose diet DDT was introduced throughout the breeding season survived and even produced normal numbers of fertile eggs. But few of the eggs hatched." In fact, the *Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry* study she cited actually determined that, when birds were fed high doses of DDT throughout their breeding season, 80% of the quail eggs hatched (compared with "control" birds that were fed no DDT and hatched 84% of their eggs), and more than 80% of pheasant eggs hatched (compared with "control" birds that hatched only 57% of their eggs). See Edwards, J. Gordon, "DDT: A case study in scientific fraud," *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Fall 2004; <http://www.jpands.org/vol9no3/edwards.pdf>; Alexander Gourevitch, "Better Living Through Chemistry: DDT could save millions of Africans from dying of malaria – if only environmentalists would let it," *Washington Monthly*, March 2003; Tina Rosenberg, "What the world needs now is DDT," *New York Times Magazine*, April 10, 2004.
- ¹¹ Sweeney, EM. 1972. EPA Hearing Examiner's recommendations and findings concerning DDT hearings, April 25, 1972 (40 CFR 164.32, 113 pages). Summarized in *Barrons* (May 1, 1972), *The Oregonian* (April 26, 1972) and J. Gordon Edwards (*op. cit.*). But in 1970, then Assistant US Attorney General Ruckelshaus said: "DDT is not endangering the public health and has an amazing and exemplary record of safe use. DDT, when properly used at recommended concentrations, does not cause a toxic response in man or other mammals and is not harmful. The carcinogenic claims regarding DDT are unproved speculation."
- ¹² *Santa Ana Register*, April 25, 1972 and Edwards.
- ¹³ Bate, Roger, "The Worst Thing Richard Nixon Ever Did," 4/15/2004 at <http://www.techcentralstation.com/041504I.html>
- ¹⁴ See Donald Roberts, Professor of Tropical Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (Bethesda, MD), testimony before U.S. Senate Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Committee on Foreign Relations, October 6, 2004.
- ¹⁵ Desowitz, R.S., *Malaria Capers*, W.W. Norton Company, 1992. Jacques Cousteau told *Nouvelle Observateur*, "In order to stabilize world populations, we must eliminate 350,000 people a day." Asked whether banning DDT would result in more deaths from disease, Environmental Defense Fund scientist Charles Wurster once said, "People are the cause of all the problems. We need to get rid of some of them, and this is as good a way as any." Club of Rome director Alexander King wrote in *The Discipline of Curiosity*, "My chief quarrel with DDT in hindsight is that it greatly added to the population problem." Sierra Club director Michael McCloskey opined, "By using DDT, we reduce mortality rates in underdeveloped countries, without the consideration of how to support the increase in populations."
- ¹⁶ In a 2003 speech to the San Francisco Commonwealth Club, Crichton said: "Banning DDT is one of the most disgraceful episodes in the twentieth century history of America. We knew better, and we did it anyway, and we let people around the world die, and we didn't give a damn."
- ¹⁷ Further details on the faulty science behind claims against DDT can be found on CATO Institute adjunct scholar Steven Milloy's website: <http://junkscience.com/ddtfaq.htm>
- ¹⁸ Attaran, Amir, Malaria Foundation International website, at <http://www.malaria.org/DDTpage.html> .
- ¹⁹ Bate, Roger, "The Blind Hydra," testimony before U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information & International Security, May 12, 2005.
- ²⁰ Kristof, Nicholas, "It's time to spray DDT," *New York Times*, January 8, 2005.