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**Chairman of the Management Board
DaimlerChrysler AG**

**At the:
Global Business Coalition on HIV/Aids - Awards Dinner
New York**

June 12th 2002

**President Clinton,
Secretary-General Annan,
Ambassador Holbrooke,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Tonight is very special to me.

The presence of so many people who have contributed greatly to the war on HIV/AIDS is inspirational.

I am therefore particularly thrilled and honored that DaimlerChrysler has received in your presence this year's Global Business Coalition Award for Excellence in the Workplace – and from a person as distinguished as Kofi Annan.

Thank you Mr Secretary-General.

Thank you for this award, which recognizes the value of my company's increasingly effective campaign to cope with the human dimension of HIV/AIDS in South Africa.

However, my conscience tells me the award really belongs to everyone seeking to contain the ravages of the HI-Virus.

We are all involved in this fight right to the finish.

Nevertheless, I would be remiss if I did not give more specific credit where it is due.

This award has been earned the hard way by some of my company's executives. Their team leader is DaimlerChrysler South Africa's chairman, Christoph Koepke, who is with us tonight.

The award could not have come at a better time.

It will give our frontline troops a powerful incentive to intensify their efforts – in spite of the challenging, even desperate odds stacked against them.

These are extraordinary human beings.

I thank and honor all of them.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At DaimlerChrysler we are passionate about social responsibility.

It is fundamental to our larger commitment that we should become great corporate citizens wherever we operate.

And in our case that involves more than 200 countries.

At a time when global business and political leaders will soon meet in Johannesburg for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, we have become more conscious than ever of the divide between the rich and the poor, of disparity between the sick and the healthy.

We have a clear obligation to improve the lot of the have-nots!

That is why the Global Business Coalition is so important.

And that is why I am so honored today as I begin my term as Chairman of the Global Business Coalition.

This is not a privilege I regard lightly.

The battle to contain and then defeat this deadly virus is reaching new heights – and thus terrible lows!

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let's not forget that this is a global battle!

On the upside, as business offers increasing protection to its human resources and commercial interests it automatically extends the wider benefits of this work to other communities.

It's here that the Global Business Coalition and its programs have extraordinary value.

They demonstrate how we can be most effective.

Business generally finds it easier to inject money rather than effort into worthy causes.

However, as the Global Business Coalition always reminds us, money on its own will never suffice in this life and death struggle.

Many of the millions struck down by the virus are, and will be, our employees.

At DaimlerChrysler we know the pain of this!

And this knowledge leads inevitably to another great truth.

If we are to win the wider war, we all need to give much more generously of:

Our precious time,

Our compassion,

Our energy.

Thank you Dick and the Global Business Coalition for offering me the best possible way to do precisely this.

Thank you and God bless.



Richard Holbrooke



Kofi Anan und Jürgen Schrempp