

LONDON PRESS CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH 2003 AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE

Speakers:

Dr Peter Piot, Executive Director, UNAIDS
**The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP, UK Secretary of State for
International Development**
**Dr Jack Chow, Assistant Director-General, HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, World
Health Organization**

-- Number of People Living with HIV Hits New Peak Across Southern Africa --

Press Conference, Tuesday, 25 November, 11.00 am

at

The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG
(coffee and registration from 10.30 am)

Participants will discuss key findings of the new report:

- Comprehensive new global and regional statistics for HIV/AIDS
- AIDS maintains stranglehold in sub-Saharan Africa
- Epidemic growing rapidly in many other regions, including Eastern Europe and Central Asia, driven by injection drug use and unsafe sex
- Most infected individuals have yet to become ill; urgent need to expand access to antiretroviral treatment
- Major new prevention efforts, including measures to address HIV stigma and discrimination, are needed to slow spread of HIV/AIDS

NB: Information from the *AIDS Epidemic Update 2003* is embargoed until 25 November at 14.00 GMT

Requests for advance copies, interviews with Dr Piot, TV b-roll, contact:
Peter Robbs, tel 01480 465328; email peter.robbs@ukonline.co.uk or
Joan Tull, UNAIDS, Geneva, tel. (+41 22) 791 4915, email. tullj@unaids.org

World AIDS Day is on 1 December