



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30341-3724

September 25, 1999

Dikembe Mutombo
Chairman and President
Dikembe Mutombo Foundation
1090 North Chase Parkway
Suite 200
Marietta, GA 30068

Dear Mr. Mutombo:

Thank you for your important contributions to the eradication of polio in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo). CDC staff who were in DRC during and after your visit were impressed with your hard work and dedication to improve the health of children. The recent two rounds of National Immunization Days (NIDs) to eradicate polio in DRC were the most successful public health events in recent DRC history.

Both CDC and the World Health Organization appreciated the value of your taped messages about the NIDs broadcast on Voice of America radio in DR Congo. Your efforts to promote polio eradication through meetings with high level Congolese officials was also important. The people of DRC undoubtedly benefitted from your presence at the wheelchair basketball games played by young men previously paralyzed by the polio virus. Your visit to the polio rehabilitation center to vaccinate babies against polio was important to publicize the need to protect children through vaccinations.

Thank you again for your help in eradicating polio in DR Congo.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen L. Cochi, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Vaccine Preventable
Disease Eradication Division, National
Immunization Program