



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

APR 25 2008

OFO:APP:JBK

The Honorable Janice L. Jacobs
Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Jacobs:

This is in response to your letter of April 14, 2008, requesting that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) invoke its discretionary authority to designate the United Nations (UN) General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, in New York City, from June 9-11, 2008 for a blanket waiver of inadmissibility. UNAIDS has subsequently asked that authorization be broadened to encompass additional preparatory meetings to be held on May 4-10, 2008, and June 6-12, 2008. Pursuant to authority delegated from the Secretary of DHS, the blanket waiver policy is invoked.

Under the blanket waiver policy, consular officers are authorized to grant waivers of inadmissibility under section 212(d)(3)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to aliens seeking temporary admission for the purposes of attending the meetings, but who are inadmissible under section 212(a)(1)(A)(i) of the INA due to HIV infection. Consular officers are authorized to grant section 212(d)(3)(A)(i) waivers without seeking the concurrence normally required from DHS.

We recommend that qualified individuals be granted nonimmigrant visas valid for one or more applications for admission for the period of the meetings and reasonable allowance for travel time, for a total period of time from May 1 through June 15, 2008. It is understood that the nonimmigrant visa may be issued on Form OF 232 instead of placing it permanently in the passport. A condition of this approval is that the notation **"212(d)(3)(A): UNGA"** will appear in the annotation field of the visa. This will alert officers at ports-of-entry that the individual is traveling to the United States under the special blanket waiver procedures to attend the UN meetings.

My staff and I look forward to working with your Bureau of Consular Affairs on future events of similar humanitarian and public interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Morris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul M. Morris
Executive Director
Admissibility and Passenger Programs

cc: Donald Wright, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Health