

**LETTERS | TO THE  
EDITOR**

**'Advice' for visiting China**

Regarding the article "Bound for Beijing? Well, behave yourself" (June 3): The Beijing Olympic Games Organizing Committee "advice" for foreign Olympic visitors is worthy of Orwell. That the advice includes a warning against smuggling opium into China suggests that Beijing's view of the Westerner's drug of choice has not been updated since, well, Orwell's time.

**Roberto De Vido, Yokosuka, Japan**

**The price of war**

After reading the editorial "Bush, Cheney and the truth about the war" (June 7), I cannot imagine being a family member or a friend of a soldier who was killed in Iraq.

**Richard Stern, Geneva**

**World health priorities**

As health experts from G-8 countries meet in Tokyo this week to decide which health priorities G-8 leaders should adopt at their July summit, we urge them to remember the "spirit of Okinawa" and to recall the wisdom of their own declaration that "health is key to prosperity."

G-8 leaders made that statement at their last Japanese summit in Okinawa in the summer of 2000 — and then turned talk into action. They set in motion efforts that ultimately gave birth to

the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Later that same year, UN member states set the eight Millennium Development Goals, with reducing poverty and hunger and improving health at their core.

These and other actions have produced measurable results. Access to HIV treatments in developing countries has soared; TB epidemics in many countries have been blunted; polio teeters on the edge of eradication; measles, a major killer of impoverished children, has been substantially reduced; malaria interventions have produced rapid declines in parts of Africa; and neglected tropical diseases are back in the public eye. Without doubt, the spirit of Okinawa drove efforts that improved the health of millions of people.

Now, the Hokkaido summit presents Japan and its fellow G-8 leaders with an ideal opportunity to protect these achievements, to renew existing commitments to reproductive health and the fight against HIV, TB and malaria, to finish polio eradication, and to address the terrible gaps that remain in public health.

We urge the G-8 to:

- Promote coordination of the many existing single-disease initiatives by strengthening the health systems to deliver integrated services to communities, then train new health care workers — and provide the money to pay them.
- Commit to new, long-term predict-

able financing, and link this investment to quantifiable results including fewer maternal, newborn and child deaths, less childhood undernutrition, fewer HIV, malaria and TB infections, and expanded access to treatments.

- Improve and dramatically scale up high-impact interventions in the areas of nutrition, clean water and sanitation.

The evidence for the G-8's conclusion that health is the key to prosperity has strengthened and today's G-8 has even more reasons for investing in global public health. Better health in the developing world is a vital contribution to our collective security. A world that neglects the health of people is neither stable nor secure.

- Tachi Yamada, President,**  
*Global Health Program,*  
*Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*
- Julian Lob-Levyt**  
*Executive secretary, GAVI Alliance*
- Michel Kazatchkine**  
*Executive director, Global Fund*  
*to Fight to fight against AIDS,*  
*Tuberculosis and Malaria*
- Peter Piot**  
*Executive director, UNAIDS*
- Thoraya Ahmed Obaid**  
*Executive director, UNFPA*
- Ann M. Veneman**  
*Executive director, UNICEF*
- Joy Phumaphi, Vice president**  
*for human development, World Bank*
- Margaret Chan, Director general,**  
*World Health Organization*