

But Dr. Santos didn't ask me for anything for herself. She pleaded for antibiotics, dysentery drugs, pain killers, splints, plaster of paris, and syringes. Other doctors had asked for anticoagulants, antihistamines, asthma inhalers, vitamins, surgical clamps, blood pressure cuffs — items we take so much for granted. My shopping list had over 200 urgently needed products. And I promised Dr. Santos and the other doctors that the American people would not leave them empty handed.

I returned home with new determination and immediately enlarged the Cuban Medical Project. We reached out across the country and found many pharmaceutical companies and medical supply houses willing to donate drugs and supplies.

Some wanted to make a humanitarian gesture. Many had "short-dated" products, that is, medicines with near-term expiration dates that were rapidly losing value. Some had products with new labels or colors, which left the older versions useless to them. A few companies had production overruns and no warehouse space for storage.

Before long we were accumulating pledges of large quantities of medicines. From the standpoint of the Cuban clinics, for which they were destined, it was a treasure trove! Then came another success. Disarm convinced the Commerce Department to give us a license to export donated medical supplies to Cuba.

Now it was time to publicize our work, and to begin raising the money we would need to ship these life-saving supplies to Cuba. I made a trip to Havana with Ramsey Clark, then returned with former boxing champion Muhammad Ali and his wife, Lonnie. Ali often acts as an ambassador of international humanitarianism. I wish you could have seen the sick respond to his warmth and good will.

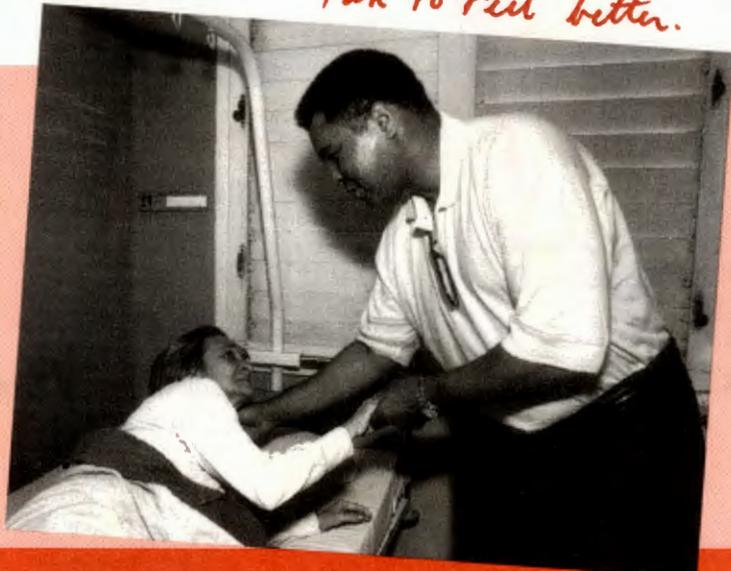
In the picture below the champ brought comfort to an elderly diabetic patient. You can see for yourself there is not much more than the barest essentials. But I can tell you that when we showed up in Cuban clinics with medical supplies from the U.S., it brightened some very dark moments for the patients there.

(Over, please)

*Head of a neighborhood clinic in
She desperately needs our help.*



*Muhammed Ali wishing an "old"
fan to feel better.*



That is where my story ends, or, with your help, where it can begin again for the Cuban infants and elderly who suffer most under the US blockade. As I write to you today, Disarm has a pledge of 8 tons of stockpiled medical supplies. All that stands between those life-saving supplies and the Cuban patients who need them is \$31,700 in shipping costs.

I need your help. We have an opportunity to make a real difference — to actually save lives! If you help pay for those shipping costs, and others join you, eight tons of supplies can be in Havana within six weeks. With our Commerce Department license, we can deliver the goods directly...efficiently...legally. We can ease the life and death grip our government's blockade has put on the Cuban health care system.

By joining me and Disarm, you can send two critically important messages:

To the Cuban people, you can send a ray of hope. You can show them that many Americans care enough to send life-saving medicines, along with their hopes for peace.

To our government in Washington, you can send a strong protest that this senseless blockade has gone on long enough. You can demand peace now — before another innocent Cuban child dies for lack of medicine.

I ask you to join Disarm's Cuban Medical Project and help me raise the money we need to ship our current stockpile to Cuba. We have proven that our work is effective. In the past year, Disarm has sent seven medical shipments to Cuba worth \$10 million. Our cost was less than \$150,000. And when Hurricane Lili ravaged Cuba, in October, 1996, within 4 weeks Disarm was delivering urgently needed medical supplies to the hurricane's victims.

When you send Disarm your contribution, if you also print your name on the shipping label, I will make sure it goes on one of the boxes in our next shipment. But whether or not you choose to do so, your contribution is urgently needed.

Can I count on you? It's not every day that we can help make a life and death difference. Every dollar you give to Disarm will deliver many times its worth in medicine. And your gift to Disarm is tax deductible! Thank you in advance for your care and concern — and for helping Disarm's Cuban Medical Project.

With hope for peace,



Bob Schwartz,
Executive Director

P.S. Our next shipment to Cuba leaves at the end of next month. Won't you please help us today, while this urgent appeal is fresh in your mind?