Race Against Time

- Originally given as lectures for Massey Lecture Series
- In honour of former Governor General Vincent Massey to provide radio forum for major contemporary thinkers on important social issues
- Sponsored by CBC radio, House of Anasi Press and Massey Colley of U of Toronto
- Canadian perspective
- First broadcast November 2005 (rebroadcast July 2006)
- Published in book form 2005

Stephen Lewis

- Currently UN Secretary-General’s special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa
- Son of David Lewis, former federal leader of NDP
- Went to Ghana at age of 22 for 1 week meeting of World Assembly of Youth, stayed for one year
- Taught English and History at high school and in villages
- Worked for Peace Corps in Nigeria
- Taught trade unionists
- Found places for Africa students at North American universities
- Returned to Canada at request of Tommy Douglas
• became leader of Ontario NDP
• Canadian ambassador to the UN 1984-88
• Worked for UN under various capacities (UNICEF, Economic Commission, International Labour Organization, UN Development fund for Women
• Companion of the Order of Canada
• Recipient of Pearson Peace Medal
• Time Magazine – 2005 one of 100 most influential people
• MacLean’s magazine – 2003 Canadian of the Year
• Numerous honourary doctorates including one from SFU

• Preface
• 4 Lectures
  – Economics
  – HIV/AIDS
  – Education
  – Women
• Solutions
chapter 1 – “Context: It Shames and Diminishes Us All”

• Provides financial context for the situation in Africa
• Title comes from a quotation by Peter Adamson from 1989 annual UNICEF “State of the World’s Children” report
• Adamson writes that “[t]he developing world’s debt, both in the manner in which it was incurred and in the manner in which it is being “adjusted to is an economic stain on the second half of the twentieth century. Allowing world economic problems to be taken out on the growing minds and bodies of young children is the antithesis of all civilized behaviour. Nothing can justify it. And it shames and diminishes us all” (quoted in Lewis 25).

Millenium Development Goals (MDG)

• Agreed upon by 191 member states of UN
• Targets set for 2015 for poverty
  1- cut poverty and hunger by ½
  2- universal primary education
  3- gender equality
  4- reduce under-five child mortality
  5- halt and reverse spread of HIV/AIDS
  6- environmental sustainability
  7- reduce by ¾ maternal mortality rate
  8- global partnerships for development
Most experts already believe that goals will not be achieved
Why?

- Colonial powers raped African countries of resources
- African countries were Cold War pawns
- Victims of International Financial Institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank)
  - Monetary loans with conditions
  - Enhance private sector and curtail public sector
  - User fees for health and education
  - Cutback in employment in public sector
  - Limits on #s of nurses and teachers
  - Curtail money spent on social sector

- Africa is unable to respond to AIDS pandemic due to heavy users fees on health care and education
- Economic theories of IMF and the Bank fail in environment of HIV/AIDS and poverty
- IMF and the Bank refuse to alter their policies
- Eg. Malawi forbidden to hire needed nurses, doctors and pay better salaries based on loan conditions
- Poverty has increased, trade decreased, debt has increased
- No G7 country has met its target of 0.7% for foreign aid
- 60% of money received does not go where it is intended