

Report: G8 may scale back AIDS initiative

by UPI

HEILIGENDAMM, Germany - The Group of Eight leaders meeting in Germany appeared ready to scale back their pledge to fund universal AIDS treatment, the Financial Times reported.

The newspaper said documents show the G8 is aiming to help about 5 million people with AIDS over the next few years, a substantial drop in the goal of reaching 10 million AIDS sufferers by 2010 made at the 2005 G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland.

The draft communique, which is dated June 1, said the G8 still plans to "scale up towards 'universal access.'" It gives the 5 million figure for people who would be supplied with "life-saving anti-retroviral treatment," the Financial Times reported.

Sources told the newspaper that the lower goal was inserted at the insistence of the United States delegation and had to do with the realization that faster universal access was beyond the budgets of G8 governments.

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