

World leaders talk African aid at summit

(AP) World leaders on Wednesday weighed a huge aid package for Africa and new plans for tackling global warming as Iraq war allies President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair found themselves advocating rival positions.

Blair, buoyed by the decision to award London the 2012 Olympics, pledged to keep pushing for more aid to combat poverty in Africa and global warming, the two issues he has made the focus of this year's meeting but both goals that are more ambitious than those embraced by Bush.

Police battled thousands of protesters on the outskirts of town as the leaders of the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Canada and Russia gathered for their annual economic summit.

Leaders brought a variety of proposals and, this year, shared center stage with Irish rock star Bono, the lead singer of U2, who heavily lobbied some of the world's richest nations to do more for Africa.

Blair, the meeting host and first to arrive, said he was "prepared to hold out for what is right" on his agenda as summit partners followed him to a heavily fortified golf resort.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is seeking the group's support on a wider role for the United Nations in Iraq and may propose a possible exit timetable for the United States, the Kremlin



Protesters lift a giant peace sign during a protest against the visit of President George W. Bush on Wednesday. Thousands of demonstrators marched from the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen to Denmark's parliament to protest the visit by the president amid one of the biggest security operations Denmark has ever seen. Bush is there for the G-8 summit.

said.

Bush, unpopular in Europe, defended his handling of Iraq and treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo. He backed less Africa aid than Blair sought, and leveled fresh criticism at the Kyoto treaty on global warming.

In a brief visit to Denmark before flying here, Bush acknowledged his unpopularity in Europe.

"I understand that people aren't going to agree with decisions I make. But my job is to make decisions that I think are right, and to lead," Bush said at a joint news conference with Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, a key ally on Iraq.

Bush also said he recognized that human activity had

contributed to climate change and a warmer earth — a concession from an earlier position that the jury was still out on such a connection.

But he stood by his rejection of the Kyoto treaty on global warming, calling instead for more cooperation on cleaner fuels.

"Kyoto didn't work for the United States, and it, frankly, didn't work for the world. The reason it didn't work for the world was that developing nations weren't included," Bush said. The United States is the only G-8 member to not ratify the agreement, which took effect in February.

Faryar Shirzad, a top Bush foreign policy aide, told reporters aboard Air Force One that final touches were

being made on a summit statement for release later in the week that would unanimously emphasize "common ground" on climate control — without detailing remaining differences.

He said an effort was under way to produce such consensus-building statements on a variety of topics.

Bush and his wife, Laura, arrived in Scotland hours before the summit opened with a dinner for G-8 leaders hosted by Britain's Queen Elizabeth. The last leg of the journey, from the airport in Glasgow, was by helicopter.

As part of the African agenda, Bush, Blair, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin held separate meetings with

Bono.

Blair has challenged G-8 countries to double aid to Africa to \$50 billion by 2010, from the current \$25 billion.

"A lot has been accomplished but there is no sense that a real deal, a \$50 billion number, we are not there on that," Bono said, speaking of Blair's goal.

Blair also made a joint appearance with Bob Geldof, organizer of last weekend's Live 8 concerts that were held to pressure G-8 leaders to do more to fight poverty and disease in Africa, and Bono.

"You've got to be prepared to hold out for what is right," Blair said when questioned about reports that Britain was preparing to scale back its demands on support for Africa and climate change in the face of U.S. opposition — and to help present a united front by summit's end.

"Three billion people are urging you to take it all the way," Geldof told Blair, referring to the number of people organizers have estimated either attended or watched the weekend concerts on television.

Leaders' aides met behind closed doors on Blair's top issues. Besides his call for doubling aid to Africa, Blair also wants member nations to increase giving for all foreign aid to the equivalent of 0.7 percent of national incomes by 2015. Bush, after initially resisting Blair's call, announced last week that he would seek to double U.S. aid by 2010, to \$8.6 billion

from \$4.3 billion last year.

But he opposes Blair's 0.7 percent target.

Anti-poverty activists said Bush's goal of \$8.6 billion fell about \$6 billion short of what is needed from the United States to meet Blair's \$50 billion target.

Bush also showed he is devoting considerable attention to a looming domestic decision, the naming of a Supreme Court justice — the first of his presidency — to succeed the retiring Sandra Day O'Connor.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan announced here that Bush had recruited former Republican Sen. Fred Thompson of Tennessee, who plays the role of a district attorney on NBC's "Law & Order," to help shepherd the nominee through the Senate confirmation process.

On treatment of detainees at the U.S. facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Bush said Fogh Rasmussen, the Danish prime minister, had raised the issue himself, "concerned about what the situation on Guantanamo says about America and our view of liberty."

Bush said he told the Danish leader the prisoners "are well-treated... There's total transparency. The International Red Cross can inspect any time, any day."

Once U.S. courts rule on whether detainees should be tried in civilian courts or military tribunals, "then we'll proceed forward with giving people fair and open trials," he said.

Gadhafi to Africans: Stop begging

SIRTE, Libya (AP) - Amid global calls to combat poverty in Africa, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi called on African nations to stop "begging" during the opening Monday of an African summit attended by more than 50 leaders from this crisis-racked continent.

Gadhafi also urged African countries to overcome past failures during a rambling speech that lasted more than 30 minutes, which received muted applause from leaders of African states.

"Pleading to the G-8 to lift debts won't make a future for Africa," said Gadhafi, wearing his traditional African dress while praising Africa's natural resources and treasures.

"We need cooperation between the big and the small countries in the world."

"Begging won't make a future for Africa," he added.

United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa also attended the opening of

the two-day meeting, held during a series of international protests and Live 8 concerts ahead of Wednesday's Group of Eight meeting of wealthy nations at the Gleneagles resort in Scotland. African leaders meeting in Sirte, a coastal city on Libya's Mediterranean coast, are expected to try to unite and push for at least one permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. The summit is also expected to discuss conflicts in Africa, particularly the Darfur crisis in Sudan, and issue an international appeal to help the continent battle disease and famine.

The 53-nation African Union was created in 2002 as the successor to the Organization of African Unity.

Modeled after the European Union with an executive commission, a pan-African parliament and a court of justice, the AU is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Its focus is to spread democracy, human rights and economic development across the African continent.

Teachers

(Continued from Page 2)
tract, faculty looks highly upon Teach for America corps members.

According to Rice, 90 percent of principals working with corps teachers rate them as "excellent" when compared to other new teachers. Several teachers in the program were also nominated for awards.

According to Salter, this year only one corps member is from Nevada. He's hopeful that number will grow the longer the teaching program exists in the Valley.

The program strives for diversity in recruitment. This is to ensure that students and teachers are better able to relate to one another, according to program directors.

"We make a concrete effort to go after people of color [to participate as teach-

ers]. Though it has no bearing on acceptance," Salter continued.

Although, ethnicity isn't a final determining factor for acceptance, minorities do have a presence in Teach for America. "In 2004, our nationwide core was 32 percent people of color," Salter said.

Teaching in these schools may be a challenge for some corps members, but their passion will allow them to continue to focus on educating. Davis plans to approach her position with ease, not forcing anything.

Davis said she's "taking it piece by piece and not trying to do everything at once," when describing her approach to being an educator.

In the book, "One Day, All Children," about how the organization started, Kopp explains, "If top recent college

graduates devoted two years to teaching in public schools, they could have a real impact on the lives of disadvantaged kids. Because they had themselves excelled academically, they would be relentless in their efforts to ensure their students achieved. They would question the way things are and fight to do what was right for children."

The organization refers to its program as "a blueprint for the new civil rights movement, a movement that demands educational access and opportunity for all children in America."

As the school year approaches, 56 local teachers and more than 3,000 participants nationally will settle into their new commitments as they attempt to impact our communities one child at a time.