



▶ [Latest Nation/World reports](#)

▶ [Previous Story](#)

▶ [Next Story](#)

SEARCH
detnews.com

[Home Page](#)

[Essentials](#)

[CyberSurveys](#)

[Forums](#)

[Photo Galleries](#)

[Weather](#)

[Horoscope](#)

[Lottery](#)

[Giveaways](#)

[Crossword](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Autos

[Autos Insider](#)

[Drive](#)

[-- New Car](#)

[Photos](#)

[-- Car Reviews](#)

[-- Latest Deals](#)

[-- Model Reports](#)

[Joyrides](#)

Business

[Business](#)

[Money & Life](#)

[Careers](#)

[-- Find a Job](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[-- Find a Home](#)

Metro

[Metro/State](#)

[Wayne](#)

[Oakland](#)

[Macomb](#)

[Livingston](#)

[Commuting](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[-- Death Notices](#)

[Schools](#)

[Special Reports](#)

[Editorials](#)

[Columnists](#)

[Detroit History](#)

Nation/World

[Nation/World](#)

[Politics/Gov](#)

[Census](#)

[Health](#)

[Religion](#)

[Technology](#)

Sports

[Sports Insider](#)

[Lions/NFL](#)

[Pistons/NBA](#)

[Red Wings/NHL](#)

[Tigers/MLB](#)

Tuesday, July 5, 2005

U.S. enters G8 summit with an image deficit

Bush perceived by many overseas leaders as insufficient on foreign policy, arrogant

[By Warren Vieth / Los Angeles Times](#)

WASHINGTON -- President Bush, whose foreign policy is viewed in some countries as ill-conceived and arrogant, heads to an international summit this week intent on convincing the world that he knows the meaning of consensus.

Bush departs Tuesday on a four-day trip that ends with the annual gathering of the Group of 8 heads of state -- arguably the world's most powerful elected leaders, representing the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and Russia.

The G8 conference, which begins Wednesday evening at a heavily guarded resort in Gleneagles, Scotland, has become a focal point for activists, religious leaders and rock stars who want wealthy nations to do more to help the world's poor and to combat global warming. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, the G8 chairman and summit host, has served notice that aid to Africa and limits on greenhouse gas emissions are at the top of his agenda, and he wants Bush to make bigger commitments on both issues.

For Bush, the summit is an opportunity to repair America's battered image among allies who perceive his administration as unilateralist, self-interested and stingy. For Blair, whose domestic popularity has plummeted in part because of his support for the U.S.-led war in Iraq, it is a chance to show that he's willing to stand up to Bush, at least rhetorically.

In the days leading up to the summit, as rocker Bob Geldof orchestrated "Live 8" concerts in 10 cities and thousands of activists began gathering in Edinburgh, Scotland, the president and his advisers did their best to dispel the image of Bush as global cowboy.

"I understand we have an obligation as an influential nation to reach out to others," Bush said in an interview with the Danish Broadcasting Corp. Before arriving in Gleneagles on Wednesday, Bush will make an overnight stop in Denmark to express appreciation for Copenhagen's support of the war effort.

"We also have an obligation as an influential nation to help others," Bush said, alluding to Blair's emphasis on Africa.

Bush made those remarks shortly after announcing that his administration planned to double development aid to Africa by 2010, but not in the way Blair and other G8 members have proposed. Bush is also expected to rebuff Blair's efforts to secure a commitment to consider mandatory curbs on greenhouse gases.

▶ [Comment on this story](#)

▶ [Send this story to a friend](#)

▶ [Get Home Delivery](#)

Marketplace Detroit

- [Browse the Classifieds](#)
- [New & Used Cars](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Homes or Apartments](#)
- [Shop Online](#)

Home Delivery Center

- [Start home delivery](#)
- [Renew subscription](#)
- [Customer service](#)

Nation/World

- [Nation/World index for Tuesday, July 5, 2005](#)
- [U.S. enters G8 summit with an image deficit](#)
- [Comet crash creates fireworks](#)
- [Russian astrologer brings case against NASA comet probe](#)
- [Militants arrested in Iraq dragnet](#)
- [Waste storage vexes nuclear plants](#)
- [Lag in U.S. visitors tied to tighter entry rules](#)
- [Nation / World briefs](#)
- [Gunmen kill Afghan cleric](#)
- [Politics shift sees Hamas gain in the West Bank](#)
- [American troops' optimism diminishes](#)

- [Shock/WNBA](#)
- [MSU](#)
- [U-M](#)
- [More Colleges](#)
- [High Schools](#)
- [Golf](#)
- [Motor Sports](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [More Sports](#)
- [Scoreboards](#)
- Entertainment**
- [Entertainment](#)
- [Rant/Rave](#)
- [Events](#)
- [-- Event Finder](#)
- [Movies/TV/DVD](#)
- [-- Movie Finder](#)
- [-- TV Listings](#)
- [Eats & Drinks](#)
- [-- Restaurants](#)
- [-- Wine Report](#)
- [Books](#)
- [CD Reviews](#)
- [Escapes](#)
- [Casino Guide](#)
- [Michigan's Best](#)
- Living**
- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Homestyle](#)
- [Fitness](#)
- Forums**
- [News Talk](#)
- [Faith Talk](#)
- [Autos Talk](#)
- [Wings Talk](#)
- [Lions Talk](#)
- [Pistons Talk](#)
- [Tiger Talk](#)
- [Big 10 Talk](#)
- [High Schools](#)
- [Movie Talk](#)
- [Tech Talk](#)
- Weblogs**
- [Photo Blog](#)
- [Politics Blog](#)
- [Pistons Blog](#)
- [Tigers Blog](#)
- [NFL Blog](#)
- [Rant/Rave](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
- RSS**
- [RSS](#) [Feeds](#)

Some Africa advocates said although the president's pledge was welcome, it departed substantially from what some allies were seeking. "Bush's position on this, like on many other issues, is 'My way or the highway,'" said Susan Rice, former assistant secretary of state for African affairs in the Clinton administration. "We'll do it on our terms at our pace and through our own mechanisms. We won't engage in multilateral endeavors on this, even when our best friend Tony Blair asks us to."

The result, said Rice, was to "reinforce perceptions of American exceptionalism and unilateralism," rather than to repair America's reputation as an international maverick.

Recent opinion polls in other countries show just how widespread those perceptions have become.

A survey of global attitudes conducted in May by the Pew Research Center showed that in 12 of 16 nations, substantial majorities viewed U. S. foreign policy as fundamentally self-serving.

Asked whether they believed the United States took other countries' interests and concerns into account, just 18 percent of French respondents said yes, compared with 19 percent of Canadians, 21 percent of Russians, 32 percent of British, 38 percent of Germans -- and 67 percent of Americans.

"There's a lot of concurrence about America between Americans and people around the world, except on one issue," said survey director Andrew Kohut. "That is whether America does enough to solve global problems. The publics of the world say no. Americans say yes."

America's overall favorability rating has improved slightly in France, Germany and Russia since 2004, an uptick attributed by some analysts to Bush's recent outreach efforts to Europe, his increasing emphasis on diplomacy, and a new foreign policy team at the State Department. But in many countries, it remains well below the levels recorded before the Iraq war.

Bush said last week that he understood why some Europeans did not agree with his decision to wage war in Iraq. But he offered no apology for his decision to proceed without their endorsement or participation. "People have got to understand my mentality," he said. "It changed after Sept. 11. For some in Europe, Sept. 11 was just a moment, a sad moment. For me, it changed the way I looked at the world, and changed how many Americans looked at the world because we were attacked."

White House officials said Bush hoped to use the summit as a forum for the United States to forge consensus on important issues, including Africa aid, climate change, energy policy, Middle East peace and the war on terrorism.

In a flurry of activity designed to showcase concern about the estimated 300 million Africans living in extreme poverty, Bush announced his pledge to double U.S. aid from \$4.3 billion a year in 2004 to at least \$8.6 billion in 2010, including a new \$1.2 billion program to combat malaria and smaller initiatives to expand education and deter sexual violence and abuse against women.

The administration already had endorsed a plan developed by G8 finance ministers to write off about \$40 billion in debt owed by 18 poor countries, including 14 in Africa. The deal is expected to reduce their debt payment obligations by about \$1 billion annually.

The White House also announced that first lady Laura Bush would visit South Africa, Tanzania and Rwanda at the conclusion of the G8 conference. "She's a really good ambassador for our country," the

Copyright © 2005
The Detroit News.
Use of this site indicates your
agreement to the [Terms of
Service](#) (updated
12/19/2002).

president said.

Bush's promise to double aid was met with near-universal applause, yet there was some grumbling. Some Africa advocates said it was mainly a repackaging of earlier commitments that had been underfunded by Bush and Congress, and fell short of the kind of commitment needed to help sub-Saharan Africa achieve the U.N.'s Millennium Challenge goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015.

Bush has rejected a British proposal to participate in an international bond issue to finance Africa aid and has refused to join other G8 countries in a pledge to increase overall public development assistance to 0.7 percent of gross domestic product -- the total value of goods and services produced annually -- by 2015. The United States currently devotes 0.16 percent of GDP to foreign aid, placing it 21st on a list of 22 wealthy nations.

Administration officials said the 0.7 percent standard was not appropriate for America because of the size of the U.S. economy and the substantial tax-sheltered flow of private contributions to relief organizations.

"If we did 0.7 percent, the aid budget would go from \$19 billion to \$91 billion. We couldn't spend that money if we wanted to," Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition."

If the United States attempted to meet Blair's challenge, it would be accused of dispensing "imperial aid" that might swamp the efforts of other countries and the World Bank, Natsios said.

Still, development advocates and foreign policy analysts said Blair might be satisfied with Bush's promise to double assistance, which appears to match for now a separate British proposal to increase global development aid to the continent from about \$25 billion a year in 2003 to \$50 billion in 2010 and \$75 billion in 2015.

"It's not really all that Blair asked for," said Steven Radelet, a former top Treasury official in the Clinton and Bush administrations and now a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development.

"But he's got commitments from some G8 countries to go to 0.7 percent, or double aid to Africa," Radelet said. "He got the debt deal. It's enough that everybody can declare victory and go home."

[▶ Previous Story](#) [▶ Next Story](#)