



Leaders stand firm against G8 protests

TONY Blair and US President George Bush fly to Genoa today after issuing a joint warning that anti-capitalism demonstrators should not be allowed to disrupt the G8 summit.

After talks at Chequers ahead of the annual gathering of the world's leading industrial nations, the men insisted that proposals under discussion to liberalise world trade would benefit the third world countries the protesters claimed they wanted to help.

"For those who would use this opportunity to say the world should become isolationist, they are condemning those who are poor to poverty - and we don't accept it," Mr Bush told a press conference with the Prime Minister.

His strong defence of capitalism came as Genoa itself had its first taste of a long weekend of anti-globalisation protests with a rally attended by 5,000 left-wingers, anarchists and immigrants.

With more than 100,000 demonstrators expected to converge on the city over the next two days, the Italian authorities have sealed off the waterfront and historic centre behind a 16ft barricade of concrete and steel and deployed more than 15,000 troops and police to enforce this exclusion zone.

Mr Bush faced a series of modest protests about the US stand on missile defence and global warming during his first official visit to Britain.

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Friday, 20th July 2001

The Scotsman

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