

# Western Hemisphere to unite in most powerful trade bloc

**By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL**  
**QUEBEC** — After the protesters left and a steady drizzle washed away the clouds of tear gas, 34 leaders of the Americas scrawled their names on a sweeping accord that would unite the Western Hemisphere in the world's most powerful trade bloc.  
 The Summit of the Americas ended Sunday with President Bush and other presidents and prime ministers agreeing to inaugurate the free-trade zone by the end of 2005. They still have fierce differences, though, about the details of the zone, which would unite their \$13 trillion economies, eliminate national subsidies and increase competition.  
 "I'm very optimistic about what

took place here," Bush said. "It gives us a great chance to expand the opportunities around our hemisphere knowing that it'll help our own country."  
 Anti-globalization protesters battled with Canadian riot police for two days, hurling bricks and bottles and tearing down parts of a wall built to keep them from the summit, saw their fears confirmed.  
 The leaders hope the trade blueprint, linking everyone from Buenos Aires to Boston, Valparaiso to Vancouver, will bring their countries the prosperity that eludes most of the world's population. The protesters say it will deepen poverty. But even some protesters conceded that the march of free trade will be almost impossible to halt.

## ap news capsules

**ISTANBUL, Turkey** — After hours holed up in a luxury hotel, pro-Chechen gunmen surrendered to police today and released dozens of guests and staff members held hostage, officials said.  
 The gunmen agreed to end the standoff after Interior Minister Sadettin Tantan held talks with them at the hotel, said Mete Nusret Cetinbas, head of the Istanbul-based Caucasus Association, who negotiated with the gunmen.  
 Police detained 13 gunmen who had held their hostages for almost 12 hours, Cetinbas said. The gunmen, armed with automatic rifles and shotguns,

stormed one of Istanbul's top luxury hotels Sunday, taking at least 30 people hostage. No one was injured, police said.  
 The gunmen issued a statement earlier saying their action was aimed at protesting Russia's "bloody attacks" in the Caucasus, where Chechnya is located.  
 "They apparently chose Swissotel to get more international reaction since there were many western tourists staying there at the time," Cetinbas said.  
 The hostage-takers were apparently led by Muhammed Tokcan, a Turkish citizen of Chechen origin who hijacked

a ferry and seized more than 200 hostages in 1996. Tokcan was imprisoned in that case after surrendering to police, but was released late last year.  
**NATIONAL**  
**HONOLULU** — USS Greenville Cmdr. Scott Waddle is pondering job offers outside of the military and deciding where he and his family will settle following his honorable discharge from the Navy, his lawyer said.  
 Waddle will not be court-martialed and won't face a prison term during today's disciplinary hearing but his naval career is over, said his civilian attorney, Charles Gittins.  
 "He will retire as commander, with full pension and with an honorable characterization of discharge, consistent with the character of his 20 years

service," Gittins said.  
 Waddle also plans to travel to Japan to meet with the families of the four students and five adults who were killed when the USS Greenville conducted a rapid resurfacing exercise in waters off Hawaii Feb. 9. He has already apologized and accepted responsibility for the collision.  
 On Saturday, Waddle received a copy of the report of a three-member military panel that reviewed the case. Gittins declined to describe the panel's conclusions, but Pentagon officials have said U.S. Pacific Fleet commander Adm. Thomas Fargo is following the officers' recommendation in not calling for courts martial of top Greenville officers.

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