

# Bush says nations should unite to detour threat

**NATO, from Page 1**

before, but they're dangerous, they're just as dangerous as those perils that your fathers and mothers and grandfathers and grandmothers faced."

Administration officials disclosed that U.S. ambassadors in 50 countries — including Germany — have been told to solicit support from allies for personnel and equipment to assist American forces in the war on terrorism and, possibly, on Iraq.

British Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon said his country was among those receiving a request, "but no decision has been taken on that." Britain's position would be discussed in Parliament on Monday, he said.

In Copenhagen, Danish lawmakers approved on Wednesday the participation of Danish soldiers and equipment in any international force in Iraq, if necessary.

Bush invoked the United States' involvement in World War II as he exhorted allies to join America now.

"U-boats could not divide us," Bush told the students, who sat silent through his speech. "The commitment of my nation to Europe is found in the carefully tended graves of young Americans who died for this continent's freedom."

During a separate meeting with Havel earlier in the day, Bush sought to quiet European fears that he is hungry for war. He promised consultation with allies, saying a military clash with Iraq was his "last choice" — and an avoidable one.

It is still possible Saddam could get the message, Bush said. "If the collective will of the world is strong, we can achieve disarmament peacefully."

Aides said afterward that Bush still believes it is highly unlikely that Saddam will comply, thus war planning is fast under way. Bush discussed Iraq behind closed doors with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer of Turkey, whose country shares a border with Iraq and offers military bases critical to any U.S.-led attack.

Bush had no plans to meet with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, whose recent re-election campaign infuriated the president by focusing on opposition to Bush's Iraq policy. White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the two leaders were likely to exchange greetings at a black-tie summit dinner Wednesday.

Of Germany's opposition to using force against Iraq, Bush said: "It's a decision Germany will make just like it's a decision the Czech Republic will make, just like it's a decision Great Britain will make. It's a decision that each country must decide as to how, if and when they want to participate, and how they choose to participate."

The Czech government mobilized 12,000 police officers, 2,200 heavily armed soldiers and special anti-terrorist units to protect the presidents and prime ministers converging on this "city of 1,000 spires."

Miles above, U.S. fighter jets patrolled Prague airspace, supplementing Czech pilots who circled at lower altitudes in Soviet-era planes. Intelligence officials fear the leaders are an inviting target for terrorists.

On Thursday, NATO is to approve invitations to seven former communist states: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Bush said the alliance should reach even further.

"We strongly support the enlargement of NATO, now and in the future. Every European democracy that seeks NATO membership and is ready to share in NATO's responsibilities should be welcome in our alliance," he said.

NATO is also due to announce plans for a 21,000-strong rapid response force that could mobilize in seven to 30 days to confront threats from terrorists, governments or regional crises.

# Seasonal contest kicks off for local merchants

**CONTEST, from Page 1**

winning tickets to *The Daily News* office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.

Ten \$50 instant prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Eight winning numbers will appear in ads on Thursday, which means eight shoppers have a chance to win up to \$400 in the first week.

Other numbers will appear on Wednesday, Nov. 27 — due to the Thanksgiving holiday — Dec. 5 and Dec. 12.

If all of the \$50 instant winners aren't claimed during the month, they will be awarded at the grand prize drawing.

It's simple enough, but there are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors.
- *Daily News* employees are not eligible.

Participating businesses are American Communications, Hitchcock Inc., Mann's Jewelry, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Knott Just Books, Goodland Greenline, Bankwest, Jacque's Hallmark, Western State Bank, Frontier Equity Exchange, Picnic in the Park, Grass Roots Lawn Service, Goodland Sheet Metal, Aten Department Store, Miller's Electronics, Elliott's, Curt's Corner Garage, People's State Bank, Bowman Heating and Air Conditioning, Eagle Cable Television, El Dorado, Dan Brenner Ford, Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance and *The Daily News*.

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# Tanker may become ocean time bomb around the world

**By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL**

MADRID, Spain — Millions of gallons of fuel oil that sank in the Atlantic inside a broken tanker ship might solidify in the deep, frigid water, limiting short-term environmental damage to the Spanish coast, experts say.

Environmentalists, however, fear an uglier outcome for the sticky, toxic cargo of the Bahamas-flagged Prestige, which went down Tuesday with most of its original 20 million gallon cargo.

"We hope that the sunken part does not spill its fuel. But still it's a time bomb at the bottom of the sea," said Maria Jose Caballero, who heads Greenpeace's coastal protection project. "There's nothing that makes us believe it won't finally burst and leak all its oil."

The single-hulled ship was carrying nearly twice the amount of oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez off Alaska in 1989.

After six days at sea, the leaking, 26-year-old tanker broke in two pieces and sank in 11,550 feet of water about 150 miles off the scenic coast of Spain's Galicia region.

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi government has accepted without protest the right of U.N. weapons inspectors to make unannounced checks on "special" sites belonging to President Saddam Hussein, an issue that helped derail the inspections in the 1990s, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

"That is settled by the resolution. It wasn't even discussed," chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said after departing Baghdad at the end of a two-day visit.

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