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U.S. opens dealings global-warming iss

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — After two years of preliminaries, the world's governments got down to the final critical round of negotiations Monday on controlling energy use in the 21st century to protect the planet against global warming.

In what promises to be 10 days of hard bargaining, the United States opened the bidding with a surprise shift of position that cheered Japan, dismayed Europe and put environmentalists on a green alert.

The Kyoto conference was convened to strengthen the 1992 Climate Change Treaty by setting legally binding targets for reducing industrial nations' emissions of carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases linked to global warming. If it succeeds, it will set the energy course for much of the world for decades to come, helping change what we drive, how we produce electricity, even what we feed our cattle.

"These 10 days could change the history of humankind," Japan's foreign minister, Keizo Obuchi, said in welcoming negotiators from 150 countries.

The more than 2,000 delegates first must reconcile an array of differing positions on a long list of complex issues, chief among them the size of emissions reductions.

The plan Washington...

While some governments are reducing the industrial emissions by as much as below 1990 levels by 2005, President Clinton posed cutbacks only to 1990 levels, and only as a

Soon after Monday's opening of the Kyoto summit, delegate Melinda Kimble...

"These 10 days could change the history of humankind."

KEIZO OBUCHI
JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER

a change: The United States considers "differentiation" of target levels for different countries instead of a uniform target for the 34 affected nations.

The Japanese delegation expressed its satisfaction over setting a range of targets geared not to a country's emissions but, for example, to an energy-efficient country.

Successes, mourn mark World AIDS D

PARIS (AP) — AIDS activists around the world marched, prayed and wore red ribbons Monday to mark the ninth World AIDS Day — while AIDS victims in poor nations did what they did every day: Lived, struggled and died in obscurity.

On Monday, at least, their lives were honored.

In Europe, demonstrators observed the day with candlelight marches and songs; in Asia, governments announced new education and health programs aimed at fighting their growing AIDS problem.

Thousands marched in Paris at sundown, blowing whistles and carrying placards demanding more help for victims. Rallies were also held in other French cities.

"They are dying less in France, in the rich countries, but they continue to die more and more in the poor countries," French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner said.

Kouchner announced a plan to require French doctors to report the number of patients who test positive for the AIDS virus, though the names would remain confidential.

"If we knew, in epidemiological terms, the number of HIV-positive people, this would vast-

ly help us" fight AIDS, he said.

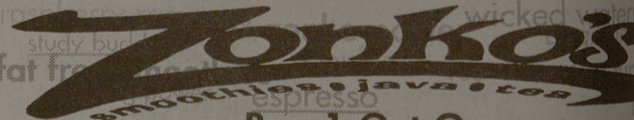
One in every 100 sensitive people age 15 to 49 worldwide has HIV, and among infected, one in 10 does not know it, according to UNAIDS, the World Health Organization.

Figures released last week show doctors had underestimated the size of the epidemic: 30 million people are infected with HIV and more people are infected than the 2.3 million people who die this year of AIDS, 400 children under 15.

This year's World AIDS Day emphasized the plight of HIV-infected children around the world.

Elsewhere in Europe, Athens radio stations broadcast an hour-long program on Greek state-run television stations aired documentaries on AIDS, a Freddy Mercury tribute — the singer who died of AIDS — and a ballet dedicated to AIDS.

In Helsinki, Finland, artists lighted candles on the Parliament. Some 50 artists formed a free concert in Finland's former capital, west coast, with the proceeds going to AIDS support centers.



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For more information on how you can become a part of The Battalion Spring Staff, attend the informational meeting Monday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m. or Tuesday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m. in Room 003 Reed McDonald Bldg.

Meanwhile, pick up an application in Room 013 Reed McDonald Bldg. Applications are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4, in 013 Reed McDonald.

For more information, please call Tiffany Inbody, 845-3313.

THE BATTALION