

room for 3,000 reporters and photographers any closer to Sea Island. Cellular telephone towers throughout the region have even been improved to streamline communications during the summit, he added.

Exciting as the event is, many overworked officials will likely feel much relieved and relaxed when it's over. "It's short term – we know when it's going to end and we can give up a little sleep," Scanlon said. "For something like this to happen in a city the size of Savannah is almost unprecedented. We want to show that we can handle it."

Additional facts about G8

- History: In 1975, the nations with the world's six biggest economies met informally to discuss political and economic issues of global importance. The first group included France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- Canada joined the 1976 meeting, and in 1997, Russia joined, rounding out the countries included in G8 – short for the Group of Eight Summit Committee.
- Initially, the group focused on business relationships the nations had with each other, but in recent years it has expanded its agenda to include the environment, organized crime, arms control and counterterrorism.

Sources: The Sea Island Summit Web site, Savannah-Chatham County G8 Web site.

For more info: go to www.savannahg8summit.org □

G8 Summit "At a Glance"

- When is the G8 Summit? The Sea Island Summit is June 8-10, 2004.
- Who is the host of the G8 Summit? President George W. Bush is the host of the 2004 G8 Summit.
- Has the United States hosted a G8 before? When? Yes, the United States has hosted the G8 Summit before. The G8 countries take turns in hosting the annual Summits. The United States has hosted the Summit four times: in Puerto Rico (1976), Williamsburg, VA (1983), Houston, TX (1990), and Denver, CO (1997).
- How do I contact the G8 Summit Planning Organization? The easiest way is to visit www.savannahg8summit.org. You can try the following: Phone (202) 647-4804; Toll Free (866) 249-G804 or (866) 249-4804; Facsimile (202) 647-3079; Email: Info@G8USA.gov.
- Who designed the official Sea Island Summit 2004 logo? The Sea Island Summit 2004 logo was created and designed by the students of the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), in Savannah, Ga.
- What is the purpose of the G8 Summit? The purpose of the G8 Summit is for the Leaders of the world's major industrial nations to meet to discuss the issues facing the world in an informal setting.
- When did the G8 Summit begin? The Group of 8 (G8), formerly the Group of 7, first met in 1975, in France.
- What does the "G" in G8 stand for? The "G" stands for the word Group, in Group of Eight.

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