



MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2005

Bush: Don't Waste Our Money By Refusing To Do More In Africa

by Michael in New York on [6/13/2005 02:14:00 PM](#)

Bush was pulled kicking and screaming into Blair's plan to provide debt relief for Africa. But as others have pointed out, the \$40 billion package amounts to about \$1.5 billion less a year in money these countries will pay. That, of course, is a pittance. Blair's goal is \$50 billion more a year in aid PLUS serious free trade reform (remember when Republicans liked free trade?) that will allow African farmers to compete on the world market by lowering the trade barriers the US and other countries have in place.

The [LA Times](#) makes this very point in its lead editorial.

U.S. foreign aid in general has been pathetically small for decades. When Bush took office, it amounted to just a tenth of a percent of national income. So when Bush touts his record — a tripling of aid to Africa, a \$15-billion commitment to fight HIV/AIDS, etc. — it has to be put in perspective: It's better than nothing, but it's still kind of measly...

Nobody is calling for a blank check. The Bush administration and others are rightly trying to tie aid to economic reform and good governance, but some of the unmet needs in sub-Saharan Africa — vaccines, mosquito nets, schoolhouses — are so basic that they transcend politics. It also doesn't help these nations that the U.S. and other rich countries don't engage in fair trade for farm goods, and the G-8 needs to recommit itself to ending those subsidies that victimize the developing world.

At best, we've taken a tentative first step in putting Africa on its own two feet, but Bush will be throwing that money in a hole if he doesn't take advantage of this opportunity. Think of Africa as a critically ill patient. If you want to cure them, you need to insert a feeding tube, defeat the disease and then focus on rehab. All we've done so far is insert the feeding tube. And that isn't enough.



JOHN'S PHOTOS



Click here for more tips
[fight global warming.com](http://fightglobalwarming.com)

Ad Council ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE
finding the ways that work

HOT OFF THE WIRE

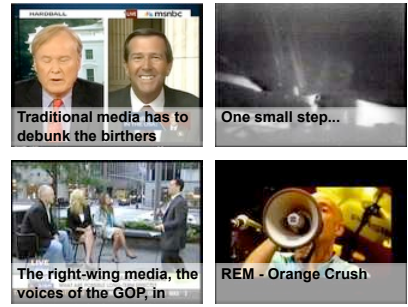
- Daily Kos**
Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Today, srkp23 (pulling a double shift), ybruti, taylormattd, ItsJessMe and vcmvo2 combed through hundreds of diaries to find this powerful list. Today's...
17 minutes ago
- Eschaton**
Overnight - Folk On. Newish.
34 minutes ago
- HuffPost Politics**
Michael Likosky: Ed Rendell: Hardest Working Man in Infrastructure - At this year's National Governors Association (NGA) meeting, Governor Ed Rendell's tenure as Chair fittingly came to a close with a plenary session on infras...
36 minutes ago
- Crooks and Liars**
Open Thread - Open Thread below...
1 hour ago
- Firedoglake**
Late Night: Livin' the Dolce Vita with The Lovernator - Who's got time to govern? Certainly not Mark Sanford.
1 hour ago


Show All

AMERICABLOG TV

In honor of Senator DeMint

Despite insurance premiums doubling over the past decade, Republicans want to see health care reform. For the GOPers, health care is politics. They just



I collect with  vodpod

[see all 322 videos >](#)

[Visit our AMERICAblog TV site.](#)

GAY POLITICS



Visit our new gay politics section, [AMERICAblog Gay](#).

FEEDS



Blog RSS



1,423 readers



AMERICAblog TV RSS



Twitter RSS

Twitter Feed



Mobile Version



Google

Get the blog by email:

Subscribe me!

Top Ad

[Advertise in this spot.](#)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The Treatment

Obama Has a Grown-Up Talk With America (Gulp)
46 minutes ago

Ezra Klein

Tab Dump
5 hours ago

Wonk Room

Sen. Byron Dorgan: The 'Trade' In Cap-And-Trade 'Makes No Sense To Me'

SEARCH

AMERICAblog
 Web

Search

SEND US TIPS & COMMENTS

americablog@starpower.net

BLOG ARCHIVE

Blog Archive

SITES WE LIKE

- [Air America Radio](#)
- [Alan Colmes' blog](#)
- [Ari Melber \(The Nation\)](#)
- [Ben Smith](#)
- [BicycleMark's blog & podcast](#)
- [Bilerico](#)
- [BradBlog](#)
- [Bring It On](#)
- [Carrie Fisher](#)
- [Crooks and Liars](#)
- [DailyKos](#)
- [Dan Savage's "Slog"](#)
- [Daou Report](#)
- [Democratic Underground](#)
- [Eschaton](#)
- [Ezra Klein](#)
- [Fire Dog Lake](#)
- [FiveThirtyEight.com](#)
- [Freeway Blogger](#)
- [The Gavel \(Speaker Pelosi's blog\)](#)
- [Good As You](#)
- [Glenn Greenwald](#)
- [Holy Bullies and Headless Monsters](#)
- [Huffington Post](#)
- [Hullabaloo \(Digby\)](#)
- [Jack and Jill Politics](#)
- [Jed Report](#)
- [Jesus' General](#)
- [Kenneth in the 212](#)
- [Margaret and Helen](#)
- [Matthew Gross](#)
- [Media Matters](#)
- [Mike Signorile's "The Gist"](#)
- [Mudflats](#)
- [MyDD](#)
- [Open Left](#)
- [Plum Line](#)
- [Political Punch \(Jake Tapper\)](#)
- [Political Wire](#)
- [Politics 1](#)
- [Pop Surfing](#)
- [Progressive Blog Digest](#)
- [Queers United](#)
- [RawStory](#)
- [Rex Wockner](#)
- [Rude Pundit](#)
- [Smirking Chimp](#)
- [Talk Left](#)
- [Tapped](#)
- [Taylor Marsh](#)
- [Think Progress](#)
- [TowleRoad](#)
- [VetVoice.com](#)
- [Washington Note](#)
- [WayneBesen.com](#)
- [Wonkette](#)
- [Worth Repeating](#)



NEWS LINKS

- [US](#)
- [Washington Post](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT AMERICABLOG

One-time donation

\$

Donate

Recurring monthly donation

\$

Donate

Donations are not tax-deductible.

LABELS

Select a label

LAST 100 VISITORS

Recent Visitors

[Click to Get](#) FEEDJIT

ABOUT AMERICABLOG

Why AMERICAblog?

Because a great nation deserves the truth.

What issues do you cover?

US politics overall with a particular focus on the Obama Administration, the radical right, and civil rights.

Who are you?

John Aravosis
Editor
Washington, DC

Joe Sudbay
Deputy Editor
Washington, DC

Chris Ryan
Associate Editor
Paris, France

Robert Arena
Contributing Editor
Baltimore, Maryland

Jacki Schechner
Contributing Editor
Washington, DC

