



G7 leaders offer flower wreaths at Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims.
(Photo taken by Manabu Hamaoka, in Hiroshima's Naka Ward, at 12:05 p.m., May 19)

G7 leaders visit Peace Memorial Park as Hiroshima Summit begins

May 19 marked the start of the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations) in Hiroshima. Leaders of the participating nations and regions, including the nuclear nations of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, as well as the European Union (EU), together visited Peace Memorial Park, in Hiroshima's centrally located Naka Ward, and memorialized the victims of the A-bombing in what was a historic moment for the A-bombed city.

Reaching Hiroshima by the morning May 19, the leaders arrived at Peace Park one after the other in a convoy of vehicles. There they were greeted by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and other Japanese officials. After touring the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the group of visitors walked over to the Cenotaph for the A-Bomb

Victims. Leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, and French President Emmanuel Macron, each offered a wreath of flowers and observed a moment of silence in front of the cenotaph.

Other participating G7 leaders are Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, European Council President Charles Michel, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The summit meeting is set to be held over three days, through May 21, and the first day is expected to feature discussions of such issues as the situation in Ukraine as well as nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Other leaders from eight nations, including Narendra Modi, prime minister of the nuclear power India, and Yoon

Suk Yeol, president of South Korea, will join an expanded summit meeting scheduled to begin on May 20 and visit Peace Memorial Park on May 21. During the summit period, Hiroshima citizens other than those involved in the summit are not permitted to enter Peace Park and traffic controls will continue to be in place on roadways in the city area.

This G7 summit is the first to be hosted in Hiroshima. Amid a situation in which Russia has threatened the use of nuclear weapons following its invasion of Ukraine, the focus of the summit is whether the leaders can exhibit the will to achieve a world without nuclear weapons and provide concrete measures to make progress toward that goal, after directly coming into contact with the horror of the atomic bombing in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima.

