

Blair launches farewell tour in Libya

by UPI

TRIPOLI, Libya - British Prime Minister Tony Blair embarked on his so-called legacy farewell tour to Africa Tuesday with a visit to Libya to meet leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Blair, who steps down as Labor Party leader and prime minister at the end of the month, traveled from London with a number of documentary filmmakers and magazine journalists to document the trip, The Times of London reported.

In view of the farewell nature of the African visit, which also includes stops in Sierra Leone and South Africa, rules were relaxed to allow television crews to film aboard Blair's aircraft, the report said.

Blair played an influential role in Libya's decision in 2003 to dismantle its stock of biological weapons and return no longer as a pariah state in the African Union.

The report said among the items on Blair's agenda for discussion with Gadhafi was a call to support tougher U.N. sanctions against Sudan to stop the 4-year-old genocide in the western region of Darfur.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Blair launches farewell tour in Libya by UPI