



COPYRIGHT 2003 XINHUA NEWS AGENCY
XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

THE MATERIALS IN THE XINHUA FILE WERE COMPILED BY THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.
THESE MATERIALS MAY NOT BE REPUBLISHED WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT
OF THE XINHUA NEWS AGENCY.

January 19, 2003, Sunday 11:42 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL

LENGTH: 192 words

HEADLINE: Thousands join anti-war marches in France

BODY:

PARIS, Jan. 18 (Xinhua) --Thousands of protesters took to the streets in a dozen of French cities on Saturday afternoon to demonstrate against a looming US-led war on Iraq.

About 1,000 demonstrators marched in central Paris behind a slogan reading "**No to war** against Iraq, yes to a world of justice, peace and democracy." The opposition Socialist party joined the protest and planned to distribute 500,000 copies of pacifist petition calling on the French authorities to use its veto power when the United Nations Security Council authorizes the use of force against Iraq.

The rally launched by about 40 national organizations, associations, labor unions and leftist parties, also hit streets in other 40 more towns and cities across France such as Marseilles, Lyon, Montpellier and Toulouse, reported French radios.

"The public opinion could push for a firm position of France, which holds the presidency of the UN Security Council in January, so that France will have its categorical refusal to military intervention heard, even by the use of its veto if necessary," said Regine Minetti, spokesman of the Movement of Peace.

LOAD-DATE: January 18, 2003

[◀ prev](#) Document 7 of 53 [next ▶](#)