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No conflict with UN job: Martin

Last Updated Fri, 25 Jul 2003 22:12:24

NEW YORK - Paul Martin says Canada needs to play a larger role on the international stage, and his new appointment as co-chair of a UN commission on development fits that.

UN Secretary Kofi Annan announced the Commission on the Private Sector and Development on Friday. Martin's co-chair is former Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo.

The commission will look at ways to help private-sector economies in developing countries.

The commission is due to file a report in November, about the time Martin is expected to win the leadership of the federal Liberal party. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has announced he will step down in February.



Heritage Minister Sheila Copps is the only other candidate to replace Chrétien, and she is widely thought to be trailing by a large margin.

Martin says there's no conflict between his role as a UN commissioner and his campaign for the Liberal leadership – and the office of prime minister.

"We're breaking new ground here, and in terms of what may be my new job, I think that Canada has to play a very important role in the international area and we have to play it in areas where we are breaking new ground," he said.

Written by CBC News Online staff

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