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HEADLINE: MARTIN HEADS UN **COMMISSION** ON FIGHTING POVERTY

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Paul Martin sees no conflict with heading up a United Nations **commission** while running for the job of Canada's prime minister.

Martin has been named as co-chairman of a UN **commission** that is designed to boost the **private-sector** economies of developing countries. The appointment was made official Friday in New York.

Former Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo will be co-chairman with Martin of the **Commission** on the **Private Sector** and Development, which was convened by Mark Malloch Brown, head of the UN Development Program.

The **commission** is to report back by the end of the year with recommendations on the role businesses, especially small businesses based in developing countries, can have in creating jobs and fighting poverty.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan announced the initiative, saying he hoped the **commission** would provide "both a fresh analysis of these issues and practical proposals that can have an impact."

Martin said the **commission** aims to place the ambitions of local, small-scale entrepreneurs at the heart of efforts to spark economic growth.

"The entrepreneurial spirit is everywhere; it doesn't need to be imported," he said at a news conference announcing the **commission**.

"People want a hand up, not a handout. They want a fair chance."

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