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[Archives: 1, 2, 3, 4]

Subject: Martin Proposes Major International Role for Canada

[Next Thread | Previous Thread | Next Message | Previous Message]

Author:

Nola

Author Host/IP:

1Cust8.tnt1.chatham.on.da.uu.net /
216.95.136.8

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Martin proposes major international role for Canada

By SHAWN McCARTHY

From Saturday's Globe and Mail

Ottawa — Liberal leadership front-runner Paul Martin took his campaign yesterday, saying he wants Canada to play a leading role in Third World international affairs.

Mr. Martin joined Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York for the launch of a commission on the private sector and development, a commission that he says will be headed by former Mexican president Ernesto Zedillo.

In a telephone interview, Mr. Martin said a more robust role for Canada would yield dividends when, for example, countries such as Japan shut Canadian

"I happen to think that Canada's role in the world is very important and that the fact that we are seen to be playing an important role in the world gives us a great deal of leverage to deal with, for instance, the Japanese in terms of BSE [bovine spongiform encephalopathy — mad-cow disease] or the Americans," he said.

While he described it as a personal initiative, Mr. Martin said his co-chairing of the commission, which will recommend measures aimed at increasing indigenous investment in developing countries — is an illustration of his approach to foreign policy.

"This is an area where I think Canada can chart out a position of major leadership that is much consistent with my vision of Canada playing a leading role on the world stage," he said.

Progressive Conservative Leader Peter MacKay criticized Mr. Martin's U.S. tour, saying most people expect to be the next prime minister of Canada should be concentrating on domestic issues.

"Mr. Martin's priorities are out of kilter," Mr. MacKay said. "Helping developing countries develop their economies is important and necessary. But at this particular time, Mr. Martin should be concentrating his energies here at home."

Mr. Martin said Mr. MacKay is guilty of "tunnel vision."

He said asserting Canada's position would only help domestic interests, w much-needed leadership to the broader world, as Canada did when it was behind the formation of UN peacekeeping.

He said he agrees with critics who argue Canada has not maintained its in stage. In the past, Mr. Martin has said the federal government will have to to foreign affairs and the military to re-establish that influence.

But yesterday, he emphasized Canadian leadership in international organi United Nations and World Bank, which are the primary agencies for inter.

The former finance minister said the part-time appointment will not detrac campaign for the Liberal Party leadership, nor does it suggest he is taking

"The situation is not too unlike that of cabinet ministers who were running responsibilities as cabinet ministers which I did not have," he said.

Mr. Martin said the UN work is a personal priority for him but also repres sees a Martin-led government playing on the world stage.

"I believe that as the global village gets smaller, there is a tremendous nee to take place to make globalization work for everybody."

Mr. Martin has been a major proponent of trade and financial liberalizatio World development and of increases in debt relief and foreign-aid budget:

(He cut Canada's foreign-aid budget as part of Ottawa's deficit fight in the that was necessary because Canada's "back was against the wall.")

Yesterday, he said those global policies are necessary but will not bear fru Third World build up their own private capital.

Countries need to remove roadblocks to their own entrepreneurs, includin requirements and corrupt practices, he said.

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[[Next Thread](#) | [Previous Thread](#) | [Next Message](#) | [Previous Message](#)]

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Subject	Author	Date
Re: Martin Proposes more bizz for CSL	Worrisome indeed.	05:06:01 07/26/03 Sat
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