

# Foreign Policy is High on PM's List

Will use APEC forum to discuss Middle East, Haiti  
Talks with Bush will be warm-up for visit to Ottawa

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SANTIAGO, CHILE—Mad cow disease and softwood lumber will be back on the table when Paul Martin meets U.S. President George W. Bush this morning. But trade irritants won't be the only items up for discussion as the two leaders lay the groundwork for Bush's two-day trip to Ottawa on Nov. 30. Martin's energy will also be devoted to foreign policy and what he calls "the new multilateralism."

"I will certainly begin with BSE and softwood lumber," the Prime Minister said yesterday while attending the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum. "I will as well be raising a number of foreign policy issues. I want to set the stage for the discussions in Ottawa in terms of the Middle East and in terms of Haiti."

Last Sunday, Martin flew to Haiti for a one-day visit, and later in the week indicated he wants to discuss how Canada can become more involved in the Middle East peace process. Martin said he has already offered Canada's expertise in organizing and monitoring elections to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Mahmoud Abbas.

In the Chilean capital yesterday, Martin got an advance taste of what will probably await Bush on his visit to Ottawa. Tens of thousands of people streamed through central Santiago carrying banners and chanting slogans against the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq, including "Fascist Bush is a terrorist." The president arrived late yesterday for a visit that has been a lightning rod for protests. Roads were blocked as about 20,000 demonstrators converged on downtown Santiago, shouting and waving signs. The police cleared the crowd with tear gas and water cannons, and 40 demonstrators were arrested.

"I saw some of the protestors as we drove by. I'm glad to see that it would appear that, while we all speak different languages, sign language is universal," Martin said, commenting on the demonstrators' response to his motorcade. Martin said he has never objected to protesters. "I think demonstrations, such as the beginnings of the ones we saw out there, are an essential part of democracy," he said. "As long as they're done peacefully ... then I think it's an important part of the evolution of policy and the way the world works."

Martin, who arrived here yesterday, kicked off the APEC conference with bilateral meetings with President Tran Duc Luong of Vietnam and with President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea. Canada hopes to nail down a free-trade treaty with South Korea that could offer major inroads into the Asian market. Martin said the rest of his 10-day trip, which will also take him to Brazil, Burkina Faso and Sudan, is being undertaken in the context of what he called "the need for a new multilateralism."

"In many ways, when I talk about that new multilateralism, you're going to see a direct correlation (with) the values we all hold as Canadians," he said. "I think it is, to a certain extent, a view of the world that reflects the values that we have built up and that we share in our own country."

Martin talked passionately about the need to create new multilateral institutions for the 21st century, just as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund were created after World War II. Those institutions, he said, are in need of reform.

"They're in need of reform on a vision of what multilateralism is all about, not based on the multilateralism of 1945 or the multilateralism of the 1980s and the 1990s, but a multilateralism based on a very different set of perspectives because of the very different circumstances within which we operate," he said.

Martin is using his meetings with foreign leaders, both here at APEC, in Brazil, and at the Sommet de la Francophonie next week in Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, to promote his idea of an L-20: a new group of leaders that would include not only the G-8 leaders, but also rising economies like China, Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Korea and Mexico.

As finance minister, Martin was instrumental in the creation of the G-20, a group of finance ministers from those countries. Now he wants to have a parallel group of leaders.