

# A VISION FOR CANADA IN THE WORLD

When Paul Martin became Prime Minister of Canada last December, he identified three priorities for his incoming government. The first is strengthening the social foundations of Canada. The second is building a modern, efficient economy. The third—and for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the most central—is ensuring a place of “influence and pride” for Canada in the world.

For Mr. Martin, who fondly recalls the role his father played as Minister of External Affairs in the government of Lester Pearson in the 1960s, it is imperative that Canada be an active, engaged citizen of the world. For

him, this means understanding, first and foremost, the power and impulses of the United States, our closest neighbour and friend. But it also means running a *global* foreign policy that supports multi-lateral institutions (which Canada helped to found and shape) and that is alive to commerce and trade (which generates about a third of our wealth).

“Canada is best when we exercise a strong and independent voice in the world,” said the Prime Minister, a view that will shape what his government does abroad. In fact, when he and his new cabinet were sworn in on December 12,

the government announced that it would conduct the most comprehensive review of the country’s foreign and defence policies in a generation. At the same time, it announced that it would restructure the machinery of government, establishing new cabinet committees and creating a separate Department of International Trade.

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**“Canadians want their country to play a distinctive and independent role in making the world more secure, more peaceful, more cooperative, more open. They want to see Canada’s place of pride and influence in the world restored.”**

—Speech from the Throne

The Canadian Peacekeeping Monument in Ottawa.

photo: CIDA-ACDI/Pierre Sr-Jacques



A kindergarten in Mali is improved through Canadian aid.



photo: Meryl Frank Hudec, Canadian Forces, Combat Camera