

US must ask permission to launch over Canada

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Mr. Martin said Friday, however, that ?we would expect to be consulted. This is our airspace, we're a sovereign nation and you don't intrude on a sovereign nation's airspace without seeking permission.?

Now we need to set up the protocols that make this work. And what happens if we say, "NO, do not launch over our air space or we would consider it an act of war." Just like running submarines and icebreakers through Canadian Arctic waters without our permission. -- Space & Technology Editor

U.S. must consult on missiles, Martin insists

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<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20050225.wmiss0225/BNStory/National/>

Ottawa ? Prime Minister Paul Martin is insisting that United States seek permission before firing any missiles over Canada.

The insistence came Friday in response to warnings that Canada has abdicated part of its sovereignty by refusing to take part in the U.S. missile-defence project.

The top U.S. envoy to Canada ? Paul Cellucci ? said Thursday that Canada would be ?outside of the room? while the United States decided whether to fire at incoming missiles.

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Mr. Martin repeated Friday that Canada reaffirmed its sovereignty this week with a \$12.8-billion investment over five years to help rebuild the military.

Mr. Cellucci said Canada has abdicated its say over how a potential missile attack would be thwarted.

?We will deploy. We will defend North America,? he said.

?We simply cannot understand why Canada would in effect give up its sovereignty ? its seat at the table ? to decide what to do about a missile that might be coming towards Canada.?

Canadians might not worry about being targets of a missile launch but, Mr. Cellucci noted, anything fired at the United States could very well pass over its northern neighbour.

?I personally don't think it's in Canada's sovereign interest to be outside of the room when a decision is made about a missile that might be incoming toward Canada,? he has said.