

Canada says NO? to missile defence

Written by

Wednesday, 23 February 2005 01:36 - Last Updated Wednesday, 23 February 2005 01:36

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We need to know EXACTLY what the Americans were told – we need to know exactly what the decision is. The Mulroney government released its verbatim decision/message to the Americans (that research into SDI did not – accord with Canadian arms control priorities and that accordingly the Canadian government would not participate but private companies were free to bid on contracts.) Most importantly, we need a commitment from the PM that this issue will NOT be put back on the table again at the time of the next NORAD renewal which is only a year off.

www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2005/02/22/mckenna-missile050222.html

Date: Tue, 22 Feb 2005 22:51:52 -0700 From: Victoria Peace Coalition
<dolcla@islandnet.com> Subject: Canada says NO? to missile defence
- CBC

I just heard the news (a little leak?) that Paul Martin will announce this week that Canada will not participate in missile defence. See the story.

Thanks to Pierre for sending the URL.

<https://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2005/02/22/mckenna-missile050222.htm>
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Susan Clarke Ph: 250-478-6906

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2180 Cranleigh Place

Victoria V8R 1E2

Date: Wed, 23 Feb 2005 06:37:47 -0500 Subject: Re: CANADA WILL SAY NO TO BMD ON THURSDAY!!!!!!!!!! From: Peggy Mason <peggymason@bellnet.ca> To: Mathieu St-Laurent nocanadainbmd@hotmail.com , <peace@watserv1.uwaterloo.ca>, ICIS-Institute for Cooperation in Space alw@peaceinspace.com

Dear All,

As they say, it ain't over until.... See the comment below in red from the Canadian official:

"[The Americans] were told we will not participate," a federal official, who asked to remain anonymous, told the agency.

"It is a firm 'no.' I am not sure it is an **indefinite** 'no.'"

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So there are some important questions to be asked in the House of Commons.

Note also that, incredibly, Stephen Harper accused the government of signing the NORAD amendment – in secret . This suggests a dangerous level of incompetence in the Conservative front benches.

Finally, we REALLY need to counter the media spin that Martin caved to misplaced public fears and now Canada will have no say in how the missiles will be deployed and used AS IF WE EVER WERE GOING TO HAVE SUCH A SAY. Mike Duffy on CTV went so far as to ridicule Martin saying: – And when the Americans are deciding where to shoot the missile down, and they say – oh let’s do it over Canada – we will have no say in this. We’ll just be saying, oh well, over Canada. The level of ignorance in the MEDIA is staggering.

So no rest for the good guys yet!!!

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Best regards,

Peggy Mason

Chair, The Group of 78

Contact Info

Ms. Peggy Mason

2077 Kinburn Side Road,

RR# 2 Kinburn, Ontario

K0A 2H0

tel: (613) 832-9322;

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Written by

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fax: 832-9323

EMAIL: peggymason@bellnet.ca

No Canada in BMD Project

<https://www.cbc.ca/story/canada/national/2005/02/22/mckenna-missile050222.html>

Martin will reject missile defence: report

Last Updated Tue, 22 Feb 2005 21:49:56 EST

CBC News

OTTAWA - Prime Minister Paul Martin will reject Canadian participation in the full U.S. missile defence program, CBC News has learned.

Martin plans to announce in the House of Commons as early as Thursday that the country will not partake fully in the controversial program, the CBC's French-language network reported Tuesday.

The news comes hours after Canada's next ambassador to the United States, Frank McKenna, set off a storm by saying Canada is already taking part in the program because it has agreed Norad can monitor the skies for incoming missiles.

Martin's planned announcement will mark an abrupt change from his position 16 months ago during the Liberal leadership race, when he signaled that Canada should partake in missile defence. Since then, Martin has insisted that he hasn't reached a decision on whether Canada

should be a full partner.

Prime Minister Paul Martin will reject the missile shield as early as Thursday, the CBC has learned.

And just two months ago, U.S. President George W. Bush pressed Martin publicly to sign on, saying on a visit to Halifax that he hoped the two countries would soon move forward to

co-operate on ballistic missile defence.

But federal officials, who wished to remain anonymous, told the CBC's Radio-Canada that domestic considerations may have outweighed pressure from Washington.

Martin's government lost its majority last spring and the Bloc Qu?b?cois and the New Democrats oppose the plan, while the Conservatives support it but want a full debate on Canada's role.

As well, Martin faces stiff resistance in his own caucus. The Liberals also want to improve their fortunes in Quebec, where there seems to be little support for missile defence.

Federal officials told the Canadian Press that the United States was informed of Canada's decision at the NATO summit in Brussels.

"[The Americans] were told we will not participate," a federal official, who asked to remain anonymous, told the agency.

"It is a firm 'no.' I am not sure it is an indefinite 'no.'"

Canada already 'part of' missile defence: McKenna

Earlier Tuesday, McKenna, a former New Brunswick premier, delivered an opposite message outside a meeting of the foreign affairs committee, which is examining his appointment as the next ambassador to the United States.

* FROM JAN. 5, 2005: McKenna invited to be Canada's ambassador to U.S.

"I believe that we've given in large measure what the Americans want, which is the ability to use

Norad and their intercept information in order to be able to target weaponry," he said.

Canada agreed last August to allow Norad, the joint Canada-U.S. air defence command, to share information it gathers with the people running the U.S. missile defence program.

* FROM AUG. 6, 2004: Norad

change isn't step toward joining missile defence: Graham

McKenna's comments touched
off a fiery exchange in the

House of Commons.

"They don't want to tell the population that we've got our arm in the wringer of the washing machine and it's sucking us in," charged Bloc Qu?b?cois MP Michel Gauthier.

But Defence Minister Bill

Graham repeatedly insisted that there is no contradiction between what McKenna said Tuesday and what the Liberal government has been saying all along.

"Canada's position is not a done deal," he said, adding that the Liberals have not signed off on issues such as "how it works and ultimate deployment" of U.S. weapons

to shoot down incoming
missiles aimed at North
American targets.

Conservative Leader Stephen
Harper wasn't buying the
distinction.

Frank McKenna said earlier Tuesday that Canada was already 'part of' missile defence.

"How could this prime minister secretly make this decision, so clearly breaking every commitment he's made to this house and to Canadians?" he asked during Question Period.

"All the ambassador said is that we signed a Norad agreement," Graham replied. "If that's a surprise to the leader of the opposition, it is certainly not a surprise to us."

U.S. has 'great deal' of what it needs: McKenna

McKenna told reporters he

believes the U.S. now has much of what it needs to operate a "modest ballistic missile defence program."

When asked by reporters if Canada was part of the program, he said: "We are. We're part of it now and the question is, what more we need."

"There's no doubt, in looking back, that the Norad amendment has given, has created part ? in fact a great deal ? of what the United States means in terms of being able to get the input for defensive weaponry," he said.

McKenna says the United States has not asked Canada for financial support for the program and it hasn't asked to

put missile interceptors on
Canadian territory.

He says he's not sure what
Bush means when he calls for
Canada to sign on to the
program.

The Liberals were expected to
debate Canada's full
participation in missile defence

at the party's national
convention in two weeks.