

Liberals Abandoning Lester B. Pearson for George W. Bush, Group Fears

Written by

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Polaris (Ottawa): Prime Minister Martin's long awaited International Policy Statement is raising concerns amongst defence and security experts who support Canada's traditional role as a supporter of UN peacekeeping missions and international law. "The Liberals are using the billions of dollars in increased defence spending to build up a military that is more suited to help the Americans fight their next pre-emptive war than to support UN peacekeeping," said Steven Staples, a defence analyst with the Polaris Institute which is a public-interest research group based in Ottawa.

www.polarisinstitute.org

Canada's International Policy statement is at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/cip-pic/ips/ips-overview3-en.asp

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In one of the most contentious objectives, the International Policy Statement released today expressed the Liberal government's intention to transform the military so it is capable of deploying quickly with U.S. forces, as well as greatly expanding Canada's secret commando force, JTF2, for counter-insurgency operations.

"This policy statement was written in Washington ? not in Canada," said Staples. "Increased Canadian military integration with the United States military will undermine Canada's ability to pursue an independent foreign policy and bring our military into conflict with the spirit, if not the letter of international law."

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?We can have an independent military that supports the United Nations and international law, or we can have a military that?s tied to the Pentagon ? but we can?t have both,? said Staples.

(30)

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