

**Martin informed about his business while minister: report**

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A newspaper report published Friday says Paul Martin received regular briefings on major business affairs of Canada Steamship Lines when he was federal finance minister.

The National Post says senior company executives also briefed him on the purchase of two ocean freighters from a low-wage Chinese shipyard.

Sources say Martin was called to a meeting with federal ethics counsellor Howard Wilson and was told Montreal-based CSL had contracted Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai in 1996.

The contract was to build two bulk cargo ships at a cost of about \$45-million dollars each.

The report says a third vessel, owned by a German firm that operates under a CSL shipping pool, was built at the same shipyard.

Wilson would not confirm that Martin was informed of the building of the ships in China, however he tells the Post that Martin was regularly informed about CSL business dealings.

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