



Prosperity, Protection and Ethics: The three pillars of UK foreign policy.

Introduction

The days of the British colonial empire are gone and consigned to history.

So what is Britain's place in the world today under a Labour led government? Our foreign policy revolves around three pillars, peace, prosperity and ethics. It is the duty of the UK government to encourage peace abroad in the hope it will make our own Island safer, it is the duty of the UK government to ensure prosperity abroad in order to ensure prosperity at home and it is the duty of the UK government to act with ethics at the forefront of everything we do on the world stage.

Prosperity

The UK will take a leading role in the development of European integration. The common market has benefited many business, small, medium and large alike, and our goal is to seek deeper integration with European Union countries after the ratification of the treaty of Maastrich. One of the major implications of the treaty of Maastrich is a common foreign and security policy, with ethics, prosperity and protection in mind, the UK will take a lead in forming the CFSP of the EU.

Whilst the EU forms an incredibly important part of the prosperity pillar of UK foreign policy we need to look beyond Europe in an increasingly globalised world. It is time to see if the benefits of a common European market can be expanded. We have the privilege of being a common wealth countries and the possibility of a free trade agreement between countries such as Canada and Australia should be considered as a priority of UK foreign policy within the prosperity pillar.

Protection

The world has become interconnected. The world has also become more unstable. Events in the USA and Sudan have shaken the world and the UK's foreign policy needs to reflect this. Our policy in Sudan is once again informed by the three pillars of UK foreign policy, protection, prosperity and ethics. We currently have an opportunity to stabilise a country which has experienced prolonged periods of instability and civil war. We will work either our NATO partners to ensure stability in this country in order to provide safety from terrorism to our own citizens. A safer Sudan means a safer

world and our priorities in this country involve the removal of all terrorist training camps, and the investment of resources in order to ensure the rapid development of a country which will have no desire to harbour terrorists if life is better for its average citizens.

The UK stands alongside our NATO and EU allies to ensure that no nation in the world will harbour terrorists who threaten the values of democracy and freedom. We will work with the UN and our allies to ensure that military and or economic action will be taken against any country whose actions threaten democratic values and freedom.

The situation in East Germany is unacceptable in the eyes of the UK government. It is time for the UK to step up its efforts and support for the self determination of German people in any way which does not threaten world stability. The UK government believes that the situation in East Germany should be dealt with as a priority and a strategy should be formed as part of the EU's CFSP.

Ethics

It is right that all people should be free. It is right that all people should be treated equally. It is right that all people should enjoy basic rights. The UK government will take steps in promoting these values abroad. In order to properly promote these values we have to re-examine how we financially aid countries. The UK will work with our allies and if possible the UN in ensuring that foreign aid is depoliticised and spent by an independent, and international organisation, rather than by governments. For too long foreign aid has been used by governments to coax nations into doing particular things. Foreign aid should be used to develop nations and help the people who need the most help. An international organisation should be set up with full spending powers. They should be charged with spending a pool of foreign aid from multiple countries. Foreign aid should no longer be given to countries, but organisations who operate within recipient countries should bid for funding for projects, and funding should be awarded on the basis of what will be accomplished.

Transparency is key and how knowledge of how foreign aid is spent should be in the public domain.

Foreign aid spending is not the only way the UK can promote ethics abroad. When these values are threatened by terrorists, governments or individuals, the UK should be prepared to act in any way necessary to ensure a more ethical, prosperous and protected world.

By Max Spencer



