

Envoy praises Australia, U.S. ties

[CITY Edition]

St. Petersburg Times - St. Petersburg, Fla.

Author: GILLIAN GAYNAIR

Date: May 17, 1990

Start Page: 3.B

Section: TAMPA BAY AND STATE

Text Word Count: 286

Document Text

The United States should continue its relations with Australia and persevere in its fight against drugs, the U.S. ambassador to Australia said Wednesday.

"Congress is not doing enough or passing enough laws. . . . You've got to get tough with the drug problem in the U.S. or it's going to eat us up," said Ambassador Mel Sembler, speaking to a home town audience at the Tiger Bay Club at the St. Petersburg Hilton Inn and Tower.

Sembler, a shopping center developer and chairman of the Sembler Co., was appointed by President Bush in October. At the time Senate Democrats criticized his lack of foreign policy experience, and some questioned his contributions of more than \$100,000 to Bush's 1988 presidential campaign.

Sembler, who established Straight Inc., an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program, said he believes this country's anti-drug messages are having an impact, but he criticized U.S. officials for not doing enough.

Sembler also said he was impressed with various American agencies represented in Australia, mentioning military personnel and one of the three NASA space tracking stations. He also stressed that the success of U.S. organizations depends greatly on the relationship between the two nations.

"I don't know any closer association between nations than the one between the United States and Australia. . . . We share the same democratic heritage and respect for humanity and human rights," he said.

"Let me assure you that I'm optimistic with the valuable relationship between the U.S. and Australia. . . . It's anchored in friendship and mutual values," Sembler said. "We will be working hard to assure this valuable alliance with our good friends Down Under remains strong."

[Illustration]

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO; Caption: Mel Sembler was appointed by President Bush in October

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

Abstract (Document Summary)

The United States should continue its relations with Australia and persevere in its fight against drugs, the U.S. ambassador to Australia said Wednesday.

"Congress is not doing enough or passing enough laws. . . . You've got to get tough with the drug problem in the U.S. or it's going to eat us up," said Ambassador Mel Sembler, speaking to a home town audience at the Tiger Bay Club at the St. Petersburg Hilton Inn and Tower.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.