



CANADA

Stephen Harper



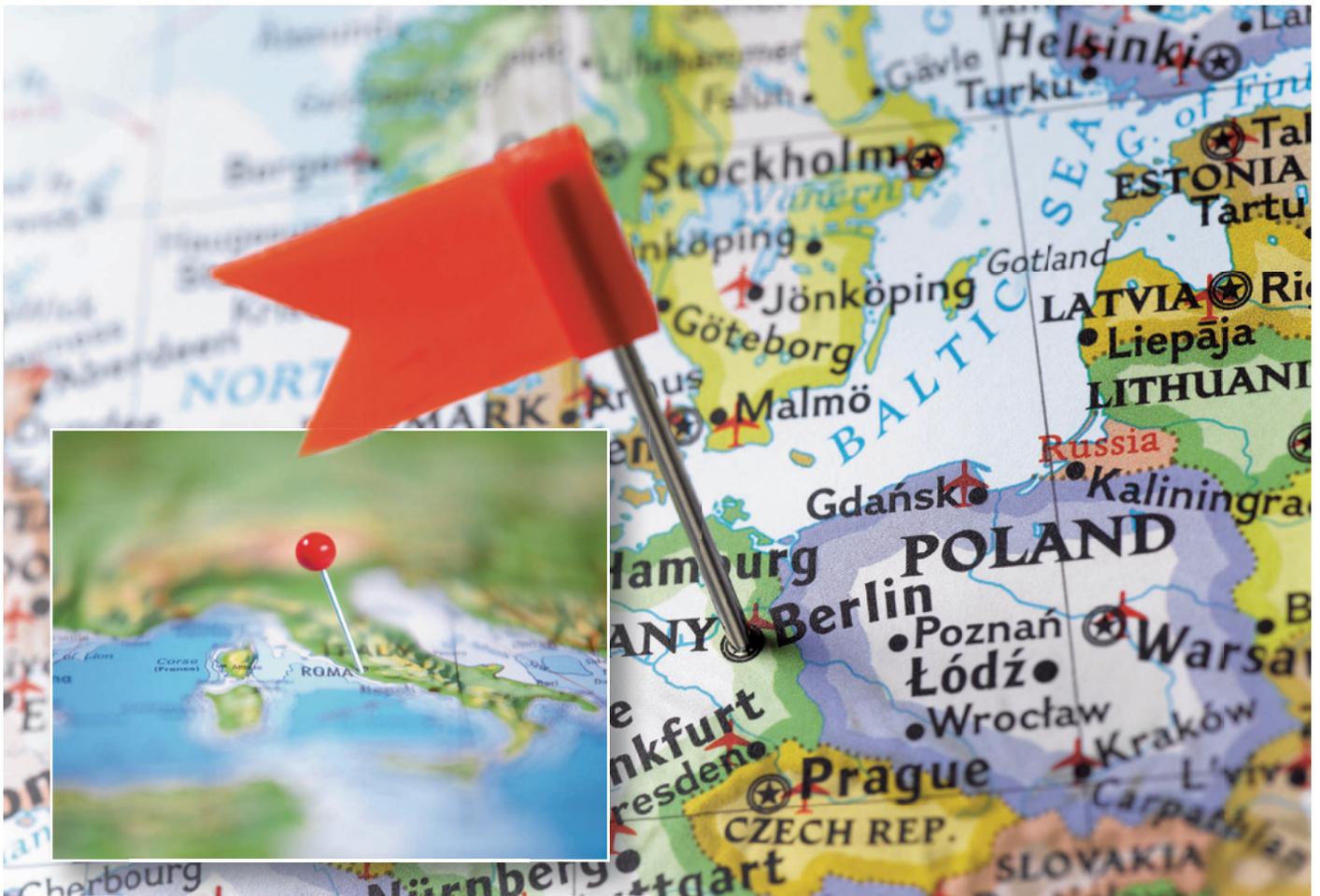
Stephen Harper was elected prime minister of Canada in January 2006, assuming office from Paul Martin in February with a minority government. Harper ran for re-election in 2008 and again on 2 May 2011, when he returned to the House of Commons with a majority. Before running for politics he served as a policy advisor for the Reform Party. He was first elected as a member of parliament in 1993. He served as leader of the opposition for several years before becoming prime minister. Harper was born in Toronto, Ontario, on 30 April 1959. He studied at the University of Toronto and the University of Calgary, earning his master's degree in economics in 1991. He and his wife, Laureen, have two children. This will be the sixth G8 summit that Harper has attended.
Sherpa: Gérald Cossette

FRANCE

Nicolas Sarkozy



Nicolas Sarkozy became president of France in 2007, taking over from Jacques Chirac, who had held the position since 1995. Sarkozy worked as a lawyer while he pursued politics. From 1983 to 2002, he was mayor of Neuilly-sur-Seine. He has been president of the Union pour un Mouvement Populaire since 2004. During his time in parliament he has held several cabinet portfolios, including minister of state of the economy, finance and industry, minister of the budget and minister of the interior. Sarkozy was born in Paris on 28 January 1955 and received his law degree from the Université de Paris in 1978. He is married to Carla Bruni and has three children from two previous marriages. This will be the fifth G8 summit that Sarkozy has attended, and his first as host.
Sherpa: Jean-David Levitte



GERMANY

Angela Merkel



Angela Merkel became chancellor of Germany in 2005, replacing Gerhard Schröder, who had been in power since 1998. Before entering politics she worked as a researcher and physicist. She was first elected to the Bundestag in 1990 and has held the cabinet portfolios for women and youth, environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety. She was born in Hamburg on 17 July 1956 and received her doctorate in physics from the University of Leipzig in 1978. She is married to Joachim Sauer and has no children. This will be the sixth G8 summit that Merkel has attended.

Sherpa: Uwe Corsepius

ITALY

Silvio Berlusconi



Silvio Berlusconi became prime minister of Italy for the third time after winning the 2008 election. Before entering politics, he started his career as a building contractor. In 1980, he established Canale 5, the first private national television network in Italy. He also became a leading Italian publisher with Mondadori. In 1994 he resigned from Gruppo Fininvest in order to establish the political movement Forza Italia. In the same year, he became president of the Council of Ministers for the first time. In 2001 he became prime minister again – an office he held until 2006. Born in Milan on 29 September 1936, he received his law degree from the University of Milan. He is married to Veronica Lario and has five children. This will be the tenth G8 summit that Berlusconi has attended.

Sherpa: Bruno Archi



JAPAN

Naota Kan



Naota Kan became prime minister of Japan on 8 June 2010, replacing Yukio Hatoyama, who had held the position since September 2009. Kan was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1980. He has served as minister of health and welfare, minister of state for science and technology, deputy prime minister and minister of finance. Kan was born in Ube City, Yamaguichi Prefecture, on 10 October 1946. He graduated from the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1970 and opened a patent office in 1974. He is married and has two children. This will be the second G8 summit that Kan has attended.
 Sherpa: Shinichi Nishimaya

RUSSIA

Dmitry Medvedev



Dmitry Medvedev became president of Russia in 2008, after winning the presidential election and replacing Vladimir Putin, whose term in office had expired. Before entering politics, Medvedev worked as a legal expert and lawyer. He was officially endorsed as a presidential candidate in December 2007 by United Russia, Russia's largest political party. Medvedev served as deputy prime minister from 2005 to 2008. He was born in Leningrad – now St Petersburg – on 14 September 1965. He earned a degree in law in 1987 and a doctorate in private law in 1990 from Leningrad State University. He is married to Svetlana Medvedeva and they have one child. This will be the fourth G8 summit that Medvedev has attended.
 Sherpa: Arkady Dvorkovich



UNITED KINGDOM

David Cameron



David Cameron became prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 11 May 2010. He was first elected to parliament in 2001 as representative for Witney. Before becoming a politician he worked for the Conservative Research Department, and served as a political strategist and advisor to the Conservative Party. He has served as the leader of the Conservative Party since December 2005. Born in London, England, on 9 October 1966, he received his bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics and economics at the University of Oxford. He is married to Samantha Sheffield and has two children. This will be Cameron's second G8 summit.

Sherpa: Jonathan Cunliffe

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Barack Obama



Barack Obama became president of the United States in January 2009, replacing George W Bush, who had held the presidency since 2002. In 2005 Obama was elected to the Senate, having previously worked as a community organiser, a civil rights lawyer and a state legislator for Illinois. He was born on 4 August 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a Kenyan father and American mother. He received a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1983 and a law degree from Harvard University in 1991. He is married to Michelle Obama and they have two children. This will be the third G8 summit that Obama has attended.

Sherpa: Michael Froman

EUROPEAN UNION

Herman Van Rompuy



Herman Van Rompuy was elected the first full-time president of the European Council on 19 November 2010. He was previously prime minister of Belgium from 2008 to 2009. Before entering politics, he was a lecturer. Born in Etterbeek, Belgium, on 31 October 1947, he holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's in applied economics from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. He is married to Geertrui Windels and has four children. This will be the second G8 summit that Van Rompuy has attended.

José Manuel Barroso



José Manuel Barroso became president of the European Commission in November 2004. Previously, he was prime minister of Portugal from 2002 to 2004. Before entering politics, he was an academic. He studied law at the University of Lisbon, holds a master's degree in economics and social sciences from the University of Geneva, and received his doctorate from Georgetown University in 1998. He is married to Maria Margarida Pinto Ribeiro de Sousa Uva and has three children. This is Barroso's seventh G8 summit.

Sherpa: Franciskus van Daele

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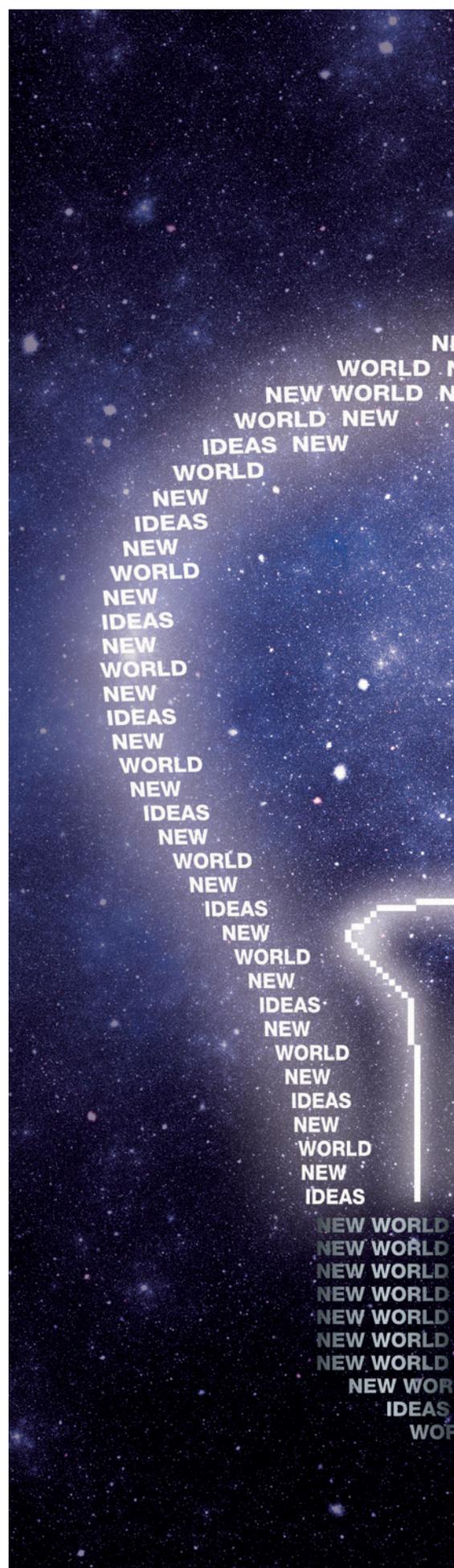
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