

## APPENDIX 4

### PUBLIC OPINION

Many polls measuring Canadian attitudes on arms control, defence, foreign policy, and regional conflict issues were conducted between July 1988 and July 1989. The following is a summary of many of these, categorized under the subject headings of Canadian Defence Policy; Canadian Foreign Policy; and International Affairs.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Canadian Defence Policy*

In July 1988, Gallup Canada asked 1033 Canadians, regardless of their voting preference in the upcoming federal election, which federal leader best represented their way of thinking on a number of national issues, including defence. The survey found that 39 percent of the respondents did not know which leader came closest to their way of thinking on defence matters; 29 percent stated Brian Mulroney; 14 percent, John Turner; 10 percent, Ed Broadbent; and 9 percent, none of the leaders.

Gallup asked 1033 Canadians in July 1988 for their opinion on the issue of mandatory one-year military training for young men. Forty-five percent of the populace favoured such a proposal, 50 percent were opposed and 5 percent had no opinion. Military training for women received less support, with 31 percent in favour, 63 percent opposed and 7 percent having no opinion.

The same poll also asked respondents who deemed themselves capable of serving in the military whether they would fight for their country. Over half--56 percent--stated they would fight for Canada; 17 percent stated it would depend on the immediate circumstances of the conflict; 23 percent said they would not fight; and 5 percent did not know.

In a poll conducted by Angus Reid and Associates for the Department of Finance in July 1988, 1505 respondents were asked to rate the importance they placed on nineteen different issues. The results were grouped into four categories according to public priorities. The purchase of new equipment for the armed forces fell into the category of lowest priority, with only 17 percent of those surveyed thinking the issue required a great deal of attention from the Government.

In January 1989, Gallup asked 1021 Canadians their opinion of the planned purchase of nuclear-propelled submarines (SSNs) for the armed forces. Of those surveyed, 22 percent supported the plan, 69 percent were opposed, and 9 percent did not know. In an Angus Reid poll conducted for Greenpeace and released in February 1989, over 70 percent of 1503 respondents indicated opposition to the purchase of SSNs. Fifty-nine percent were strongly opposed; 12 percent were moderately opposed; 11 percent were strongly in

<sup>1</sup> Owing to the length and scope of the 1988 CIIPS Public Opinion Survey, only selected questions and responses appear in this summary. For a more detailed analysis of the CIIPS survey, see Michael Driedger and Don Munton, *Security, Arms Control and Defence: Public Attitudes in Canada*. Ottawa: CIIPS, Working Paper No. 14, December 1988; and Don Munton, "Canadians and Their Defence." *Peace and Security*, vol. 3 no. 4 (Winter 1988/1989), pp. 2-4.