

resources. One East European called Canada "the UN's lawyer." Canada's role was given as "supporter of the West," but also "to be seen as non-American." Other single descriptions were "promoter of realism," and "like any other, to push national aims." The last word: "Canada has a role but doesn't play it."

Invited to name the UN member that behaves most like Canada, by far the largest number, over a third, suggested Australia. It seemed quite possible that the respondents had area, history and culture in mind rather than UN behavior. However, some did stress similarity in voting and in attitudes towards the Third World and the Middle East. Both countries were described as "rational" and as "enlightened allies of the United States with some autonomy." One interviewee praised their commitment to the UN, but added that they were "equally insignificant in the real struggle." A further tenth likened Canada's behavior to that of other members of the old Commonwealth — to New Zealand because both were "trustworthy," "realist," and "independent of the US"; or to the United Kingdom, another "moderator."

A fifth of the responses compared Canada in the UN to Sweden, the "Nordics" or the Netherlands, all among the most admired members of the club. Not surprisingly, the explanations for these choices were flattering — "idealism," "internationally-minded," "consensus builders," "pro-United Nations," "independent judgment," "peacekeepers" and "similar support for rights and development." About half as many suggested the West Europeans as the most similar to Canada in UN behavior. The comparable number that cited the United States as Canada's UN analogue stressed the similarity in the stands and votes of the two.

France was mentioned five times. Like Canada, it is "friendly to everyone," "concerned about consensus," and "supportive of self-determination." The minority that cited Ireland or Austria said it was because their ideas were similar to Canada's: devotion to the UN; and "relative independence within the West." Poland received a single mention ("It too has a sovereignty problem"), as did West Germany, Japan, Italy, Norway and Mexico.

Who supports the UN?

We asked which country had been from the outset the most consistent supporter of the United Nations. A quarter answered the "Nordics," and Sweden received several additional mentions. The country mentioned most often was Canada — by one sixth of the respondents. Well behind were the United States, India, the USSR, the Netherlands, Britain, Austria, Yugoslavia, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Saudi Arabia. Japan did well to receive four mentions; it had not become a member until the UN had celebrated its tenth anniversary.

Diplomats from no fewer than nine different countries, including members of NATO, the Warsaw Pact and the nonaligned movement, all identified their own countries as the ones behaving in the UN most like Canada. What does that say about Canadian diplomacy?