

There was some discussion of Canada's "independence" in foreign policy and, in this context, it was suggested that Canada should support non-superpower initiatives -- this would distance Canada somewhat from U.S. positions without necessarily alienating the U.S. Canada could, for example, consider lending support to regional groupings and non-superpower dominated initiatives such as regional Nuclear-Free Zones and the ISMA (International Satellite Monitoring Agency) concept.

In discussing private vs. public diplomacy it was noted that, the general public was forced to rely on the rhetoric of public statements on issues and was largely unaware of ongoing private diplomacy. Therefore there was a tendency to look for greater rhetorical participation by Canada on some of the more major issues eg. Canada's longstanding policy on a CTB could be accompanied by "escalating rhetorical diplomacy" which would reinforce public perception of the government's commitment.

It was also suggested that Canada consider refusing port facilities to U.S. ships because of the American's "neither confirm nor deny" policy. Whilst it was recognized that this would elicit a negative reaction from the U.S., it was suggested that it could be rationalized in the same way that Canada had refused a nuclear role for its forces in Europe.

As well, it was suggested that Canada had a responsibility to ensure that U.S./Soviet relations did not remain the "bottom line" and sole variable in international relations. Canada could work to "marginalize" the role of the superpowers by strengthening international institutions and broadening the global power base. It was considered that there was a need to challenge some of the established assumptions of today's bi-polar world.

Canada could, for example, assist those nations that were most vulnerable to superpower influence eg. by supporting UN initiatives regarding transnationals and by strengthening the IMF. It was suggested that the more Canada could strengthen the international community, the less emphasis would be placed on superpower dominance.

Some discussion was held on the question of "converting" industry from military to civilian purposes and the probable response of the private sector to such a move. It was suggested that industry would respond quickly to adjust its production mode from military to