

C. Free Trade and Canadian Independence and Identity

The issues of the perceived effects of the free trade agreement on Canadian identity and independence were examined from two perspectives. The first focuses on the extent to which Canadians feel that government measures are required to protect Canadian identity and whether Canadians feel this identity is threatened in any way under free trade. A second perspective from which perceptions are probed is in terms of the effect of the free trade agreement on Canada's ability to play an independent role in the world. Table 9 shows that results for these two questions probing the independence/identity issue from different perspectives.

Table 9

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE AND IDENTIFY

	JUNE 1987 %	AUGUST 1987 %	OCTOBER 1987 %
<u>1. IDENTITY</u>			
Should not have free trade because it could mean the end of those government measures which protect Canada's identity and make us different from the U.S.	47	50	44
We should be confident enough to enter a free trade agreement because Canada's identity is now strong enough that it no longer needs as much protection through government measures	52	48	56
<u>2. INDEPENDENCE</u>			
The free trade agreement will...			
Strengthen Canada's economy and thus enable it to continue to play an independent role in the world	--	--	43
Tie Canada so closely to the U.S. that it will weaken our ability to play an independent role in the world	--	--	56