

East-West Relations and Arms Control

- Almost 50% believe there has been no change in East-West relations in the last year, but those (48%) who did perceive a change saw an improvement. Fifty per cent credited both the United States and the Soviet Union.

- Fifty-four per cent see the USSR under Gorbachev as a freer society.

- About 50% chose "lack of trust between East and West" as the cause of tensions.

- Three-quarters said the main concern of both the USSR and USA is "increasing its power and influence in the world".

- Canadians gave highest importance to arms control and human rights in Canada's relations with the USSR.

- Just over 50% believe the existence of nuclear weapons makes war more likely and 59% said current practices and new developments in nuclear weaponry made war more likely.

- Seventy-one per cent believe progress will be made towards arms control agreements in the future.

Canada-USA Relations

- Seventy-two per cent rate Canada-USA relations as "good" or better.

- Fifty-four per cent saw no change in relations over the past year; 25% saw a worsening; 19% improvement. Reasons related to trade were given by 60% of those who saw worsened relations.

- Sixty-seven per cent say Canada should pursue independent policies even if this leads to certain problems in its relations with the USA.

- Seventy per cent see the general foreign policies of Canada and the United States as similar and explained this as a result of similar history and geography (76%), following a world leader (68%), and fear of the consequences of disagreeing (63%).