

II. GENERAL NATURE OF THE CANADA-U.S. RELATIONSHIP

Most of the participants felt that relations between the U.S. and Canada at the present time are good. Concurrent with this belief was the general feeling that the U.S. views Canada as a "poor relation," there to be "exploited," and is therefore friendly with Canada to ultimately benefit themselves.

While a few respondents felt it was "too early" to tell if Canada-U.S. relations had changed since the change in government, the strong consensus was that there had been a recent improvement in our relations with the U.S. A couple of people disagreed on this point, claiming that our relations with the U.S. have consistently been good. Most participants felt these relations would continue to improve, although slowly, while some expect to see no change in our relations with the U.S. in the future.

The Prime Minister's relationship with President Reagan was described as good, and friendlier and warmer than the relationship that existed between Prime Minister Trudeau and President Reagan. The participants mentioned that Prime Minister Mulroney has more in common with President Reagan than Trudeau did -- "they're both Conservatives and Irishmen," and Prime Minister Mulroney's more "businesslike" attitude also make the two more comfortable with each other.