

weapons through the START negotiations, do not relieve fears of nuclear war: inadvertent or accidental nuclear war, along with proliferation of nuclear weapons is still a major concern for Canadians.

The vast majority of Canadians support continued membership in NATO; however, fewer than a third believe in one of the central tenets of NATO doctrine, that the Alliance should use nuclear weapons first if it begins to lose a conventional war in Europe.

Most Canadians reject much change in the Canadian defence effort: they want to continue about the same level of expenditure, being careful not to be seen as not pulling their weight in NATO. However, Canadians now regard the protection of Canadian territory and sovereignty as the best reason for increasing defence spending. Support for increased spending for defence was divided sixty to forty with the majority opposed; when asked if taxes should be increased for the purpose, eighty-five percent said no.

The proposed purchase of ten to twelve nuclear-powered submarines was the defence issue which received the most public attention in 1988. Opinion was mixed. When Canadians were asked if they supported the proposal, with no price-tag attached, fifty-five percent said yes. However, when the question mentioned the estimated cost of the purchase, support declined to forty percent or less.

Conclusions

East-West relations continued to improve in 1988, aided in large part by Soviet actions as well as words. There can now be little doubt that, whatever the reasons, Soviet "new thinking" about foreign policy is genuine. Whether it will