

Table 1

	July 1985	February 1986
	%	%
War/Conflict	26	23
Nuclear War/ Arms Race	22	21
World Hunger/ Poverty	19	19
Economic Issues	13	16
Government	4	4
Environment	3	2
Social Problems	5	5
Other	2	1
None/No Problems	0	2
Don't Know/ No Response	6	7

Question: If you had to name one issue or problem which you feel is the most important one facing the world, that is, the one which concerns you personally the most, what would that be?

As found six months ago, *one in five Canadians continue to cite world hunger and poverty as their second major issue of concern*. This finding may be a little surprising given that the media coverage of this problem may have diminished in recent months. Clearly, Canadians have been affected by the focus of attention on the plight of Third World nations, and the impact of this is not dissipating quickly.

Although a plurality of Canadians cite international issues such as war and poverty as their top of mind concern, an increasing number are reporting economic issues as the most important global problem. Concern with economic issues has grown from 10% in July to 16% currently. These issues include unemployment, inflation, the dollar value, free trade and the economy in general. The verbatim comments indicate that many of the economic concerns cited refer specifically to the Canadian economy. However, it must be remembered this figure remains in sharp contrast to the 58% of Canadians who report economic problems as Canada's major problem in the recent Winter 1985, *Decima Quarterly*, suggesting that most Canadians tend not to overestimate the gravity of their domestic problems when asked to consider global issues.

While there has been a marginal increase in the number of persons reporting economic issues as their top of mind concern, this change has occurred at the expense of attention to other issues, such as East-West tensions, arms negotiations and terrorism. The reporting of hunger and poverty as top of mind concerns does not appear to be affected by these fluctuations as concern about these