balance of forces is the guarantee of peace, and those who believe that it leads to war.

Trends in Canadian public opinion are also difficult to judge. Most Canadians support Canada's traditional commitments to NATO and NORAD, but polls conducted by CIIPS also suggest that they believe the greatest threats to world peace are the arms race and nuclear proliferation rather than the policies of the USSR. Neither superpower is credited with being genuinely interested in measures of disarmament (this perception may well have changed since the Washington Summit).

On issues of particular interest to Canada, an overwhelming majority continue to support a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapon tests, and a majority of Canadians continue to be opposed to cruise missile testing. On the other hand, Canadians believe in an expanded Canadian defence force, in the strengthening of NATO, and in the need to maintain a military balance in Europe.

If these views persist they will challenge Canada's politicians to present policy alternatives which meaningfully reflect the views and dispositions of Canadians. In particular, they will want to note that in matters of nuclear arms, Canadians appear to attribute "moral equivalence" to the international behaviour of the two superpowers, despite harsh criticism of such attitudes in the US.

5) Conclusions

Canadians must accept that the shifts and movements of international politics are determined by forces largely beyond their control. But this is true of almost all countries, many of whom must envy Canada's relative security and prosperity. They look to Canada to speak out on major global issues. The