

Table No. 6 - Attitudes toward the military strength of the West.⁴³

date?

Question: Some people think that the best way to prevent war is for the West to increase its military strength so as to be more powerful than the Russians. Others think that this would lead to an arms race which may cause a war. What do you think? Should the West try to increase its military strength or not?

	<u>N</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>P</u>
Yes, should increase	58	33	29	10	19
Keep an equilibrium between great powers	-	-	40	42	42
We have the arms race, but it does not necessarily mean war.	-	-	21	2	2
No, should not increase	32	58	2	36	25
Dont know or other	10	9	8	10	12
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100

Code: N - national sample, C - contributors to CPRI, B - businessmen, L - trade union leaders, P - politicians.

While this question does not directly mention NATO, if it is linked with the question in table No. 5, a fairly good indication of the degree of support for NATO is suggested. Among politicians 61% stated that the West's strength should be increased or kept in equilibrium with the Soviet Union (i.e., would presumably mean an increase if the U.S.S.R. increased its military strength). This corresponds to 64% of the politicians in table No. 5 who said the Canadian commitment to NATO should be increased or is just about right. In other words, the politicians as a group were most aware of the correlation between the Canadian commitment to NATO and the overall military strength of the West. The businessmen were almost as perceptive on this point since 59% (compared to 54% in support of the Canadian role) agreed the military strength had to be kept up. While only 41% of the trade union leaders were in favour of the Canadian commitment, 52% were agreed the military strength of the West had to be maintained at the same level as the East's. On the other hand, the greatest disparity existed within the general public since only 58% were in favour of increasing the force level of the West to meet the East's force level (compared to 71% who were in favour of the Canadian role in NATO). This was not surprising, however, since the "common knowledge level" of the various groups in this survey from high to low was as follows: politicians, businessmen, trade union leaders, contributors to the CPRI and the general public.⁴⁴ The Canadian Peace Research survey suggests the general public (in late 1962) was more favourably inclined toward Canadian participation in NATO than were the various attentive public groups in the study.