

our interests as a nation require us to be there and because the loss of a free Europe would be a grave blow to our ability to maintain our democratic freedoms here in Canada."

The results of a Gallup Canada, Inc. poll released August 24, 1987 indicated that a majority of Canadians (57%) thought our troops should continue to serve in Europe within the framework of Canada's membership in NATO. Less than half that number (26%) believed the Government should bring these troops back to Canada, while 16% were not sure.¹

Public support for NATO is even more clearly illustrated in a Decima Research and Public Affairs International Poll, where respondents were asked to declare their views on NATO (and not specifically on the stationing of Canadian troops in Europe). In this poll, 83% of Canadians believed we should stay in NATO.² When the question was posed as a statement ("Canada should withdraw from NATO") in a poll conducted by Environics, the extent of public support for NATO declined to 66% (with 11% advocating withdrawal).³

In a Gallup poll released January 25, 1988, it was ascertained that the recent Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) agreement had the backing of 74% of Canadians.⁴ Canada had been encouraging such a treaty for quite some time, and its signing was a vindication of NATO's policy of combining deterrence and dialogue, a policy which Canada firmly supports.

On a more general level, in April 1987, the Department of External Affairs commissioned the Longwoods Research Group Ltd. to undertake a national survey on a variety of topical foreign policy issues. Respondents were asked to describe in their own words what one issue facing the world today was of greatest personal concern to them. While no one issue was mentioned by a majority of Canadians, issues broadly related to war and peace were the most widely cited, being mentioned by 46% of Canadians. This included concerns related to the arms race (16%), nuclear war (12%), wars in general (9%) and world peace (9%). It should be noted that this concern with war and peace intensified from 36% of respondents in 1985.⁵

⁵ Conducted from April 4-27, 1987 in a national random sample of 1,011 qualified respondents during in-home, personal interviews. Considered accurate within 3.1 percentage points, 95 out of 100 times.

The poll also identified 11 specific issues for which it wanted measurements of Canadians' overall attitudes, with a view to determining opinion on what Canadian policy priorities should be. Of all issues, international peace was rated first, with 54% of Canadians according it "a great deal of concern." Arms control ranked fourth at 44%.

These findings appear to be consistent with the priority which the current Government attaches to arms control and disarmament. Indeed, on October 31, 1985, Prime Minister Mulroney stated to the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs that: "Canada would work relentlessly to reduce tensions, to alleviate conflict, and to create the conditions for a general and lasting peace. The exercise of political will is nowhere more important than on this issue, on whose outcome the lives of our children and of humanity depend." □

Bilateral Arms Control and Disarmament Consultations Since 1987

In accordance with the arms control and disarmament objectives of the Canadian Government as outlined in Prime Minister Mulroney's address to the Consultative Group on Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs on October 31, 1985, Canada conducts annual and ad hoc consultations with a variety of nations at the senior officials level. The following is a list of recent consultations:

DATE	COUNTRY	LOCATION
January 15-16, 1987	France	Ottawa
February 9, 1987	German Democratic Republic	East Berlin
March 5-6, 1987	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Ottawa
August 31 – September 1, 1987	People's Republic of China	Ottawa
September 17-18, 1987	Australia	Ottawa
October 20, 1987	Czechoslovakia	Ottawa
January 11, 1988	Japan	Ottawa
March 17-18, 1988	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Moscow
March 21-22, 1988	United Kingdom	London
March 23, 1988	Federal Republic of Germany	Bonn
April 11, 1988	Spain	Madrid
April 13, 1988	Portugal	Lisbon
April 18, 1988	New Zealand	Ottawa

¹ Based on 1,040 personal, in-home interviews with adults, 18 years and over, conducted between August 5-8, 1987. Accurate within a four percentage point margin, 19 in 20 times.

² Based upon 1,500 interviews between September 12-18, 1987. Accurate within a 2.6 percentage point margin, 95 times out of 100.

³ Environics Autumn 1987 Focus Canada Report. Based upon 2,014 interviews between October 1-18, 1987.

⁴ Based on 1,033 personal, in-home interviews with adults, 18 years and over, conducted between January 6-9, 1988. Accurate within a four percentage point margin, 19 in 20 times.