

mentioned, and virtually all seemed aware of, the debt problems faced by certain South American countries. Others mentioned inflation rates in some countries which they believed were far higher and much more destabilizing than any known in North America.

Socio-political stability was also seen to be in jeopardy. Once again, however, it took some probing before participants recalled facts to support this perception. Interestingly, unrest in Central America was not an example which very many people cited. The Middle East generally, the Iran-Iraq war, and Lebanon's problems in particular seemed to be those most easily brought to mind.

Respondents seemed uncertain, however, whether or not the current level of socio-political stability was much lower than it had been in the past. A number of people volunteered the view that there have always been a number of trouble spots in the world and this had not changed too much.

This partial ambiguity about the deterioration of socio-political stability evaporated when people were asked to assess global security. Most seemed firmly convinced that the world was closer than it has been in a long time to real prospects of a major war. There were fairly substantial divisions of opinion on whether competing in the arms race with the goal of preserving mutual deterrence was a logical or necessary course. Quite apart from that question, a number of people voiced concerns about the fact that nuclear weaponry was now in the hands of countries which they felt might be more inclined to use them at some point than would the super powers.

In this context of general apprehension about the security and stability of the world, participants generally felt that the United Nations was a necessary if ineffectual