

APPENDIX 4

Public Opinion

Several polls conducted between July 1989 and July 1990 surveyed Canadians' opinions on arms control, defence, foreign policy and regional conflicts. The following is a summary of some of these opinion poll results, organized in the categories of Canadian defence policy, Canadian foreign policy and international affairs.¹

Canadian Defence Policy

During the period July-September 1989, Gallup conducted an opinion poll in Canada and eleven other member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Asked whether the Atlantic alliance should be maintained, 78 percent of the 1,041 Canadians polled said yes, while 8 percent said NATO is no longer necessary. Fourteen percent had no opinion. Only in the Netherlands, where 81 percent said they favoured maintaining the alliance, was support for NATO greater than that expressed in the Canadian survey.

In August 1989, Gallup Canada polled 1,013 Canadians on their attitudes towards federal Government defence spending. Thirty-one percent of respondents said the federal Government devotes too much of its budget to defence and the armed forces, and 23 percent believed the Government spends too little, while 31 percent said it spends about the right amount on defence. Fifteen percent had no opinion.

In a poll conducted for the *Toronto Star* and CTV News in January 1990, Insight Canada Research of Toronto asked 1,002 Canadians if the Government should modify its military spending as a result of changes in Eastern Europe. Sixty-six percent of those surveyed said Canada should reduce its military spending, 16 percent said there should be no change, 13 percent believed military spending should be increased and six percent had no opinion.

In January 1990, Gallup surveyed 1,051 Canadians on their attitudes towards the presence of Canadian troops in Europe. Fifty-five percent of those polled favoured maintaining a military contingent in Europe, 26 percent said Canadian troops stationed in Europe should be brought home and 19 percent had no opinion.

¹ In 1989, the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security (CIIPS) conducted its third annual survey of Canadian public opinion on peace and international security. Given the length and scope of the survey, it should be noted that only certain questions and responses are included in this summary. For a more detailed analysis of the poll, see Michael Driedger and Don Munton, *Security, Arms Control and Defence in Canada: Canadian Public Attitudes*. Ottawa: CIIPS, December 1989; and Don Munton, "Uncommon Threats and Common Security." *Peace & Security*, vol. 4 no. 4, (Winter 1989/1990), pp.2-5.