

Through discussion, prioritize the following list of issues which the G-7 leaders will likely deal with at the Halifax Summit: the safety of nuclear power plants in Central and Eastern Europe, population growth and migration, the growth of debt in the developing world, proliferation of nuclear weapons, political and economic instability in the former Soviet Union, structural unemployment in the industrialized world, degradation of the environment, reducing government debt among G-7 members, reform of the United Nations, human rights abuses.

Does Canada belong? In the fall of 1994, *Globe and Mail* columnist Peter Cook wrote about Canada's hold on a seat at the G-7 table: "It was always the case that Canada's place as No. 7 depended on the calculation of a country's gross domestic product on a U.S. dollar equivalent basis. And, even then, we were nose to nose with Spain. Now, U.S. dollar GDP is out, having been replaced by a more accurate method of comparing actual costs, known as purchasing power parity. On this basis, Canada cannot cut the mustard.

"Six non-G-7 economies are bigger than we are — China, India, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, and Indonesia — which puts us 13th in the world economic league." Through discussion, counter Mr. Cook's argument with an analysis of Canada's non-economic role in the G-7.

Population and economic growth are not equal in all parts of the globe. As a result, some economies are growing much faster than others. This means that by 2015, the world's biggest economies will likely be, in order of size and wealth: China, the United States, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, and South Korea. Discuss whether or not these nations should form the G-7 20 years from now or whether membership should be restricted to those currently in the organization.

One of the goals of the G-7 summits in recent years has been to control the world's arms trade. However, Britain's Foreign Secretary, Douglas Hurd, when asked why not, if arms are bad, just ban all weapons replied, "Countries have a right to defend themselves, and that includes the right to buy arms to defend themselves." Discuss.

You have been given the job of organizing a banquet and entertainment for the G-7 leaders that will give them some understanding of Canada. Write a proposal for the evening covering the menu, whom you would invite to the banquet, how you would organize it, and what forms of entertainment you would present. Suppose you placed each of the G-7 leaders at separate tables; what seven other guests would you invite to sit with each leader?

Have a team of students clip newspaper and magazine articles on the G-7 Summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Prepare an analysis of these clippings and decide on which issues concrete action has been taken and on which the leaders have restricted themselves to a statement of principle.

Set up a G-7 Summit meeting in your school. Appoint teams of three students to represent each of the summit participants. These teams must research the delegation they are representing. Then, pick one of the following three topics for discussion:

- a. How can we reduce the level of youth unemployment in G-7 countries?
- b. What can we do to conserve and enhance the fish stocks of the North Atlantic?
- c. What should our response to the war in Chechnya be?

At the end of your discussions, issue a communiqué outlining the decisions you have made.