

## I. INTRODUCTION

Decima Research Limited is pleased to present this report to the Department of External Affairs. The report is based on a series of four focus group discussions held in Toronto on February 6 and 7, 1985.

Two of the groups consisted of members of the general public and two were composed of people with annual household incomes of \$30,000 or more. All of the participants were 18 years of age or older and in each group there was an even mix of men and women.

Bruce Anderson was the Project Director for this study; assisting in the moderating and analysis was Martha Cronyn.

The first half of the agenda for the groups addressed perceptions of the general nature of present-day relations between Canada and the U.S. and between Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan, awareness of and attitudes toward the Strategic Defense Initiative plans to improve the DEW line, perceptions of President Reagan's and the Soviets' approaches to the next round of arms talks and the commitment of each to the goals of nuclear disarmament, opinions on Canada's optimal role leading up to the arms talks and beliefs concerning the possibility of the Prime Minister having a real influence on the President in terms of these defense issues.

In the second half of each group three more specific issues were discussed: knowledge of and attitudes surrounding protectionism and free trade, how much of an influence a strong relationship between the Prime Minister and the President can have in addressing this