

down by a missile from an ultra-modern American Navy warship in the Persian Gulf.

THE SURVEY

The 1988 national public opinion survey, like the one conducted in 1987, was commissioned and funded by the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security and designed by Don Munton and Institute staff. Comprising 51 questions in all, the survey was carried out in the period of June through July 1988 by the Longwoods Research Group with a national sample selected randomly to be representative of Canadian households and chosen from a panel of 30,000 households maintained by Market Facts Ltd. A total of 1,005 people responded to the questionnaire which was conducted by mail in both English and French. The response rate was 63%. (By comparison, the 1987 survey, which was conducted in part during a mail service strike in Canada, had a response rate of 48%.) The margin of error with samples of this size is approximately +/- 3%, 95 times out of 100. Of the 1,005 respondents to the 1988 survey, 563 were also respondents to the 1987 survey.

PURPOSE AND FORMAT

The purpose of the present working paper, like that of the one produced in conjunction with the 1987 survey, is not to generalize about Canadian public opinion in all its multifaceted character, nor even to summarize the results of recent surveys in Canada on international issues. Rather, the purpose is to present and describe the results of this particular survey. The format of the working paper can be outlined briefly.