

POTENTIAL CAUSES OF A NUCLEAR WAR

- Canadians were asked to rate a series of issues or events which could potentially lead to a nuclear war. Of these four, a crisis in the Middle East is seen as the potentially most volatile by about two in five Canadians.
- Moreover, these attitudes tend to be quite consistent across the data breaks, although Quebecers are equally likely to rate Soviet aggression as high as a Middle East crisis as the most likely cause of such an event taking place.

Most Likely Cause	Total	% of Respondents				
		British Columbia	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes
A crisis in a place such as the Middle East	43	50	45	46	34	47
Accident or equipment malfunction	24	20	27	27	23	19
Aggression by the Soviet Union	22	18	20	17	30	23
Aggression by the United States	9	10	7	9	10	9
No opinion	2	2	1	1	3	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Base:	(1000)	(116)	(171)	(358)	(268)	(87)