

would vary somewhat (but perhaps not significantly) if the number or type of issues to be addressed was changed. Total elapsed time for the evaluation is estimated to be about five months.

4.6 Alternatives Considered

A number of alternatives to the proposed evaluation design were considered, but rejected primarily on the grounds of costs. Most involved different ways to do the same thing slightly better; one involved an entirely new and quite ambitious thrust. Each is discussed below.

- (a) The first alternative relates to a preferable, but more costly approach to collecting information and perceptions pertaining to a limited number of the issues identified, where a wide range of input is desirable (e.g., promoting public understanding). Establishing a panel of experts and supplying the Delphi survey technique to assess perceptions and alternatives, in a more structured fashion than is possible with a small number of individual interviews, would be technically preferable in some areas of concern. However, this approach would significantly increase the cost and duration of the evaluation, and it is unlikely that the Delphi results would warrant the additional cost.
- (b) A second alternative is to develop and sponsor a symposium on maximizing effectiveness at the United Nations during periods of budgetary constraint. U.N. delegations from a select few western countries would be invited to send representatives, and university professors from Canada and abroad would be invited to attend as well. During the symposium, attendees would have opportunities in organized sessions to raise concerns such as the issues discussed in this report, and discuss ways of resolving them. The symposium could possibly eliminate the need for a portion of this. However, the idea was rejected because it would be costly, difficult to ensure attendance of desired persons, and possibly would not lead to any useful results.
- (c) To provide some background information on the level of the public's understanding of the United Nations, it is possible to conduct a national survey in Canada. The survey would collect socio-economic data on respondents and determine