

Perceived And Preferred Canadian Government Stance On The Middle East

- Canadians generally perceive that the federal government's position in the Middle East is fairly neutral. And, this is also the stance they would like to see taken in dealing with this part of the world.
- The minority who see Canada favouring one side or another are more inclined to believe Canada favours Israel as opposed to the more moderate Arabs such as Egypt. Further, Canadians tend to be of the opinion that the federal government should be more supportive of the Arab countries, like Egypt, who have taken some initiative in the peace process ... a belief which reflects, to a large degree, people's personal sympathies in this area.

| More Sympathetic To ...                                    | % of Respondents                                        |                                                         |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                                            | <u>Perceived</u><br>stance of<br>Canadian<br>government | <u>Preferred</u><br>stance of<br>Canadian<br>government | Personal<br>sympathies |
| Israel                                                     | 19                                                      | 7                                                       | 8                      |
| Arab countries which have agreed to negotiate with Israel  | 13                                                      | 20                                                      | 18                     |
| Arab countries which have refused to negotiate with Israel | 1                                                       | -                                                       | 2                      |
| Neutral                                                    | 60                                                      | 69                                                      | 70                     |
| Don't know                                                 | 7                                                       | 4                                                       | 2                      |
| <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>100</b>                                              | <b>100</b>                                              | <b>100</b>             |
| Base: (1000)                                               |                                                         |                                                         |                        |