

VII. TRADING WITH THE THIRD WORLD

In general, respondents in all six groups were well-disposed toward increased trade with the third world. There was a general sense that increased trade with third world countries would be beneficial to those countries and would result in some (although limited) opportunities for Canada.

Not surprisingly, some reservations about third world trade existed. Participants pointed out that the quality of goods from the third world was usually inferior, although several acknowledged that there had been significant improvements in the quality of goods from such countries as Korea and Taiwan and from the Pacific Rim over the past several years. Participants also expressed concern about cheap labour costs in third world countries and linked this to an ability to undercut Canadian production costs on some goods.

Finally, concern was also expressed about the lack of money within third world countries with which to purchase Canadian goods. There was a sense that trade with the third world would probably be one-sided at least until third world countries were able to establish stronger economies (as some Pacific Rim countries have done).

In both Winnipeg and Vancouver, participants were again presented with a statement and asked to comment on its content. The following printed statement was provided:

"What has the third world said ever since 1970? They have said: "Trade -- not aid." Do not send us gifts, goodies and tell us how to run our economy: trade with us."

In general, participants agreed with the statement and responded positively, pointing out that third world countries did not want hand outs and would never become more prosperous if money was simply given to them. Some concerns were expressed about how aid monies were distributed, with respondents questioning

