

thus less influential than older, more established great departments of state or central agencies - such as Finance or Treasury. As such, lower compliance is likely with environment commitments than with those arising from departments of Finance and Treasury.

National institutional variables further serve to account for Canada's higher overall record of Summit compliance compared to that of the US. Within Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, a permanent *G7 Summit Coordination Office*, staffed with permanent officers, experienced in the G7, existed to manage, handle, oversee and execute summit undertakings beginning early on in the preparatory process and continuing throughout the year with various implementation initiatives. By contrast, a summit coordination office, or "line office" dealing specifically with G7 undertakings, does not exist at the US State Department, Treasury or the White House. And although directives are sent out to ministries regarding summit undertakings, the thrust to move these initiatives forward often wanes after the summit due to the fact that a central coordinating office does not exist in the US to execute summit resolutions. According to a US government official, "There is no summit coordination office, unlike in Canada, and the energy falls off dramatically post-summit".¹⁵

International institutional variables of relevance further affect Summit compliance. Departments of Finance and Treasury possess well-established institutional links to long-existing *international* fora, including the Paris Club, IMF and World Bank, which represent the international bodies responsible for the implementation of Russian assistance and debt-related issues. Because the G7 are major shareholders

¹⁵ Interview with Senior US Government Official, Washington, D.C., March 11, 1997.