

The November 1985 Reagan-Gorbachev Geneva Summit, the first such US-Soviet meeting since 1979, was the subject of a major survey for the CBC. Prior to the summit, Canadians appeared hopeful but not optimistic about concrete progress. Most thought it would improve US-Soviet relations and that it would slow the arms race, but less than a majority thought it would ease international tensions. One out of four, in fact, predicted it would increase tensions. Most expected the meeting to achieve "only little progress". One in six expected no progress at all while only half as many looked at a "great deal" of progress. Perceptions of the two superpowers reveal some parallels. Most (45%) said President Reagan was "somewhat interested" in working towards peace, while a smaller group (38%) found him very interested. By comparison, the same proportion as for Reagan said Gorbachev was somewhat interested (45%) while fewer found him very interested (22% as compared to 38%). More respondents found Reagan personally trustworthy than they did Gorbachev. More also expected the US President to be willing to compromise at Geneva. Interestingly, more rated Gorbachev as better at "influencing people in the west" than so rated Reagan.

### CANADIAN DEFENCE POLICY

Over the past decade there is some evidence of an increase in the number of Canadian favouring increased defence spending. A 1977 CROP survey, for example, found a near majority of Canadians (47%) expressing the view that federal government spending on national defence was "just right". Half as many said it was too much and slightly fewer that it was not enough. In 1980, however, CROP found less than one in three satisfied with spending levels and only one in ten still saying too much was being spent. Fully four out of every ten felt not enough was being spent, double the proportions three years earlier. It seems likely that this trend has continued through the 1980s. A number of recent surveys, including Gallup