

## IX. FUTURE TRADING RELATIONSHIPS

Participants exhibited virtually no resistance to the suggestion that Canada's trading relationships should be reoriented (i.e., towards Asia and the Pacific Rim and away from Europe) if the economics of the situation warranted such a shift. While the sense that this reorientation was in fact inevitable was most pronounced in Vancouver, it was almost equally evident in Montreal and Toronto. When asked which countries people felt Canada would do much more trade with in future, the U.S., Japan, China, the Soviet Union, and Korea were mentioned frequently, while EEC countries were cited only rarely. The predominant view was that we should look to wherever the opportunities lie and that as a multicultural country, we should have less difficulty in adapting to shifts of this sort, and less resistance to accepting them.

Finally, on the question of human rights and Canada's responsibility to speak up where injustices are seen, participants believe it is important for the country to observe and where necessary comment on external events. This in no way implied a sense of Canadian moral superiority, but more likely the notion that a court of world-wide public opinion is occasionally an effective agent of desired societal change.