

IX. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Relations between Canada and the U.S. and between the two leaders are considered to be good at the present time. Prime Minister Mulroney's relationship with President Reagan was thought to be significantly warmer and closer than the relationship which had existed between Mr. Trudeau and President Reagan (and his predecessors).

With respect to the specific issues covered in the discussions, the group participants generally felt that a good relationship between Prime Minister Mulroney and President Reagan would assist in initiating discussions and in addressing the issues; however, they doubted whether a strong relationship alone could produce solutions to these irritants. This attitude seems to stem from the belief that President Reagan is, in the final analysis, an elected politician who is naturally influenced to a large extent by various strong stakeholders in his own country; (e.g., Congress, industry leaders.)

The participants were supportive of Canada's involvement and investment in modernization of the DEW line and in the non-military U.S. space research program. Opinions were more divided on Star Wars; some felt it would be a step towards disarmament, while others view it as an escalation of the arms race.

A surprisingly small number of participants were willing to concentrate blame on the U.S. for the acid rain problem; most felt Canada is equally at fault. A majority also felt very little is being done about acid rain and are not optimistic that a solution will be found in the short-term because of the high cost to industries involved.