

foreign policy. The second section of this study offers competing explanations of Summit compliance and identifies those factors that explain why compliance is higher in certain cases than in others. The third and final section offers practical proposals and policy options for Canada and its G7 partners in reforming the Summit process. These are advanced in an effort to improve the overall record of compliance with G7 Summit commitments, in a way that advances Canadian foreign policy priorities and interests. This section offers a broad array of proposals, as a menu from which to select items capable of being advanced at a particular moment in the Summit process; items which reinforce Canada's overall Summit strategy, and those items that could serve as a basis for dialogue and consensus with policy influentials, officials and ministers in other G7 countries.

1. Summary of Findings on G7 Summit Compliance

In order to assess the extent to which the G7 have been successful in implementing their Summit commitments, it is necessary to review the three existing empirical studies on Summit compliance.

The first of these studies, conducted by von Furstenberg and Daniels, examines the compliance record of the G7 from 1975 to 1989, with reference to the G7's economic and energy commitments. The authors' findings suggest that G7 members do comply, albeit weakly at 31% (.307), with their summit commitments (*see Table A*). Moreover, such compliance varies widely by country and issue area, with high compliance coming from Canada and Britain, and in the areas of international trade and energy, and low compliance coming from France and the United States, and in the areas of interest and exchange rate management.²

² Von Furstenberg, George and Joseph Daniels, "Policy Undertakings by the Seven Summit Countries: