

because "we are small". In terms of the short and long term benefits of such a trade agreement, some felt that there would be both good and bad effects. For Canada, it was recognized that some sectors would have to "fall by themselves". Participants did not agree with a free trade agreement which included such restrictions as health and safety standards because, "How will it make us stronger to face Europe?". As well, these participants were concerned that some of the ethical codes in the free trade agreement would have to be addressed. One participant said, "Do we want to help or exploit? These values have been neglected so far."

In wrapping up the focus group sessions, participants were asked to give one piece of advice to the Department of External Affairs. The more positive group in Toronto felt firmly that Canada must go ahead with the agreement. However, these participants felt that the agreement must contain legislation to protect the environment. They indicated that the agreement should recognize the creation of partners as opposed to the adoption of Mexico by Canada. Participants believed that in order to form a trade alliance with Mexico, Canada must benefit, and the decision should be made on a sound economic basis. One participant said, "Don't just ride on the U.S.A.'s coat-tails -- be proactive". For the supportive group in Montreal, comments centred around their lack of trust in the U.S.A. and their concern that the U.S.A. would reap all of the benefits. These participants also indicated that they wanted more information. Needless to say, they supported the creation of such an agreement, however, they wanted assurance that it would be advantageous not only for Canada but also for Mexico. As mentioned previously, some of the participants felt that more education and planning should occur before entering into an agreement. Perhaps one participant summarized this group's views saying, "Canada must be more aggressive but also on guard". The more negative group in Toronto, very much like the positive group in Montreal, felt that Canada must be on guard