

It was believed that Canada could use existing links between the U.S. and Canada to challenge the U.S. to participate more fully and whole-heartedly in multilateral institutions -- particularly the U.N. For example, U.S. refusal to attend the Disarmament and Development conference was viewed as "unacceptable."

As well, it was suggested that Canada could lobby the U.S. more effectively on questions that were viewed as important to Canadian interests.

In discussing Canada's role in questions of disarmament and development it was suggested that Canada set an example in its own domestic policies before attempting to influence the international scene.

A fairly detailed discussion took place on the question of Canada's role in the arms industry. It was considered that Canada's participation in the arms industry was significant, with a substantial portion of arms going to Third World countries which could not afford them. Concern was expressed over the preponderance of defence-related industries being considered for the Maritimes.

It was noted that "making peace has a cost." Whilst Canada's general record on peace and disarmament issues was considered rather positively, it was believed that any contribution to global arms production would inhibit the general process of disarmament. The Canadian government was encouraged to make costly, difficult decisions in the arms industry.

A rather extensive and intensive discussion took place on the subject of development. It was noted that there were differing models of development and that it was important to identify the most effective and appropriate for a given country and situation. It was suggested that Canada had something of a "mixed record" in terms of the effect and appropriateness of its development programmes eg. the export of nuclear technology was seen to be inappropriate -- rather than being useful, practical development assistance it was seen as a means of supporting the development of our own economy.

Dividing development broadly into two groups -- mega projects and smaller group-based projects -- it was suggested that Canada's programme unfortunately favoured the former rather more so than the latter. As well, it was considered that a disproportionate amount of Canada's aid was tied.