

In a similar vein, Canada's traditional peacekeeping efforts were generally applauded, although some doubted the long-term effectiveness of such activities, believing that tensions in some countries can and have endured for years, making it likely that the threat of war could never be eliminated simply by halting hostilities at any one point in time. A couple of people also cited the experience of American troops in Lebanon as evidence that peacekeeping efforts were, in some instances, futile, and could in fact backfire.

Participants seemed unconvinced that increased commitments of Canadian resources to the NATO effort would result in improved economic opportunities abroad. Part of this feeling no doubt stemmed from the lack of awareness of criticisms about our current level of commitment, but another element of this belief had to do with the view that trade decisions are made strictly on a "dollars and cents" basis and as a result people had difficulty imagining that any country could afford to turn away good trade opportunities because of this "unrelated" issue.