

CANADA - INF 020

1) (this page only) to Mr. Beaman  
Mr. Gilmour.

Mr. Jones  
by French.

if you have the time -  
an interesting insight into the  
Canadian thinking  
then to Mr. French for report to be kept

3 Sec  
HoPS  
HC

13/12.

SECURITY, ARMS CONTROL AND DEFENCE: PUBLIC ATTITUDES IN CANADA

1. I attach a copy of the third annual public opinion survey conducted by the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. A total of 890 people responded to a questionnaire in both English and French. The response rate was 50%. The margin of error is approximately +/- 3%, 95 times out of 100. The survey was conducted during September and October 1989.

2. The survey gives a remarkable insight into Canadian thinking in the fields of security, arms control and defence.

3. In a question relating to the trustworthiness of a number of current leaders, Mrs Thatcher topped the poll with 36.2% of those responding to the questionnaire regarding her as being very trustworthy. This in comparison to only 9% who considered the Canadian Prime Minister as trustworthy and 20.5% for President Bush.

4. Some 52.4% considered Canadian participation in NATO to be very important; however, 10.5% had never heard of NATO. 58.6% thought that the size of Canadian forces in Europe as part of NATO was about right.

5. Although it is now history, some 47.8% approved of Canada's acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines, with 62.2% against. 51% either strongly favour or somewhat favour Canada buying a fleet of conventionally-powered submarines compared to 49.9% who strongly oppose or somewhat oppose this purchase.

6. With regard to Mr Mulroney's visit to the Soviet Union, 89.8% considered it a good thing; however, only 55.2% considered that the visit would make a contribution, but not a major one, to international peace.

*[Handwritten signature]*

Douglas E Donald

*[Handwritten notes:]*  
yes. In  
like C. see  
blue leaders  
acting a deal  
on the  
international  
stage. One of  
T. Mulroney  
big plus points.

DED/tfs  
6.12.89  
INF 020/1

cc: DA )  
NA ) with a copy of survey  
AA )

12.12

copy of survey

Question: 20b)

Is the United States more or less content with its power or influence in the world today, or is it trying to increase its area of influence?

Responses:

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. More or less content                     | 32.1         |
| 2. Trying to increase its area of influence | <u>67.9%</u> |
|   | 100.0%       |

Question: 21a)

Some people believe that the Soviet leaders do not genuinely want disarmament. Other people believe that they do genuinely want disarmament. Which of these views is closest to your own?

Responses:

- |                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Do not want disarmament | 45.1        |
| 2. Do want disarmament     | <u>54.9</u> |
|                            | 100.0%      |

Question: 21b)

Some people believe that American leaders do not genuinely want disarmament. Other people believe that they do genuinely want disarmament. Which of these views is closest to your own?

Responses:

- |                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Do not want disarmament | 56.4        |
| 2. Do want disarmament     | <u>43.6</u> |
|                            | 100.0%      |

Question: 22

How trustworthy do you find the following leaders?

Responses:

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher

- |                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Very Trustworthy       | 36.2       |
| 2. Somewhat Trustworthy   | 50.8       |
| 3. Not Very Trustworthy   | 9.5        |
| 4. Not at All Trustworthy | <u>3.4</u> |
|                           | 99.9%      |

## Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu

1. Very Trustworthy	6.8
2. Somewhat Trustworthy	62.5
3. Not Very Trustworthy	26.8
4. Not at All Trustworthy	<u>3.9</u>
	100.0%

## West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl

1. Very Trustworthy	13.6
2. Somewhat Trustworthy	64.8
3. Not Very Trustworthy	17.9
4. Not at All Trustworthy	<u>3.7</u>
	100.0%

## American President George Bush

1. Very Trustworthy	20.5
2. Somewhat Trustworthy	62.6
3. Not Very Trustworthy	12.7
4. Not at All Trustworthy	<u>4.2</u>
	100.0%

## Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney

1. Very Trustworthy	9.0
2. Somewhat Trustworthy	45.7
3. Not Very Trustworthy	30.6
4. Not at All Trustworthy	<u>14.8</u>
	100.1%

## Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev

1. Very Trustworthy	13.0
2. Somewhat Trustworthy	63.3
3. Not Very Trustworthy	19.4
4. Not at All Trustworthy	<u>4.3</u>
	100.0%

## Question: 23

At the present, there is an international treaty prohibiting tests of nuclear weapons above ground. Some people have suggested that there should be a ban on all such testing, including underground tests. Which one of the following comes closest to your view of what Canada should do about this issue?

## Responses:

1. Canada should push actively for such a ban even if the United States strongly opposes it and argues it might weaken nuclear deterrence	59.3
2. Canada should quietly try to get American agreement to a ban	28.7
3. Canada should not get involved in this issue	<u>11.9</u>
	99.9%