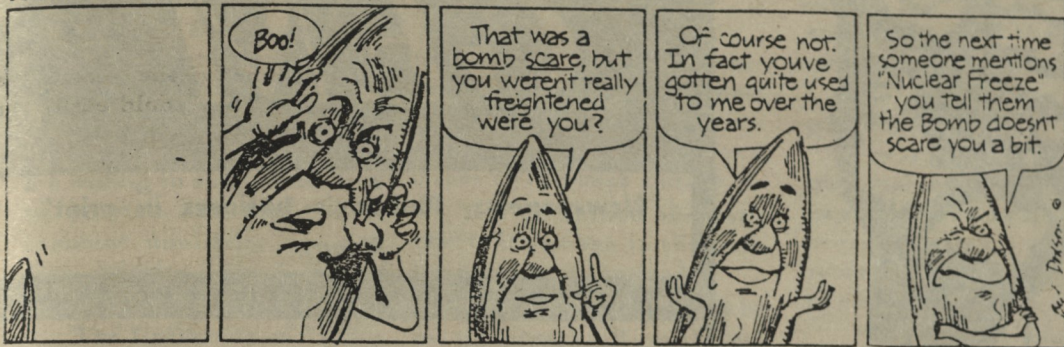


Canadians Don't Trust Anyone When It Comes To Peace

NUKE



Graphic/Gauntlet

by Mark Lowe

SASKATOON (CUP) — Canadians are more skeptical of both the superpowers when it comes to peace and East-West relations than they were twenty years ago, according to a recent survey.

The survey was conducted by Don Munton, a political science professor at the University of British Columbia, for the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. A questionnaire was sent to over 2,000 homes across Canada and Munton reported a response of 1,015, or 48 per cent.

"Most Canadians now perceive the policies and weaponry of both superpowers, not just the USSR, as the major problem in East-West relations," the study concluded.

But Munton noted this does not suggest a rampant anti-Americanism. "It is not America Canadians are negative about, nor Americans. It is certain American policies."

Among the findings were that a quarter of Canadians view the superpower arms race as the greatest threat to world peace, while 29 per cent thought the spread of nuclear weapons to smaller countries was most serious, and 28 per cent blamed the situation in the Middle East. Only a small number considered Soviet or US actions to be the most dangerous.

While most respondents (52 per cent) felt Soviet-American relations had remained about the same in the past two or three years, more believed they had improved (35 per cent) than saw deterioration (14 per cent). A follow up question indicated about 50 per cent of respondents thought

that both countries were responsible, and the other 50 per cent viewed the USSR as responsible for improvement and blamed the US if they felt there was deterioration.

The survey also showed slightly more Canadians believed there is 'much danger' of a nuclear war (55 per cent) and more thought the danger had increased from ten years ago (31 per cent). The survey compared these results to a similar survey done in 1971 and found the number considering the likelihood of nuclear war to have more than doubled over ten years.

Canada's role in world peace was also questioned, and again there was a higher element of cynicism. Only a very small minority (4 per cent) suggested Canada had a great deal of influence while a majority (52 per cent) described it as very little.

About 56 per cent thought of Canada as being neutral between the superpowers, despite Canada's involvement in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and 57 per cent supported the idea of Canada becoming a nuclear-free zone.

But the survey also found that though Canadians seem to be in favour of nuclear arms control, they are not against armed defence in general.

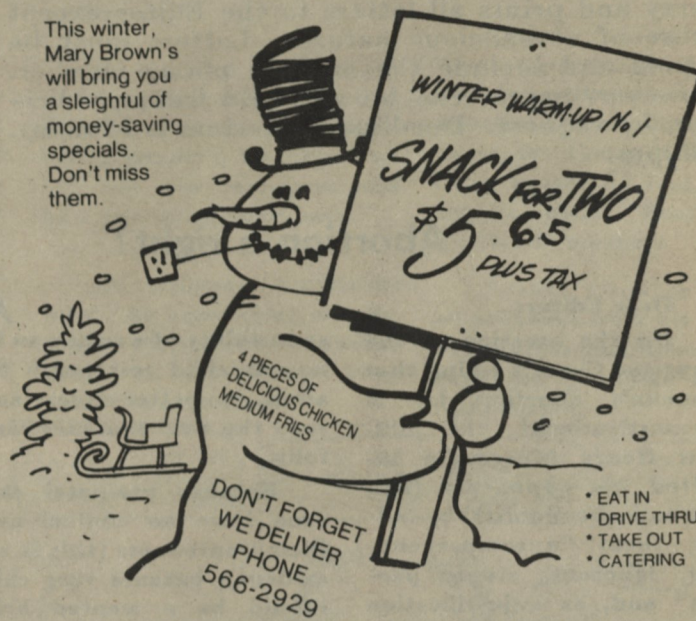
Results showed that women are consistently more distrustful of the state of East-West relations, of both Gorbachev and Reagan, and more supportive of Canada becoming a nuclear weapons free zone, than men. Men were less pessimistic about recent developments in world affairs and more confident that the superpowers could avoid conflict.

In his conclusion, Munton said growing suspicion of American policy should not be blamed entirely on the Reagan era, and the recent intermediate Nuclear Forces agreement would probably result in a more positive view of both sides.

"These attitudes, distinctly post-cold war and post-detente in nature, seem destined to play a continuing and key role in future policy debates within Canada and the Western alliance," said Munton.

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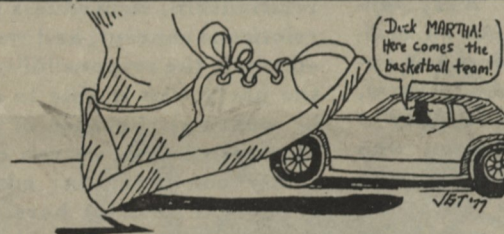


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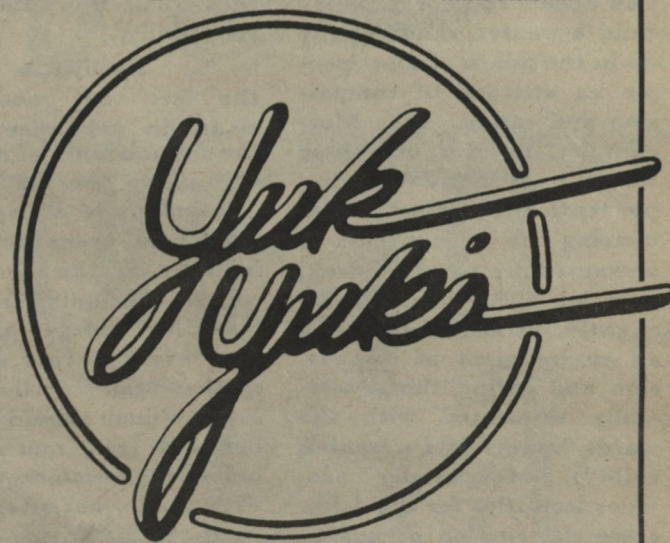
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