

Post-Debate Discussion:

Why did the Canadian government eventually agree to store American nuclear weapons in the 1960s?

Why did Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau reverse this decision in 1971 and declare Canada a non-nuclear nation? If you were in charge of deciding whether or not Canada should become a nuclear nation today, what would your decision be? What are the reasons you have made that decision?

How do factors such as the political affiliations of the Cabinet and the context of international affairs affect major national policy decisions?

Are factors such as getting re-elected or fiscal responsibility taken into account when politicians make important national policy decisions?

Which arguments do you feel were the strongest in the debate? Why?

Which arguments or issues did you think were the least relevant to the debate? Why?

What is one argument that you would like more information on before you could make an informed decision?

If the Prime Minister made a decision during a Cabinet Debate that you did not agree with, would you be upset enough to remove yourself from the Cabinet and jeopardize your government's reputation?

Do you think that the rules of Cabinet help Ministers make the right decisions? Why or why not?

Did the structure of the debate make it easier or more difficult to argue and discuss differing opinions?