

## The Harris Survey

# Public Would Support Non-Proliferation Pact

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If the United States and Russia reach agreement on a nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the American people will support it by almost a 5 to 1 margin. A just-completed survey of the public reveals that most people feel it is urgent to keep the number of countries in possession of atom bombs to a minimum in order to reduce the risk of nuclear warfare.

A cross-section of the public was asked:

*"It has been suggested that the United States and Russia sign a new treaty under which both countries would agree not to help other nations build atomic bombs. Such a treaty might keep the number of countries who have the atom bomb to a minimum. Would you favor or oppose such a treaty between the United States and Russia?"*

### NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

Favor treaty	67%
Oppose treaty	14
Not sure	19

Buttressing public support for a new non-proliferation agreement is the widespread

conviction that the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty signed by the United States and Russia in 1963 was a sound move by both countries.

In this survey, people were asked how they feel about that treaty. Today's results are compared with initial public reaction back in 1963:

*"It has been three years since the United States and Russia signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty against testing atomic bombs in the atmosphere. Looking back on it now, do you think it was a good idea or a bad idea that the United States signed the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty?"*

NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY		
	1966	1963
Good idea	75%	73%
Bad idea	8	17
Not sure	17	10

The main opposition to the United States entering into a non-proliferation treaty stems from two reservations: The Russians can't be trusted and it is too late for such a treaty. But these views are a distinct minority.