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Poll on Aid To Vietnam, Cambodia

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An overwhelming majority of Americans, 78 per cent, oppose the Ford administration's proposal to send \$522 million in additional military aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia.

A key factor in the heavy negative vote is fear of reinvolvement on a major scale.

On January 28, President Ford asked Congress to appropriate \$300 million for military aid to South Vietnam and \$222 million for Cambodia. Congress already had voted \$700 million in aid for the Saigon regime this fiscal year and \$200 million for Cambodia.

The Ford administration has maintained that the United States is morally obligated to support the governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia and that to fail to do so would damage America's credibility.

The President's proposal has sparked heated debate in Congress. Critics argue that the United States has done far more than its share in trying to save the governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia. Critics point out that 55,000 American lives were lost and about \$125 billion spent.

Recent surveys also have shown that the American public has a distinct aversion to getting involved again in any armed conflicts.

For example, largely as a result of the traumatic experience of the Vietnam war, Americans now overwhelmingly favor congressional approval before a president can commit U.S. armed forces to war.

In addition, although American sympathies are more than 5 to 1 on the side of the Israelis in the Middle East tension, fewer than one in ten Americans favor U.S. military involvement in the event of another Arab oil boycott or if another war broke out between Israel and the Arabs.

This question was asked:

"It has been proposed that the U.S. send \$522 million in additional military aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia. Would you favor or oppose this?"

Here are the national findings:

Aid to South Vietnam, Cambodia?

Favor	12%
Oppose	78
No opinion	10

Differences in opinion are slight on the basis of age, sex or level or education. In addition, Republicans and Democrats hold views which do not differ greatly, although Republicans tend to favor aid to a slightly greater extent than do Democrats.

Following are the results by political party affiliation:

Aid to South Vietnam, Cambodia?

	Favor	Op- pose	No opin- ion
Republicans	18%	72%	10%
Independents	13	78	9
Democrats	10	80	10

Eight in ten persons interviewed (79 per cent) say they have followed the discussions about sending additional military aid to South Vietnam and Cambodia.

Interestingly, the views of this large aware segment of the sample differ by only a percentage point or two from the views of the entire sample.

The results reported today are based upon in-person interviews with a total of 1566 adults, 18 and older, in more than 350 scientifically selected localities across the nation during the period February 7-10.