

The Harris Survey

57% Oppose Asia Arms Aid

By Louis Harris

A 57 to 29 per cent majority of Americans resists sending more U.S. military aid to Vietnam and Cambodia, even if such assistance "would avoid a bloodbath for the people of these countries."

Between April 1 and 4 the Harris Survey asked a cross-section of 1,522 adults nationwide:

President Ford has requested \$300 million more in military aid for South Vietnam. Do you favor or oppose giving this \$300 million additional military aid to South Vietnam.

	April	March
Favor	16%	17%
Oppose	75	74
Not sure	9	9

The people were then asked: President Ford has also requested \$220 million emergency aid for Cambodia to save it from falling into Communist hands. Do you favor or oppose giving this aid to Cambodia?

	April	March
Favor	23%	21%
Oppose	66	68
Not sure	11	11

When the question of military aid was posed as a necessity to avoid a "bloodbath for

the people" of Vietnam and Cambodia opposition still held at roughly a 2-to-1 majority:

If more military aid to Vietnam and Cambodia would avoid a bloodbath for the people of those countries, would you favor or oppose such military aid?

	Total Public
Favor more aid	29%
Oppose more aid	57
Not sure	14

The public was then asked: As you know, the U.S. has sent planes, tanks, artillery and other weapons to arm Israel. The Russians have sent similar military supplies to Egypt and Syria. In general, with the Russians arming Egypt and Syria, do you think the U.S. is right or wrong to send Israel the military supplies it needs?

	March	January
U. S. right to send Israel arms	64%	65%
Wrong	18	21
Not sure	18	14

The lesson seems obvious: Americans have not abandoned the notion of supporting their allies, gone isolationist or lost their compassion for the fate

of weaker nations. They have simply given up Vietnam and Cambodia as hopeless causes, but they are just as firm as ever in their support of another ally, Israel, in its time of crisis.