

Gallup Poll

'Laos Will Prolong War'

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Americans by a 2-to-1 ratio think the allied invasion of Laos will lengthen rather than shorten the Vietnam war.

Public opinion, therefore, is running counter to the Nixon Administration's expectations that the drive to cut the Ho Chi Minh Trail supply lines will strengthen the security of South Vietnam and thereby shorten the war.

Most inclined to think the Laos invasion will shorten the war are persons with a college background and those in the survey who classify themselves as Republicans. Little difference in views is found on the basis of age.

Survey results are based on interviewing conducted February 19-21, approximately ten days after the Laos offensive was launched.

To limit the questioning to those who are aware of the Laotian operation, the following question was asked first:

Have you heard or read about the recent invasion of Laos by South Vietnamese troops?

All those who answered in the affirmative (87 per cent) were then asked this question:

Do you think this (the invasion of Laos by South Vietnamese troops) will shorten or lengthen the Vietnam war?

The results:

Shorten	19%
Lengthen	40
Neither	15
No opinion	13

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87%

Not heard/read
about invasion 13%

TOTAL SAMPLE: 100%

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