

THE WASHINGTON POST
A 14 Friday, Jan. 26, 1973

JAN 26 1973

The Gallup Poll 40% Favor Rebuilding N. Vietnam

By George Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J.—If a peace settlement with North Vietnam is reached, four in ten Americans would favor having the United States agree to help rebuild the cities of North Vietnam, while 51 per cent indicate opposition to such a proposal.

Although the weight of opinion is against helping to rebuild bomb-damaged cities in North Vietnam, such as Hanoi and Haiphong, the 40 per cent found to favor the proposal could be considered a high percentage in view of the fact that North Vietnam has been an enemy since the early 1960s.

The latest Gallup survey was conducted following the massive bombing of North Vietnamese cities in December and was completed just prior to President Nixon's announcement on Jan. 15 that the United States was suspending bombing and the mining and shelling of North Vietnam, an announcement which raised expectations of a peace settlement.

At the time of the survey, discouragement over the Vietnam situation was running deep. In addition, the President's popularity had declined to its lowest point in 10 months.

A total of 1,359 adults, 18 and older, were interviewed in person in the survey, which was conducted Jan. 12-14 in more than 300 scientifically selected localities across the nation.

Following are the questions asked and the national results:

If a peace agreement is reached, should we agree to help rebuild cities in North Vietnam, or not?

SHOULD	40
SHOULD NOT	51
NO OPINION	9

In view of the developments since we entered the fighting in Vietnam, do you think the U.S. made a mistake sending troops to fight in Vietnam?

YES	61
NO	29
NO OPINION	10

How would you rate the chances of reaching a peace settlement with North Vietnam during the next two months—good or poor?

GOOD	28
FAIR	16
POOR	49
NO OPINION	7

Do you think the Nixon administration is or is not telling the public all they should know about the Vietnam war?

IS	24
IS NOT	67
NO OPINION	9

Here is a question about the American bombing of cities in North Vietnam, such as Hanoi and Haiphong. What are your overall reactions to this bombing?

APPROVE	46
DISAPPROVE	45
NO OPINION	9

Do you think this bombing helps or hurts the chances of reaching a peace settlement with North Vietnam?

HELPS	38
HURTS	44
NO OPINION	18

If North Vietnam refuses to agree to what we think are reasonable peace terms, would you favor or oppose resuming the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong?

FAVOR	42
OPPOSE	44
NO OPINION	14

It has been proposed that Congress cut off all funds to carry on the war in Vietnam if a peace settlement has not been reached during the next two months. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

FAVOR	42
OPPOSE	48
NO OPINION	10

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nixon is handling his job as President?

APPROVE	54
DISAPPROVE	37
NO OPINION	9

Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Nixon is handling the situation in Vietnam?

APPROVE	43
DISAPPROVE	47
NO OPINION	10

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From story on Gallup poll, SFChronicle 26 Jan 73, filed Nix Ad:

On the President's handling of the Vietnam situation, disapproval slightly outweighed approval, 47 to 43 per cent. This represents a serious decline in approval from the November post-election survey, when 59 per cent expressed approval, compared to 33 per cent who disapproved and 8 per cent who did not express an opinion.