

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual
collections.

Collection: Deaver, Michael
Folder Title: Central America (2)
Box: 36

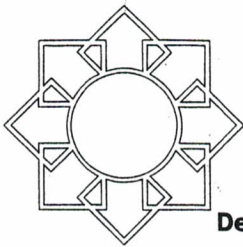
To see more digitized collections
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives
Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>



Decision/Making/Information®

Intelligent alternatives
for today's decision makers

6803 Poplar Place, Suite 300, McLean, Virginia 22101, (703) 556-0001

PRESERVATION COPY

TO: Edwin Meese III
James A. Baker, III
Michael K. Deaver

FROM: Richard B. Wirthlin

DATE: August 5, 1983 (RNC83-8: July 30-31, 1983)

SUBJECT: Central America

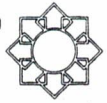
While a majority of Americans approve of our naval maneuvers in Central America, they divide equally in their approval of the ground troop exercises in Honduras.

Aircraft Carrier Maneuvers

Much attention has been focused on Central America the past few months. Most recently, press coverage and debates have centered on U.S. military maneuvers in the area. When asked about these maneuvers, specifically those involving aircraft carriers, 53% of those polled approve, while 35% express disapproval.

The United States also recently sent two aircraft carriers and support ships to conduct maneuvers off the coast of Central America. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	27
Somewhat disapprove	18
Strongly disapprove	17
No opinion	13



Central America
August 5, 1983
Page Two

PRESERVATION COPY

Men and women seem to be at opposite ends of the approval scale:

Male/Female	Approval	
	63%	44%
Married men/Married women	68	46
Non-married men/Non-married women	54	39
Younger men/Younger women	63	41
Older men/Older women	63	46

As is indicated by the figures, single people -- both men and women -- give the lowest approval ratings.

Looking at geographical divisions, the Outer South shows the highest approval rating (63%) followed by the Great Lakes (56%). Respondents in the Mid-Atlantic region have the lowest approval score (44%).

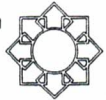
Among ethnic groups, blacks have an extremely low approval rating (38%) while whites show 55% approval.

Sixty-three percent (63%) of the white-collar workers approve of the naval maneuvers and 54% of the blue-collar workers approve.

Senior citizens have the lowest feeling of approval (46%) for any of the age categories; while those 35 to 44 years old have the highest (59%).

Training Exercises: Honduras

A somewhat different response was given when Americans were asked about the part of the military maneuvers involving the sending of ground troops to conduct training exercises in Honduras. Approvals and disapprovals of this action are at an almost even level (46% and 45%, respectively).



Central America
August 5, 1983
Page Three

PRESERVATION COPY

The United States also sent approximately 4,000 troops to Central America to conduct training exercises in Honduras. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	25
Somewhat disapprove	20
Strongly disapprove	25
No opinion	9

The gender gap is again evident as 54% of the men interviewed approve of the training exercises while only 38% of the women approve. The breakdown by age and marital status is:

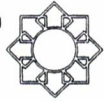
	<u>Male</u> <u>Approval</u>	<u>Female</u> <u>Approval</u>
Married	57	39
Non-married	48	37
Younger	56	38
Older	52	38

Strong Republicans are very much in favor of the military maneuvers (69%), while only 40% of strong Democrats approve.

Geographically, the Outer South, again, has the strongest approval rating (52%), followed closely by the Deep South (50%). Those voters living in the Mountain States have an extremely low approval rating (35%).

Senior citizens feel negatively with only 39% of them approving; yet the age group directly below them -- those 55 to 64 years old -- have the highest approval rating (50%) corresponding to the 18 to 24 year olds, who also register at 50%.

Blacks feel even less supportive of the training exercises than they do of the naval maneuvers with an approval rating of only 35%. Whites also show less approval (47%).



Aircraft Carrier Maneuvers - Central America

=====

"The United States also recently sent two aircraft carriers and support ships to conduct maneuvers off the coast of Central America. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?"

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	27
Somewhat disapprove	17
Strongly disapprove	17
No opinion	13

PRESERVATION COPY

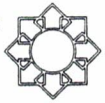


Aircraft Carrier Maneuvers - Central America

=====

"The United States also recently sent two aircraft carriers and support ships to conduct maneuvers off the coast of Central America. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

	Strng Apprv (%)	Smwht Apprv (%)	Smwht Disap (%)	Strng Disap (%)	No Opinion (%)
Aggregate	26	27	18	17	13
<u>Strength Constituencies</u>					
Base Republican	35	26	20	9	10
Farm Belt states	18	30	18	21	12
<u>Swing Constituencies</u>					
Blue-collar workers	24	30	15	20	12
Senior citizens	28	18	13	20	21
Women	15	28	24	15	18
Catholics	28	19	18	20	16
Independents/Leaners	26	30	16	18	10
White Baptists	24	35	13	14	14



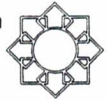
Training Exercises - Honduras

=====

"The United States also sent approximately 4,000 troops to Central America to conduct training exercises in Honduras. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?"

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	25
Somewhat disapprove	20
Strongly disapprove	25
No opinion	9

PRESERVATION COPY



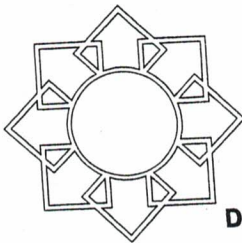
Training Exercises - Honduras

=====

"The United States also sent approximately 4,000 troops to Central America to conduct training exercises in Honduras. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

	Strng Apprv (%)	Smwht Apprv (%)	Smwht Disap (%)	Strng Disap (%)	No Opinion (%)
Aggregate	21	25	20	25	9
<u>Strength Constituencies</u>					
Base Republican	29	29	19	15	8
Farm Belt states	12	30	22	26	11
<u>Swing Constituencies</u>					
Blue-collar workers	20	26	20	24	10
Senior citizens	19	20	12	32	17
Women	12	26	25	23	14
Catholics	21	23	22	26	8
Independents/Leaners	21	23	21	26	9
White Baptists	19	30	18	24	9

PRESERVATION COPY



Decision/Making/Information®

Intelligent alternatives
for today's decision makers

6803 Poplar Place, Suite 300, McLean, Virginia 22101, (703) 556-0001

TO: Edwin Meese III
James A. Baker, III
Michael K. Deaver

FROM: Richard B. Wirthlin

DATE: August 5, 1983 (RNC83-8: July 30-31, 1983)

SUBJECT: Bi-partisan Commission

Americans strongly support and are pleased with President Reagan's recent appointment of a Bi-partisan Commission to study foreign policy in Central America. The Committee appears to have won approval for two reasons: both political parties will help formulate Central American policy; and the chairman, Henry Kissinger, enjoys solid support as an effective foreign policy advisor.

Specifically, respondents were asked:

As you may know, President Reagan recently appointed a Bi-partisan Commission, headed by Henry Kissinger, to study the situation in Central America and recommend a course of action for the United States. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this commission? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

Strongly approve	31%
Somewhat approve	34
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	14
No opinion	11

Two-thirds of those sampled said they approve of the Commission chaired by Kissinger, while only one-fourth disapprove and a tenth have no opinion.



Bi-partisan Commission
August 5, 1983
Page Two

Very few subgroups fall below 50% approval of the Commission. Residents of the Farm Belt region (49% approve) and those who feel that the United States should take no action toward helping countries in Central America (45% approve) are more skeptical of the Commission than the average respondent.

The Committee receives its greatest support from those who identify strongly with the Republican Party (76%), those with some college (72%), registered Republicans (72%), 18 to 24 year olds (71%), professionals and other white collar workers (71%), and residents of the Outer South (71%).

Respondents who feel that Reagan is doing a good job handling the situation in El Salvador highly approve of the Commission (83%). Along the same line, those who feel that the United States should increase economic aid to threatened Central American countries also lend strong support to the Committee (74%).

Henry Kissinger's Thermometer Rating

Respondents were asked to rate Henry Kissinger on a scale of cold to warm (0-to-100) in order to evaluate American perceptions generally of the former Secretary of State.

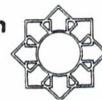
Respondents gave Kissinger an overall score of 51, placing him several points below the score for current Secretary of State, George Shultz, but comparable with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Dr. Kissinger receives his highest ratings among strong Republicans, 18 to 24 year olds, college graduates, and residents of the Deep South and Mid-Atlantic States.

On the other hand, his low marks tend to come from the less educated, the unemployed, Democrats, Baptists, and residents of the West and Farm Belt States.

Person Most Effective in Foreign Policy

The former Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, is by far the most widely respected American for effective handling of foreign policy. Respondents were asked:



Bi-partisan Commission
August 5, 1983
Page Three

From what you've heard and read, what American living today, aside from our President, do you feel was, or is, the most effective in handling foreign affairs?

Henry Kissinger	52%
Richard Nixon	15
George Shultz	7
Jimmy Carter	6
Ted Kennedy	4
John Glenn	2
Gerald Ford	2
Walter Mondale	2
Alexander Haig	1
Caspar Weinberger	1
Philip Habib	1
Cyrus Vance	1
George Bush	1
Others	25

The respondent base for this question is 490; only one-half of the sample answered this question. Of those respondents, more than fifty percent named Henry Kissinger as the person most effective in handling foreign affairs. At a distant second is Richard Nixon with 15%.

It is interesting that, although Kissinger receives a lower thermometer rating than Shultz, he is more respected for establishing effective foreign policy than Shultz by almost nine-to-one. This can be partly attributed to Kissinger being more widely known than Shultz.

Those people more likely to name Kissinger as the American most effective in formulating foreign policy include 55 to 64 year olds, married women, college graduates, professionals, white-collar workers, and registered Republicans.

On the other hand, the unemployed, blacks, and non-married men mention Kissinger less frequently than do other respondents.



Bi-Partisan Commission

=====

"As you may know, President Reagan recently appointed a bi-partisan commission, headed by Henry Kissinger, to study the situation in Central America and recommend a course of action for the United States. From what you've heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this commission? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?"

Strongly approve	31%
Somewhat approve	34
Somewhat disapprove	10
Strongly disapprove	14
No opinion	11

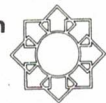


Bi-Partisan Commission

=====

"As you may know, President Reagan recently appointed a bi-partisan commission, headed by Henry Kissinger, to study the situation in Central America and recommend a course of action for the United States. From what you have heard and read, do you approve or disapprove of this commission? Would that be strongly (approve/disapprove) or just somewhat (approve/disapprove)?"

	<u>Approve</u> (%)	<u>Disapprove</u> (%)	<u>No</u> <u>Opinion</u> (%)
Aggregate	65	24	11
<u>Strength Constituencies</u>			
Base Republican	75	16	9
Farm Belt states	49	33	18
<u>Swing Constituencies</u>			
Blue-collar workers	68	23	8
Senior citizens	57	21	21
Women	62	22	16
Catholics	60	29	12
Independents/Leaners	64	25	10
White Baptists	55	31	14



Thermometer Ratings -- White House and Cabinet People

	Jan 30-3 1981	May 12-17 1981	Sep 18-28 1981	Jan 11-19 1982	Jun 15-22 1982	Sep 23-27 1982
Ronald Reagan	72	77	64	63	58	57
George Bush	56	66	*	*	*	54
Bill Brock	*	55	*	*	*	*
James Watt	*	53	39	*	40	*
Al Haig	*	59	*	*	*	*
Caspar Weinberger	*	61	*	*	*	*
	Jan 7-10 1983	Jan 27-29 1983	Mar 17-21 1983	Apr 7-10 1983	Apr 27-28 1983	May 27-30 1983
Ronald Reagan	55	54	54	54	*	60
George Bush	*	*	*	55	*	57
Bill Brock	*	*	*	*	*	*
James Watt	*	*	35	*	*	*
Al Haig	*	*	*	*	*	*
Caspar Weinberger	*	*	*	50	*	*
Raymon Donovan	*	*	*	42	*	*
Donald Regan	*	*	*	49	*	*
	Jun 25-27 1983	July 30-31 1983				
Ronald Reagan	55	58				
George Bush	*	*				
Bill Brock	*	*				
James Watt	*	*				
Al Haig	*	*				
Caspar Weinberger	*	51				
Raymon Donovan	*	*				
Donald Regan	*	*				
George Shultz	*	58				
Henry Kissinger	*	51				



Thermometer Rating: Kissinger

=====

"Now I'd like to get your feelings toward some people and organizations in politics. I'm going to read you some names and I'd like you to rate each one on a scale of 0 to 100, where the worst possible person or groups, in your judgment, would get a rating of 0, while the best possible person or group would get a rating of 100. Most people or organizations, of course, would be rated somewhere in between those extremes.

Remember, we just want to know your opinion of these people and institutions, with 0 being the worst possible rating and 100 being the best. If I name someone who you don't know too much about, just tell me and we'll go on to the next one.

The first person is ... how do you feel about him?"

	<u>MEAN RATING</u>
Aggregate	51.00
<u>Strength Constituencies</u>	
Base Republican	57.62
Farm Belt states	38.99
<u>Swing Constituencies</u>	
Blue-collar workers	51.48
Senior citizens	50.86
Women	49.98
Catholics	53.74
Independents/Leaners	50.38
White Baptists	45.48



Effective Person - Foreign Affairs

=====

"From what you've heard and read, what American living today, aside from our President, do you feel was, or is, the most effective in handling foreign affairs? (Anyone else?)

Henry Kissinger	52%*
Richard Nixon	15
George Shultz	7
Jimmy Carter	6
Ted Kennedy	4
John Glenn	2
Gerald Ford	2
Walter Mondale	2
Alexander Haig	1
Caspar Weinberger	1
Philip Habib	1
Cyrus Vance	1
George Bush	1
Others	25

*Percent of those who responded to this question. Forty-nine percent (49%) did not respond.