

EXECUTIVE

SP 3-56

PR 15

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1969

President Nixon wins a vote of confidence of 77% of Americans on his Vietnam policies. Among those persons who listened to his Vietnam speech Monday night, only six percent expressed outright opposition to the President's program for ending the Vietnam War. But another 17% are undecided.

While the initial reaction to the President's program was highly favorable, the course of public opinion in the coming weeks will depend largely on the actual rate of withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam.

In a test of the nation's first reactions to the speech, a series of questions were put to a total of 501 adults, living in 286 localities, in a nationwide telephone survey conducted Monday evening immediately following the speech.

Approximately 7 persons in ten contacted heard the speech. Among this group, interviewers found a large percentage of Americans who were impressed and reassured by President Nixon's remarks, but at the same time, a sizeable minority who expressed disappointment that the President did not come up with new ideas to end the war.

The predominant view at this point is that the President is pursuing the only course open to him. The idea of "Vietnamization" of the war has particular appeal to the public.

RECEIVED
NOV 6 1969
CENTRAL FILES

2.

About half of the people interviewed - 49% - think President Nixon's proposals are likely to bring about a settlement of the war but 25% think they are not likely to do so, and another 26% are undecided.

Eight in every ten - 77% - of those contacted expressed satisfaction with President Nixon's program for troop withdrawal, 13% expressed dissatisfaction, while another 10% are undecided.

By a 6 to 1 ratio, the persons contacted agree with President Nixon that moratoriums and public demonstrations are harmful to the attainment of peace in Vietnam but most also share the President's belief that people in this country have a right to make their voices heard.