

TYPISTS

ADVANCE COPIES: FALKLAND ISLANDS

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FALKLAND ISLANDS: US PUBLIC OPINION

LOUIS HARRIS ASSOCIATES HAVE GIVEN US IN CONFIDENCE AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE RESULTS OF A NATIONWIDE OPINION POLL WHICH INDICATES STRONG SUPPORT FOR BRITISH POLICY AND AN OVERWHELMING BELIEF THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REMAIN NEUTRAL IN ANY WAR BETWEEN BRITAIN AND ARGENTINA. THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED BY TELEPHONE BETWEEN 16 AND 22 APRIL AND IS DUE TO BE PUBLISHED ON 29 APRIL.

2. 60 PER CENT OF THOSE POLLED SYMPATHISED WITH BRITAIN AGAINST 19 PER CENT WITH ARGENTINA AND 8 PER CENT WITH NEITHER. 46 PER CENT CONSIDERED THAT THE CRISIS WAS A VERY SERIOUS THREAT TO WORLD PEACE. IN THE EVENT OF WAR BREAKING OUT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN

PEACE. IN THE EVENT OF WAR BREAKING OUT BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND BRITAIN IN
- AND ASSUMING THAT THE US WOULD NOT ACTUALLY FIGHT IN THE WAR -
12 PER CENT THOUGHT THE US SHOULD HELP BRITAIN, 1 PER CENT THAT
THEY SHOULD HELP ARGENTINA AND 83 PER CENT THAT THE US SHOULD
REMAIN STRICTLY NEUTRAL.

3. OPINIONS ON OTHER STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CONFLICT ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

A) THE BRITISH ARE RIGHT TO INSIST THAT THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS SHOULD DECIDE THEMSELVES WHICH COUNTRY THEY
WANT TO BE RULED BY -- BRITAIN OR ARGENTINA.

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
84	12	4

B) THE BRITISH ARE JUSTIFIED IN SENDING A BIG FLEET TO RETAKE THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS, BECAUSE THE ISLANDS WERE SEIZED BY FORCE THROUGH
AN ILLEGAL ACT OF AGGRESSION.

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
65	27	8

C) IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR ENGLAND, A COUNTRY IN WESTERN EUROPE, TO
HAVE A COLONY IN SOUTH AMERICA, 8,000 MILES AWAY.

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
33	59	8

D) THE ARGENTINIANS WERE JUSTIFIED IN TAKING OVER THE FALKLAND
ISLANDS BY FORCE, BECAUSE FOR OVER 100 YEARS THEIR CLAIM THAT
THE ISLANDS BELONG TO THEM HAS NOT BEEN SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE BRITISH.

AGREE	DISAGREE	NOT SURE
28	62	10

NIXON

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