



**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE:**  
**February 24, 2005 4 PM**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**  
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**MORE OPTIMISM ON IRAQ, BUT MOST EXPECT LONG U.S. STAY**

The public is more optimistic over the situation in Iraq as a result of that nation’s recent elections, but remains skeptical of the Bush administration’s decision to go to war. Moreover, the elections have not improved opinions of President Bush’s handling of Iraq. The survey, largely completed before the president’s European trip, finds 40% approving of Bush’s job performance on Iraq, down slightly from early January (45%).

The latest nationwide poll by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted Feb. 16-21 among 1,502 Americans, finds that 47% think the recent elections will lead to greater stability in Iraq. Just 29% expressed such hopes in January, prior to the election. Moreover, there has been a modest rise in the number who see things in Iraq going at least fairly well – from 48% last month to 54% currently.

Yet there are no signs the election has increased public optimism that U.S. troops can be withdrawn from Iraq any time soon. More than half (54%) believe U.S. forces will have to remain in Iraq for at least two years, with 22% saying they expect troops to stay longer than five years. In July, 44% said that the troops would have to remain for at least two years.

As was the case throughout 2004, a majority of Americans (55%) favor keeping U.S. forces in Iraq until the situation there has stabilized. But there is steadily increasing opposition to the initial

<b>Post-Election Views of Iraq</b>			
	Jan	Feb	
<i>Elections will make Iraq...</i>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2005</u>	
More stable	29	47	% %
Less stable	14	7	
Little change	49	40	
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Iraq situation is going...</i>			
Very/Fairly well	48	54	
Not well	49	42	
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
	100	100	
<i>Military action in Iraq...</i>			
Right decision	51	47	
Wrong decision	44	47	
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	
	100	100	
<i>How much longer will US troops need to stay...</i>	July	Feb	
	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	
Less than a year	17	11	
One to two years	31	27	
Two to five years	27	32	
Longer than 5 years	17	22	
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	
	100	100	

decision to go to war. Nearly half (47%) say the decision to go to war was wrong, the highest percentage expressing that view since the war began. And for the first time, as many people say the war was the wrong decision as feel it was right.

The public also remains divided on the impact of the Iraq war on the fight against terrorism. A slight plurality (44%) thinks the war has helped the war on terrorism, while nearly as many (41%) think it has hurt. Attitudes on this measure have changed little over the past several months.

Most Americans (52%) are skeptical that the Iraq elections will lead to democracy elsewhere in the Middle East, while 36% think that other Middle East countries are likely to become more democratic. And the public is split over whether democracy in Iraq can succeed if Islamic religious leaders are elected to positions of power; 40% doubt that democracy can succeed if Islamic religious leaders have a prominent role, 37% say it can, while a relatively large number (23%) declined to offer an opinion.

The survey shows that Bush's overall job approval rating stands at 46%, down slightly from 50% in January. The president's enduring strength is his handling of terrorism – 59% approve of the president's performance in that area. But the public is divided over the president's handling of foreign affairs (43% approve/46% disapprove); last month, a small plurality (48%) approved of his job in this area. And the president continues to receive negative ratings for his handling of the situation in Iraq. Overall, 53% disapprove of the job he has done there, and 61% say Bush does not have a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion. That is slightly more than the number who expressed that view last fall (55% in October and September).

	<i>January</i>		<i>February</i>	
	<u>App</u>	<u>Dis</u>	<u>App</u>	<u>Dis</u>
	%	%	%	%
Overall job	50	43	46	47
<i>Handling...</i>				
Terrorist threats	62	33	59	34
Foreign policy	48	43	43	46
Situation in Iraq	45	50	40	53

***Bush One-Word Descriptions Familiar***

Just as Bush’s overall approval rating has remained fairly stable for the past several months, so too have opinions of national conditions. Roughly four-in-ten (38%) say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, while 56% are dissatisfied. That is comparable to measures since last May, when satisfaction was somewhat lower (33%).

When respondents are asked to describe Bush in a single word, his image elicits slightly more negative than positive characterizations (42% vs. 34%). Those with a favorable view of Bush most frequently volunteered such terms as “honest,” “good,” “integrity,” and “leader” to describe the president. The most common negative references included “arrogant,” “incompetent,” and “idiot.”

	May 2003	Feb 2004	May 2004	Feb 2005
<i>One-word description</i>	%	%	%	%
Positive <i>*Honest, integrity, leader</i>	52	36	33	34
Negative <i>*Arrogant, incompetent, idiot</i>	27	36	37	42
Neutral <i>*Fair, conservative, president</i>	9	13	13	11
No answer/DK	<u>12</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100

\*Top three words in each category

***Signs of Optimism***

The public is much more optimistic about stability in Iraq than it was prior to the election, when just 29% thought the election would lead to greater stability. This is presumably a reaction to an election in Iraq that drew extensive news coverage and was largely seen as successful.

A wide partisan gap separates views on whether the elections will lead to greater stability in Iraq. Fully 71% of Republicans expect the elections will result in more stability; 45% of independents and just 29% of Democrats agree. However, there is more optimism across the political spectrum than there was before the election. In January, 46% of Republicans, 25% of independents and 17% of Democrats felt the elections would lead to greater stability.

	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Heard about elections</i>	%	%	%	%
A lot	52	59	47	53
A little	41	35	46	40
Nothing	7	6	6	7
Don't know	<u>*</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
	100	100	100	100
<i>Iraqi elections will lead to...</i>				
More stable situation	47	71	29	45
Less stable situation	7	5	9	6
Not much change	40	19	56	44
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100	100

Nearly all Americans say they have heard at least something about the recent elections in Iraq, and more than half (52%) have heard a lot about the elections. Republicans are somewhat more likely than independents and Democrats to say they have heard a lot about the elections.

Those who have heard a lot about the elections are considerably more likely than those who have not to predict greater stability for Iraq (by 54%-40%). But partisanship is a factor here as well. Among Republicans and independents, respondents who have heard a lot about the elections are much more upbeat about prospects for stability than those who are less attentive. By contrast, attentiveness to the elections has only slight impact on Democratic opinions on whether the balloting will lead to greater stability in Iraq.

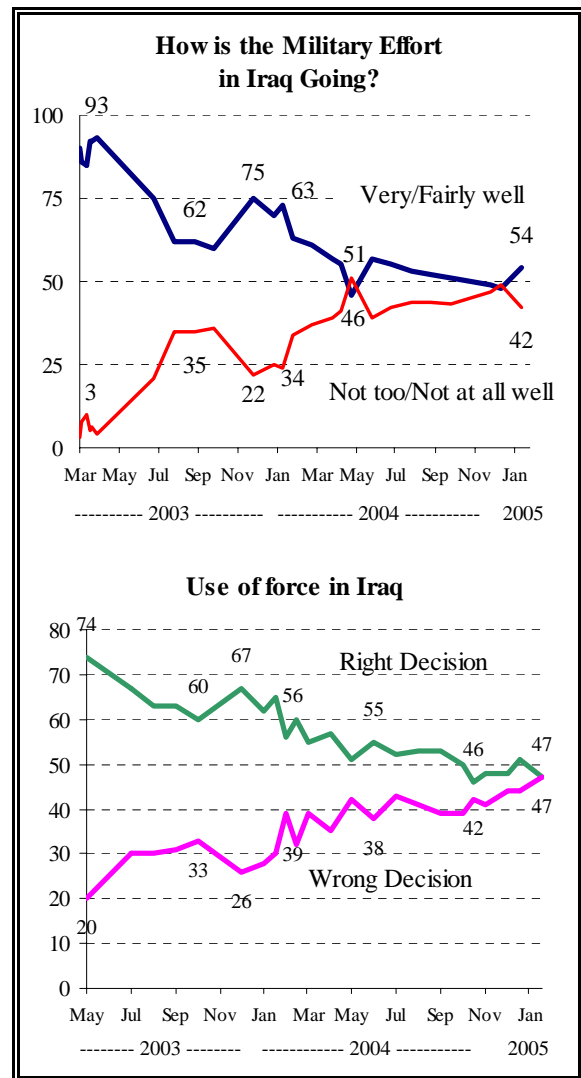
***Declining Support for War***

Despite the recent uptick in the number who take a positive view of the situation in Iraq, perceptions of the U.S. military effort have declined over the long-term. A year ago, 63% felt that the U.S. military effort was going very or fairly well; currently, 54% take a positive view of the military operation.

Opposition to the decision to go to war also has been rising steadily. A year ago, 39% opposed the decision to go to war, while 56% were in favor. The public is now evenly split on the war (47% right decision, 47% wrong decision).

Opinion on the war has long been politically polarized. Currently, Republicans back the decision to use military force in Iraq by seven-to-one (84%-12%). Democrats oppose the use of force by a somewhat smaller margin (74%-19%).

Notably, independents have become much more skeptical of the decision to use force. Currently, 53% of independents say the U.S. made the wrong decision to go to war, the highest



percentage of opposition among independents since the war began.

Yet independents remain supportive of maintaining U.S. forces in Iraq until the situation there is stabilized. A majority of independents (55%) favor keeping U.S. forces in Iraq until the situation is stabilized, while 42% support withdrawing the troops as soon as possible. About eight-in-ten Republicans (79%) and fewer than half as many Democrats (36%) favor keeping the troops in Iraq until it is stabilized. These opinions have held steady for the past several months.

***News Interest Index***

Attention to news about the current situation in Iraq leads this month’s news interest index, with 38% of the public following that story very closely. Overall interest in Iraq is down from last month when nearly half the public (48%) tracked news about the situation in Iraq. Roughly a quarter of Americans (27%) say they paid very close attention to the elections in Iraq.

Discussion of how to deal with the Social Security system captured the very close attention of nearly a third of the public (32%) this month. Democrats’ interest in this story is slightly higher than Republicans’ and independents’ (40% vs. 30% and 28%, respectively). Interest in the Social Security debate is significantly greater than in the late 1990s; in January 1998, just 18% followed reports on Social Security very closely.

Reports on North Korea’s nuclear weapons program were followed very closely by 22% of the public. That is about the same level of interest in reports on North Korea’s weapons in September 2003 (19% very closely). Just 8% of Americans say they paid very close attention to the Michael Jackson trial. That is the lowest level of interest in reports about Jackson’s legal problems in the past decade. In November 2003, 29% said they closely tracked child molestation charges against Jackson.

<b>Decision to go to War</b>			
	<u>Right</u>	<u>Wrong</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%
All	47	47	6=100
Men	53	43	4=100
Women	43	50	7=100
Under 50	51	45	4=100
50+	42	50	8=100
Republican	84	12	4=100
Democrat	19	74	7=100
Independent	42	53	5=100

<b>February News Interest</b>	
<i>News stories...</i>	<u>Following very closely</u>
	%
Situation in Iraq	38
Social Security debate	32
Iraq election	27
N. Korea nuclear weapons	22
Michael Jackson trial	8

## **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, from February 16-21, 2005. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=761) or Form 2 (N=741) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PERCENT FOLLOWING EACH NEWS STORY “VERY CLOSELY”**

	Current situation in <u>Iraq</u> %	Discussion of how to deal with <u>Social Sec.</u> %	Bush’s proposal to deal with <u>Social Sec.</u> %	Recent election in <u>Iraq</u> %	N. Korea’s nuclear weapon <u>program</u> %	Michael Jackson <u>Trial</u> %
<b>Total</b>	38	32	31	27	22	8
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	41	33	36	29	28	7
Female	36	32	26	26	17	8
<b>Race</b>						
White	38	32	31	27	21	6
Non-white	39	34	33	26	26	16
Black	37	38	34	15	22	19
Hispanic*	50	24	35	28	14	21
<b>Race and Sex</b>						
White Men	41	33	36	28	27	5
White Women	35	30	26	27	16	6
<b>Age</b>						
Under 30	29	14	14	18	13	12
30-49	39	26	30	25	20	6
50-64	46	45	38	35	26	7
65+	39	50	48	33	32	7
<b>Education</b>						
College Grad.	40	37	36	35	26	6
Some College	35	28	27	24	23	5
H.S. Grad	38	31	28	25	19	10
< H.S. Grad	43	36	36	23	20	13
<b>Region</b>						
East	39	34	29	28	23	6
Midwest	36	35	33	22	21	6
South	45	35	35	28	23	8
West	31	23	24	30	21	9
<b>Party ID</b>						
Republican	42	30	29	37	21	5
Democrat	37	40	39	21	24	11
Independent	41	28	26	26	23	6

\* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**FEBRUARY 2005 NII/SOCIAL SECURITY SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 16-21, 2005**  
**N=1,502**

**ON FORM ONE Q.1 PRECEDES Q.2 --- ON FORM TWO, Q.2 PRECEDES Q.1**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know
February, 2005	46	47	7=100	Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100
January, 2005	50	43	7=100	Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100
<b>2004</b>				August, 2002	67	21	12=100
December, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100
Mid-October, 2004	44	48	8=100	July, 2002	67	21	12=100
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	<b>2001</b>			
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
<b>2003</b>				August, 2001	50	32	18=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100				
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100				
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100				
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100				
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100				
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100				
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100				
February, 2003	54	36	10=100				
January, 2003	58	32	10=100				
<b>2002</b>							
December, 2002	61	28	11=100				
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100				
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100				
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100				



Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Sat- isfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>		<u>Sat- isfied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>No Opinion</u>
February, 2005	38	56	6=100	April, 1995	23	74	3=100
January, 2005	40	54	6=100	July, 1994	24	73	3=100
December, 2004	39	54	7=100	March, 1994	24	71	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6=100	October, 1993	22	73	5=100
July, 2004	38	55	7=100	September, 1993	20	75	4=100
May, 2004	33	61	6=100	May, 1993	22	71	7=100
Late February, 2004	39	55	6=100	January, 1993	39	50	11=100
Early January, 2004	45	48	7=100	January, 1992	28	68	4=100
December, 2003	44	47	9=100	November, 1991	34	61	5=100
October, 2003	38	56	6=100	Late Feb, 1991 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	66	31	3=100
August, 2003	40	53	7=100	August, 1990	47	48	5=100
April, 2003 <sup>1</sup>	50	41	9=100	May, 1990	41	54	5=100
January, 2003	44	50	6=100	January, 1989	45	50	5=100
November, 2002	41	48	11=100	September, 1988 ( <i>RVs</i> )	50	45	5=100
September, 2002 <sup>2</sup>	41	55	4=100	May, 1988	41	54	5=100
Late August, 2002	47	44	9=100	January, 1988	39	55	6=100
May, 2002	44	44	12=100				
March, 2002	50	40	10=100				
Late September, 2001	57	34	9=100				
Early September, 2001	41	53	6=100				
June, 2001	43	52	5=100				
March, 2001	47	45	8=100				
February, 2001	46	43	11=100				
January, 2001	55	41	4=100				
October, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> )	54	39	7=100				
September, 2000	51	41	8=100				
June, 2000	47	45	8=100				
April, 2000	48	43	9=100				
August, 1999	56	39	5=100				
January, 1999	53	41	6=100				
November, 1998	46	44	10=100				
Early September, 1998	54	42	4=100				
Late August, 1998	55	41	4=100				
Early August, 1998	50	44	6=100				
February, 1998	59	37	4=100				
January, 1998	46	50	4=100				
September, 1997	45	49	6=100				
August, 1997	49	46	5=100				
January, 1997	38	58	4=100				
July, 1996	29	67	4=100				
March, 1996	28	70	2=100				
October, 1995	23	73	4=100				
June, 1995	25	73	2=100				

<sup>1</sup> Asked April 8, 2003 only; N=395.

<sup>2</sup> The September 2002 trend is from a Pew Global Attitudes Project survey, fielded August 19 to September 8, 2002 and released December 4, 2002.

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:**

Q.3F1 Please tell me what one word best describes your impression of George W. Bush. Tell me just the ONE best word that describes him. **(OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS “DON’T KNOW”. ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR SECOND RESPONSE).**

<u>February 2005*</u>		<u>May 2004</u>		<u>Early Feb 2004<sup>3</sup></u>		<u>May 2003</u>		<i>(Registered Voters)</i> <u>Mid-Oct 2000</u>	
38	Honest	30	Honest	27	Honest	29	Honest	47	Honest
20	Good	29	Good	24	Fair	21	Good	28	Good
15	Integrity	26	Incompetent	24	Leader	20	Arrogant	19	OK/Okay
15	Arrogant	26	Leader	21	Liar	16	Leader	17	Sincere
14	Incompetent	24	Arrogant	17	Arrogant	13	Great	13	Arrogant
13	Leader	16	Strong	14	Strong	12	Confident	13	Fair
11	Fair	15	Integrity	13	Excellent	12	Courageous	13	Alright
11	Idiot	13	Idiot	13	Good	11	Aggressive	12	Dislike
9	Strong	11	Christian	12	Christian	11	Christian	12	Leader
9	Liar	10	Determined	12	Integrity	11	Determined	12	Untrustworthy
8	Excellent	10	Stupid	9	Stupid	11	Integrity	11	Trustworthy
8	Trustworthy	9	Liar	9	Incompetent	10	Patriot/Patriotic	11	President
8	Dishonest	8	Trustworthy	8	Dishonest	9	Cowboy	11	Inexperienced
8	Poor	7	Aggressive	7	Confident	8	Competent	10	Conservative
7	Conservative	7	Committed	7	Determined	8	Decisive	9	Refer to Father
7	Great	7	Dishonest	7	Idiot	8	Idiot	9	Republican
7	Sucks	7	Okay	7	Patriotic	8	President	9	Liar
7	Christian	6	Dedicated	7	Ass	8	Strong	9	Boring
7	Honorable	6	Fair	6	Character	7	Adequate	8	I like him
6	Dedicated	6	President	6	Poor	7	Excellent	8	Good man/guy
6	Determined	6	War/warrior	6	Selfish	7	Fair	8	Stupid
6	President	5	Brave	(N=748)		(N=602)		(N=997)	
6	Selfish	5	Confident						
5	Trying	5	Courageous						
5	Warmonger	5	Decisive						
5	Ignorant	5	Dumb						
5	Terrible	5	Excellent						
4	Diligent	5	Great						
4	Consistent	5	Honorable						
4	Sincere	5	Straight-forward						
4	Ineffective	(N=897)							
4	Inept								

\* The numbers listed represent the number of respondents who offered each response; the numbers are not percentages.

<sup>3</sup> In Early February 2004, these “one word” questions were not asked toward the beginning of the questionnaire. For George W. Bush, trends from March 1999, September 1999 and March 2000 are also available.

**ASK ALL:**

More specifically...

Q.4 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
a. <b>HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE</b>			
b. The situation in Iraq	40	53	7=100
January, 2005	45	50	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	37	56	7=100
Early September, 2004	47	45	8=100
August, 2004	43	52	5=100
July, 2004	42	53	5=100
June, 2004	42	51	7=100
Late April, 2004	44	48	8=100
Early April, 2004	40	53	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	59	37	4=100
September, 2003	52	40	8=100
April 10-16, 2003 <sup>4</sup>	77	17	6=100
April 8-9, 2003	71	23	6=100
--April 9, 2003	76	18	6=100
--April 8, 2003	65	28	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	73	21	6=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	26	5=100
March 25-27, 2003	73	23	4=100
March 23-24, 2003	72	22	6=100
March 20-22, 2003	70	23	7=100
February, 2003	56	37	7=100
January, 2003	56	36	8=100
Early October, 2002	56	34	10=100

c. **HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:**

d.F2 Terrorist threats	59	34	7=100
January, 2005	62	33	5=100
Mid-October, 2004	49	40	11=100
Early September, 2004	62	32	6=100
August, 2004	58	37	5=100
July, 2004	54	40	6=100
June, 2004	56	35	9=100
Late April, 2004	55	36	9=100
Early April, 2004	53	38	9=100
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 2003	65	33	2=100
September, 2003	64	28	8=100
February, 2003	67	25	8=100
January, 2003	69	23	8=100
Early October, 2002	71	22	7=100
June, 2002	74	18	8=100

<sup>4</sup> From March to April 2003 the item was worded: "... dealing with the war in Iraq?" The 1991 Gallup trend was worded "...George Bush is handling the situation in the Persian Gulf region."

Q.4 CONTINUED...		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK/Ref.</u>
	Mid-September, 2001 <sup>5</sup>	85	6	9=100
	<b>Clinton:</b> Early September, 1998	72	20	8=100
e.F2	The nation's foreign policy	43	46	11=100
	January, 2005	48	43	9=100
	Mid-October, 2004	37	49	14=100
	Early September, 2004	47	42	11=100
	August, 2004	42	49	9=100
	July, 2004	40	48	12=100
	Mid-January, 2004	53	36	11=100
	March, 2003	53	36	11=100
	Early April, 2002	69	20	11=100
	<i>Gallup:</i> October, 2001	81	14	5=100
	Early September, 2001	46	34	20=100
	August, 2001 <sup>6</sup>	45	32	23=100
	<b>Clinton:</b> September, 1997	54	34	12=100
	<b>Bush, Sr:</b> May, 1990	58	30	12=100

**ITEM f. THROUGH i. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

Q.5 Now I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely. **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE. OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:		<u>Very Closely</u>	<u>Fairly Closely</u>	<u>Not too Closely</u>	<u>Not at all Closely</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1	News about the current situation in Iraq	38	45	13	4	*=100
	January, 2005	48	37	11	4	*=100
	December, 2004	34	44	15	6	1=100
	Mid-October, 2004	42	38	11	8	1=100
	Early September, 2004	47	37	9	6	1=100
	August, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
	July, 2004	43	40	11	6	*=100
	June, 2004	39	42	12	6	1=100
	April, 2004	54	33	8	5	*=100
	Mid-March, 2004	47	36	12	4	1=100
	Early February, 2004	47	38	10	4	1=100
	Mid-January, 2004	48	39	9	4	*=100
	December, 2003	44	38	11	6	1=100
	November, 2003	52	33	9	5	1=100
	October, 2003	38	40	14	7	1=100
	September, 2003	50	33	10	6	1=100
	Mid-August, 2003	45	39	10	5	1=100
	Early July, 2003	37	41	13	8	1=100
	June, 2003	46	35	13	6	*=100

<sup>5</sup> In Mid-September, 2001 the question was worded: "...dealing with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington." In Early September 1998 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bill Clinton is handling current threats from international terrorist groups?"

<sup>6</sup> In August 2001 roughly half of the U.S. sample was asked about Bush's handling of international policy, while the other half was asked about the handling of the nation's foreign policy. Results did not differ between question wordings.

**Q.5 CONTINUED...**

		Very Closely	Fairly Closely	Not too Closely	Not at all Closely	DK/Ref
	May, 2003	63	29	6	2	*=100
	April 11-16, 2003 <sup>7</sup>	47	40	10	2	1=100
	April 2-7, 2003	54	34	9	2	1=100
	March 20-24, 2003	57	33	7	2	1=100
	March 13-16, 2003 <sup>8</sup>	62	27	6	4	1=100
	February, 2003	62	25	8	4	1=100
	January, 2003	55	29	10	4	2=100
	December, 2002	51	32	10	6	1=100
	Late October, 2002	53	33	8	5	1=100
	Early October, 2002	60	28	6	5	1=100
	Early September, 2002	48	29	15	6	2=100
b.F1	George W. Bush's proposal to deal with the Social Security system	31	36	20	13	*=100
	<b>Clinton:</b> February, 1998 <sup>9</sup>	24	38	26	12	*=100
	January, 1997	29	35	22	13	1=100
c.F1	The Michael Jackson trial	8	17	30	44	1=100
	November, 2003 <sup>10</sup>	29	27	22	20	2=100
	January, 1994	19	30	30	20	1=100
	December, 1993	15	25	27	32	1=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:</b>						
d.F2	The recent election in Iraq	27	39	18	16	*=100
e.F2	Discussion of how to deal with the Social Security system	32	38	16	14	*=100
	January, 1998 <sup>11</sup>	18	27	29	25	1=100
	February, 1997	23	26	22	28	1=100
f.F2	North Korea's nuclear weapons program	22	34	22	22	*=100
	September, 2003	19	32	27	21	1=100
	May, 2003	27	40	22	11	*=100
	March, 2003	34	34	19	12	1=100
	February, 2003	33	34	18	13	2=100
	January, 2003	33	34	18	14	1=100

<sup>7</sup> From March 20 to April 16, 2003 the story was listed: "News about the war in Iraq."

<sup>8</sup> From October 2002 to March 13-16, 2003 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will take military action in Iraq." In Early September 2002 the story was listed as "Debate over the possibility that the U.S. will invade Iraq."

<sup>9</sup> In February 1998, the story was listed as "Clinton's proposal to deal with the problem with Social Security." In January 1997 the story was listed as "Proposals to reform the Social Security System."

<sup>10</sup> In November 2003 the story was listed as "Recent charges of child molestation against Michael Jackson." In January 1994 and December 1993 the story was listed as "Michael Jackson's personal problems."

<sup>11</sup> In January 1998 and February 1997 the story was listed as "The debate about how to reform the Social Security system."

**Q.5 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>Closely</u>	Fairly <u>Closely</u>	Not too <u>Closely</u>	Not at all <u>Closely</u>	DK/Ref
Late October, 2002 <sup>12</sup>	25	31	23	20	1=100
June, 1994	27	33	26	14	*=100

**Q.6 THROUGH Q.35 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Turning to the subject of Iraq ...

Q.36 Do you think the U.S. made the right decision or the wrong decision in using military force against Iraq?

	Right <u>decision</u>	Wrong <u>decision</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2005	47	47	6=100
January, 2005	51	44	5=100
December, 2004	49	44	7=100
November, 2004 (RVs)	48	41	11=100
Mid-October, 2004	46	42	12=100
Early October, 2004	50	39	11=100
Early September, 2004	53	39	8=100
August, 2004	53	41	6=100
July, 2004	52	43	5=100
June, 2004	55	38	7=100
May, 2004	51	42	7=100
Late April, 2004	54	37	9=100
Early April, 2004	57	35	8=100
Mid-March, 2004	55	39	6=100
Late February, 2004	60	32	8=100
Early February, 2004	56	39	5=100
Mid-January, 2004	65	30	5=100
Early January, 2004	62	28	10=100
December, 2003	67	26	7=100
October, 2003	60	33	7=100
September, 2003	63	31	6=100
August, 2003	63	30	7=100
Early July, 2003	67	24	9=100
May, 2003	74	20	6=100
April 10-16, 2003	74	19	7=100
April 8-9, 2003	74	19	7=100
April 2-7, 2003	72	20	8=100
March 28-April 1, 2003	69	25	6=100
March 25-27, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 23-24, 2003	74	21	5=100
March 20-22, 2003	71	22	7=100
Late January, 1991	77	15	9=100

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<sup>12</sup> In Late October 2002 the story was listed as "North Korea's admission that it has been secretly developing nuclear weapons." In June 1994 the story was listed as "Reports about North Korea's building of nuclear weapons and refusal to allow UN inspections."

Q.37 How well is the U.S. military effort in Iraq going? **[READ IN ORDER]**

	Very <u>well</u>	Fairly <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2005	14	40	25	17	4=100
January, 2005	9	39	29	20	3=100
December, 2004	10	40	28	18	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	13	38	26	17	6=100
Early September, 2004	12	40	26	18	4=100
August, 2004	12	41	28	16	3=100
July, 2004	13	42	26	16	3=100
June, 2004	16	41	25	14	4=100
May, 2004	10	36	32	19	3=100
Late April, 2004	12	43	26	15	4=100
Early April, 2004	14	43	26	13	4=100
Mid-March, 2004	16	45	26	11	2=100
Early February, 2004	17	46	23	11	3=100
Mid-January, 2004	22	51	18	6	3=100
Early January, 2004	23	47	18	7	5=100
December, 2003	28	47	16	6	3=100
October, 2003	16	44	25	11	4=100
September, 2003	15	47	26	9	3=100
August, 2003	19	43	24	11	3=100
Early July, 2003	23	52	16	5	4=100
<i>April 10-16, 2003</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>April 8-9, 2003</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2=100</i>
<i>April 2-7, 2003</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3=100</i>
<i>March 25-April 1, 2003</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5=100</i>
<i>March 23-24, 2003</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6=100</i>
<i>March 20-22, 2003</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7=100</i>

Q.38 Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?

	Keep troops <u>in Iraq</u>	Bring troops <u>home</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2005	55	42	3=100
January, 2005	54	41	5=100
December, 2004	56	40	4=100
Mid-October, 2004	57	36	7=100
Early September, 2004	54	40	6=100
August, 2004	54	42	4=100
July, 2004	53	43	4=100
June, 2004 <sup>13</sup>	51	44	5=100
May, 2004	53	42	5=100
Late April, 2004	53	40	7=100
Early April, 2004	50	44	6=100
Early January, 2004	63	32	5=100
October, 2003	58	39	3=100
September, 2003	64	32	4=100

<sup>13</sup> In June 2004 and earlier, the question was worded: "Do you think the U.S. should keep military troops in Iraq until a stable government is established there, or do you think the U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible?"

Q.39 Do you think George W. Bush has a clear plan for bringing the situation in Iraq to a successful conclusion, or don't you think so?

	Has a clear <u>plan</u>	Doesn't have <u>a clear plan</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2005	32	61	7=100
Early October, 2004	35	55	10=100
Early September, 2004	36	55	9=100
August, 2004	36	58	6=100
July, 2004	34	59	7=100
June, 2004	37	55	8=100
Late April, 2004	36	54	10=100
Early April, 2004	32	57	11=100
December, 2003	44	45	11=100
October, 2003	35	54	11=100
September, 2003	32	58	10=100

Q.40 Do you think the war in Iraq has helped the war on terrorism, or has it hurt the war on terrorism?

	<u>Helped</u>	<u>Hurt</u>	(VOL) <u>No effect</u>	Don't know/ <u>Refused</u>
February, 2005	44	41	7	8=100
Mid-October, 2004	45	40	6	9=100
Early September, 2004	46	40	6	8=100
August, 2004	45	44	4	7=100
July, 2004	43	45	5	7=100
June, 2004	43	44	4	9=100
Mid-March, 2004	50	37	5	8=100
Late February, 2004	62	28	3	7=100
Early February, 2004	55	32	7	6=100
December, 2003	59	26	6	9=100
September, 2003	54	31	7	8=100
May, 2003	65	22	6	7=100
April, 2003 <sup>14</sup>	63	22	--	15=100
Early October, 2002	52	34	--	14=100

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<sup>14</sup> In April 2003, the question was worded: "Do you think the war in Iraq will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?" In Early October 2002 the question was worded: "If the U.S. uses military force in Iraq, do you think this will help the war on terrorism, or will it hurt the war on terrorism?"



Q.41 Iraq recently held its first nationwide elections. How much have you heard about this... a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

		<i>Before Jan 30<sup>th</sup></i>	
		<i>Elections</i>	
		Jan	June
		<u>2005</u> <sup>15</sup>	<u>2004</u>
52	A lot	46	42
41	A little	40	40
7	Nothing at all	13	17
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>100</u>		100	100

Q.42 All in all, do you think the recent elections in Iraq will lead to a MORE stable situation, a LESS stable situation, or will the situation in Iraq not change much?

		<i>Before Jan 30<sup>th</sup></i>	
		<i>Elections</i>	
		Jan	
		<u>2005</u>	
47	More stable	29	
7	Less stable	14	
40	Situation will not change much	49	
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>8</u>	
<u>100</u>		100	

Q.43 How much longer do you think United States troops will have to remain in Iraq – for less than a year, one to two years, two to five years, or will the U.S. troops have to stay in Iraq for longer than five years?

		----- CBS/New York Times -----					
		July	June	April	March	Dec	July
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2003</u>
11	Less than a year	17	17	8	8	15	13
27	One to two years	31	33	27	22	34	31
32	Two to five years	27	26	33	35	31	31
22	Longer than five years	17	16	25	26	12	18
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>100</u>		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=761]:**

Q.44F1 Do you think democracy can succeed if the Iraqi people elect Islamic religious leaders to positions of power, or not?

37	Yes, can succeed
40	No
<u>23</u>	Don't know/Refused
<u>100</u>	

<sup>15</sup>

In January 2005 the question was worded "On January 30<sup>th</sup>, Iraq is scheduled to have its first nationwide elections. How much have you heard about this..." In June 2004 the question was worded: "On June 30<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. is planning to hand over civilian authority to Iraqi leaders. How much have you heard about this... a lot, a little, or nothing at all?"

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=741]:**

Q.45F2 Now that Iraq has held its first democratic election, do you think other countries in the Middle East region are more likely to become more democratic, or not?

36	Yes, more likely become more democratic
52	No
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	