

Note to Editors: This is the first of a 2-part series on the Iran-contra affair. Part 2, which also will be for immediate release, will be sent to you tomorrow. These two stories will take the place of The Gallup Poll releases regularly scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 14.

Since 1935

## Little Affected by Recent Events

By George Gallup, Jr.

the American people has declined only slightly and re-

public approval of Reagan as a person outweighs disapproval by a 4-to-1 ratio, with 75% offering positive and 19% negative appraisals. The President's current personal rating represents only a 5 percentage-point decline

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Ronald

### Reagan Job Performance Ratings

Approve approve opinion

Oct. 24-27 62 20 8

July 11-14 63 28 9

disapprove of his overall performance in office — 44% of the total sample — a 54% majority nevertheless approves of Reagan as a person. Among those who give the President a favorable job performance rating, his personal approval rating is a virtually unanimous 93%.

May 10-17 60 25 9  
 -Apr. 11-14 62 29 9  
 -Mar. 7-10 63 26 11  
 -Jan. 10-13 64 27 9

the reaction to Reagan as a person and the

The Iran-contra affair has caused the sharpest de-

Middle East situation — from 47% to 27% approval, and the situation in Nicaragua — from 34% to 23% approval. However, the new survey revealed a comparatively modest drop in approval of Reagan's handling of

do you think of Reagan as a person. How do you feel you approve or disapprove of him?

### Reagan, the Man

#### No Change on Economy

Currently, 50% of Americans approve of Reagan's handling of economic conditions, statistically unchanged from the favorable ratings he received in Gallup surveys earlier this year.

| Date          | Approve | Disapprove | Opinion |
|---------------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1986-Dec. 4-5 | 75      | 18         | 7       |
| -September    | 80      | 12         | 8       |
| 1985 November | 81      | 10         | 9       |
| 1983-August   | 67      | 21         | 12      |
| 1982-February | 70      | 20         | 10      |
| 1981-July     | 78      | 13         | 9       |

These questions were also asked:

Following are highlights of the recent trend in approval:

|   | Dec. '86 | Jul. '86 | Jan. '86 | Jul. '85 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| would you tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way President Reagan is handling that problem? |          |          |          |          |
| relations with the Soviet Union: The situation in the Middle East? The situation in Nicaragua?            |          |          |          |          |
| Economic conditions   | 50       | 49       | 53       | 53       |
| Foreign policy  | 34       | 51       | 50       | 50       |
| Soviet relations  | 53       | 60       | 65       | 52       |
| handling of specific responsibilities:  |          |          |          |          |
| Middle East   | 27       | 47       | 45       |          |
| Nicaragua   | 23       | 34       | *        | 29       |

**Reagan Performance Ratings**

|                     | Approve | Dis-approve | No opinion |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|------------|
| Economic conditions | 50      | 45          | 5          |
| Foreign policy      | 34      | 57          | 9          |
| Soviet relations    | 53      | 36          | 11         |
| Middle East         | 27      | 59          | 14         |
| Nicaragua           | 23      | 64          | 13         |

\* Not asked.

entifically selected localities across the nation Dec. 4 and 5. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects could be 4 percentage points in either direction.

In addition to sampling error, the reader should bear in mind that question wording and other practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls. *These statements conform to the standards of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.*

**COMING TOMORROW  
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)**

- Perceived damage to America's influence in world affairs
- Support for future aid to the contras
- Implications for "Star Wars"
- Reagan's handling of Iran-contras affair vs. Nixon's early handling of Watergate
- Mood of the nation