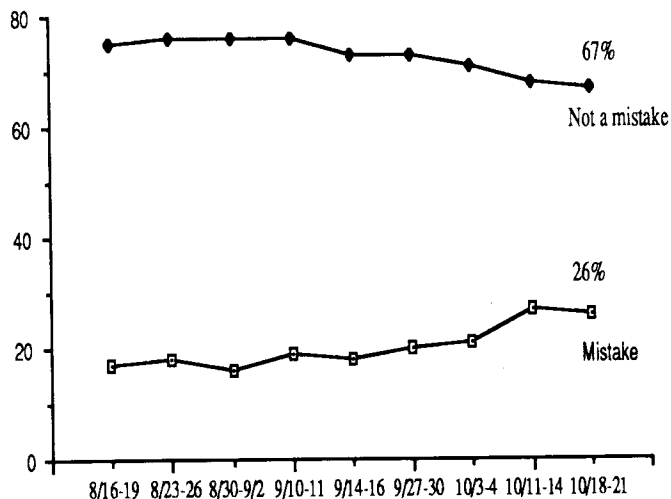


DATA ESSAY: U.S. OPINION ON THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST



STRONG BACKING FOR INTERVENTION

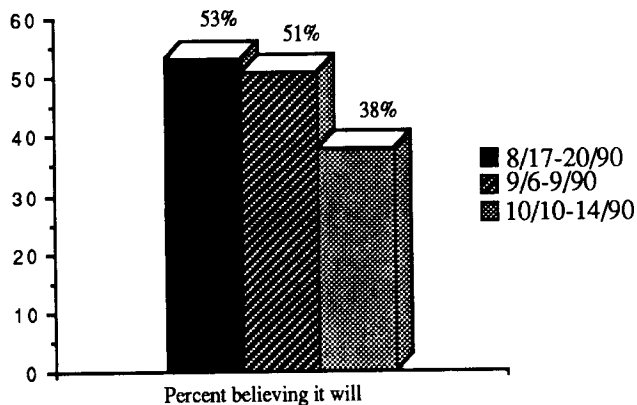
Question: In view of the developments since we first sent our troops to Saudi Arabia, do you think the United States made a mistake in sending troops to Saudi Arabia, or not?

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization.

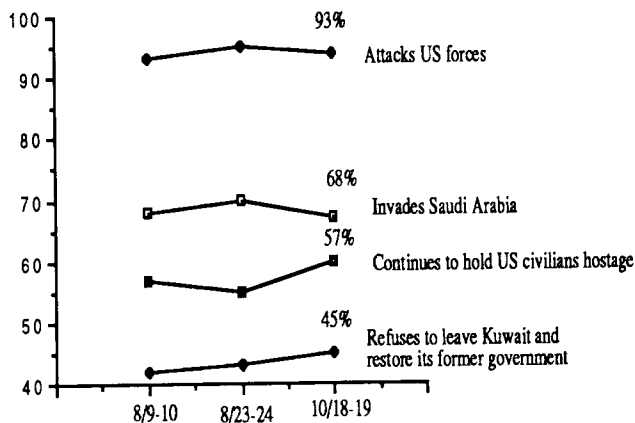
GROWING DOUBTS THE BOYCOTT WILL BE ENOUGH

Question: Do you think the economic boycott will make Iraq withdraw from Kuwait or not?

Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post.

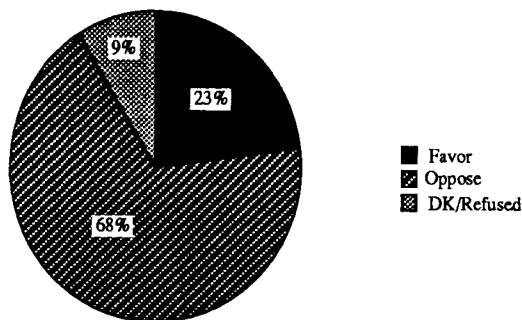


ON THE WHOLE, SUPPORT FOR USE OF FORCE IS HIGH AND LITTLE CHANGED



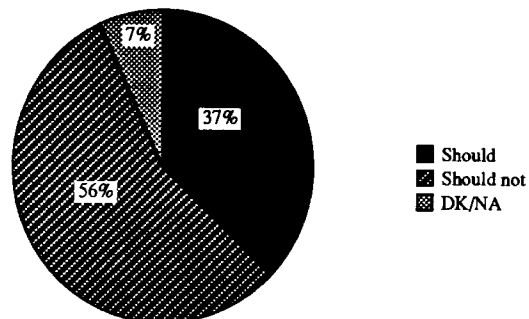
Question: Now that US forces have been sent to Saudi Arabia and other areas of the Middle East, do you think they should engage in combat if Iraq...

Source: Surveys by Gallup/Newsweek.



Question: Do you favor or oppose direct US military action against Iraq at this time?

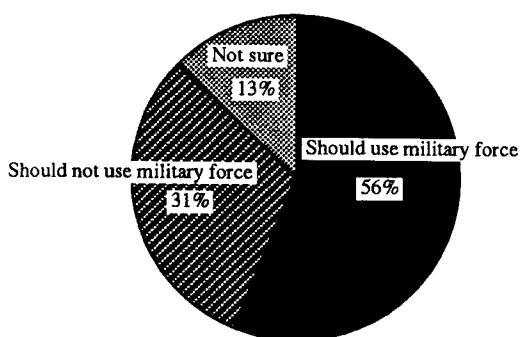
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 3-4, 1990.



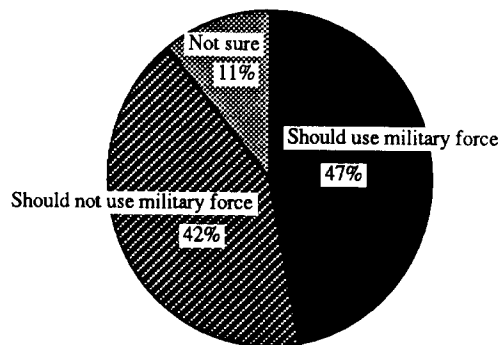
Question: Do you think the US should take strong military actions against Iraq now, or not?

Source: Survey by CBS News/New York Times, October 8-10, 1990.

Some survey findings, such as those below, suggest that the public may be becoming somewhat more leary about the use of force. The preponderance of data indicates, however, that there has been little or no change over the first three months, and that the public has been more supportive of strong military action (prior to its actual use) than in any comparable crisis since World War II. As the pie charts in the middle of the next page show, Americans do not think their country's basic policy vis-a-vis Iraq should be determined by concern over the hostages. The public considers the US position in the conflict to be strong and likely to prevail.



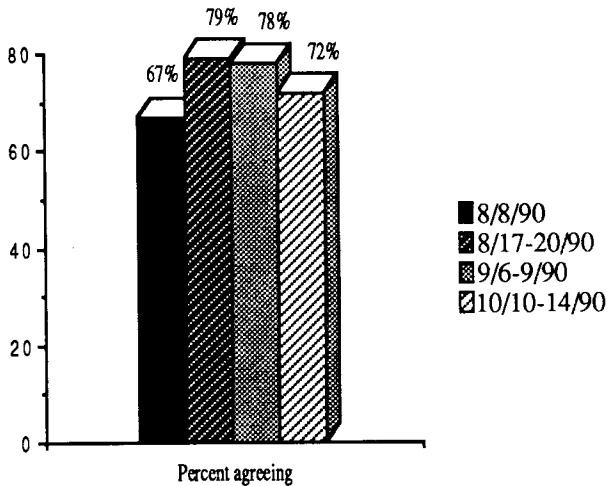
September 15-18, 1990



October 19-21, 1990

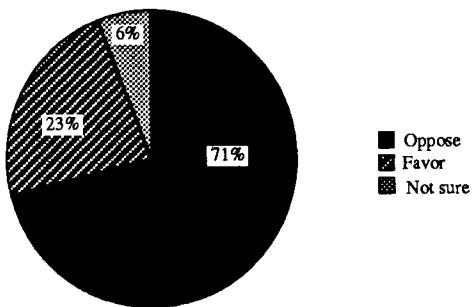
Question: If after three months the economic sanctions against Iraq do not work, should the US use military force to get the Iraqis out of Kuwait, or not?

Source: Surveys by NBC News/Wall Street Journal.



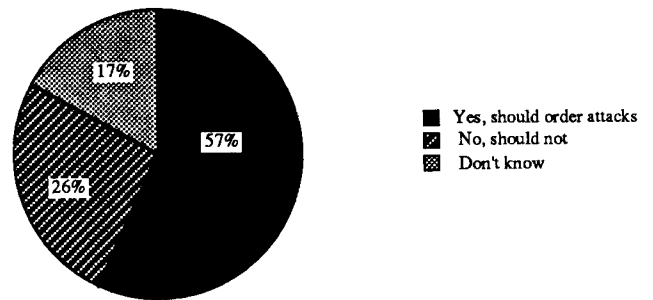
Question: Do you agree or disagree that the US should take all action necessary, including the use of military force, to make sure that Iraq withdraws its forces from Kuwait?

Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post.



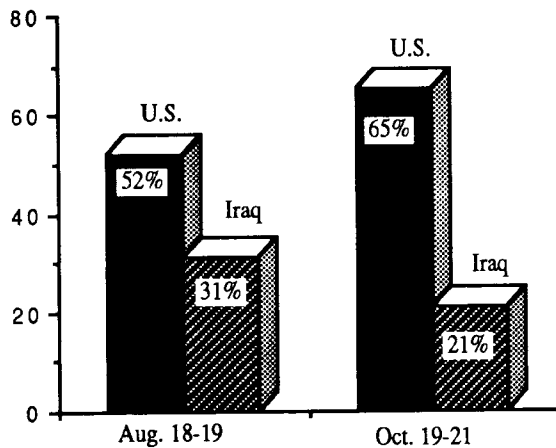
Question: Would you favor or oppose withdrawing American troops from Saudi Arabia if Iraq started killing hostages?

Source: Survey by Time/CNN/ Yankelovich Clancy Shulman, August 23, 1990.



Question: If fighting begins, do you think President Bush should order attacks on Iraqi positions even if US hostages or other foreign nationals are being held at those positions?

Source: Survey by Gallup/Newsweek, October 18-19, 1990.



Question: As of right now, which side do you feel has the upper hand in this conflict -- the US or Iraq?

Source: Surveys by NBC News/Wall Street Journal.