SYMPATHIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

American sympathies in the Middle East, historically pro-Israel, were reinforced by the Gulf War. Americans are split, though, over whether Israel or the Arab nations poses the biggest obstacle to peace in the region. Seven in ten approve of President Bush's handling of the situation in the Middle East.

Question: In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies with the Israelis or more with the Palestinian Arabs?

![Graph showing sympathies in the Middle East](chart)

Note: Based on group that says it is following the situation in the Middle East very or fairly closely. *In 1986, category changed to "Palestinian Arabs."
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization; latest that of August 8-11, 1991.

Question: In general, who do you think is currently the biggest obstacle to finding a peace settlement in the Arab-Israeli dispute ...


Question: Do you think the United States should strengthen its ties to Israel, weaken its ties to Israel or keep its ties to Israel about the same as they are now?

Don't know/no opinion 3%
Weaken them 17%
Strengthen them 68%

Note: This question was asked five times since January 1987, and responses have been consistent.

Question: Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the situation in the Middle East?

No opinion 5%
Approve of way Bush is handling situation in Middle East 70%
Disapprove 25%

Note: In a September 1991 Gallup survey, 58% of respondents approved of the way President Bush is handling relations with Israel. 26% disapproved.
Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, August 8-11, 1991.