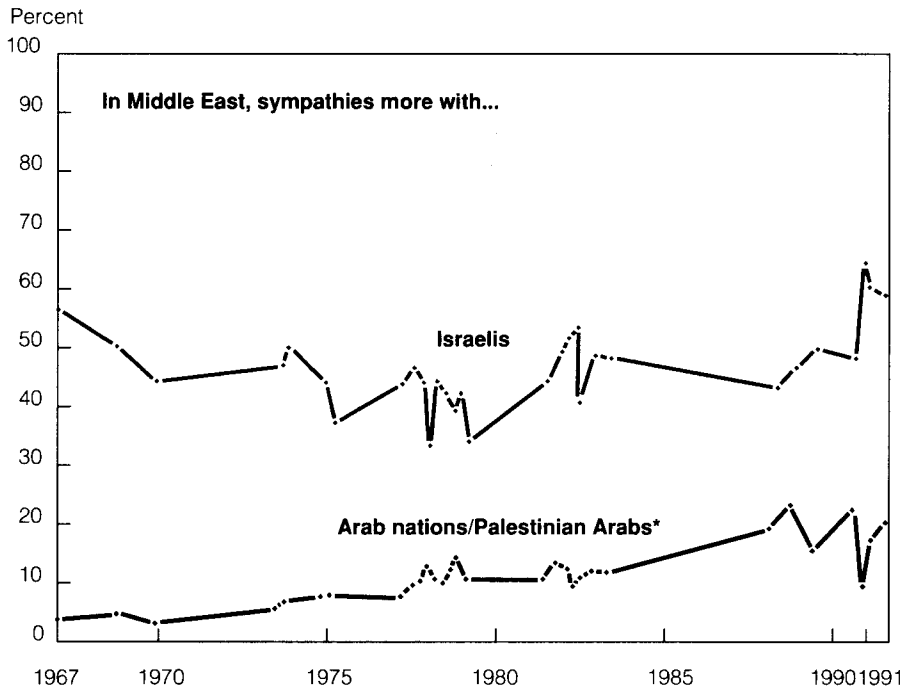


SYMPATHIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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.

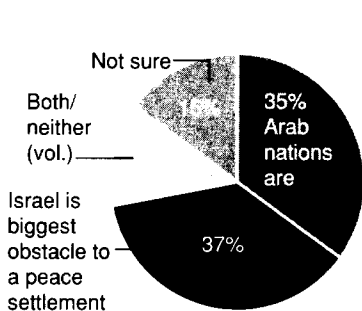
Question: **In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies with the Israelis or more with the Palestinian Arabs?***



	Israel	Arab nations/ Palestinian Arabs	Both/neither
Jun. 1967	56%	4%	25%
Jan. 1969	50	5	28
Mar. 1970	44	3	32
Oct. 1973	47	6	22
Dec.	50	7	25
Jan. 1975	44	8	22
Apr.	37	8	24
Jun. 1977	44	8	28
Oct.	46	11	21
Dec.	44	10	27
Feb. 1978	33	14	28
Apr.-May	44	10	33
Aug.	42	11	30
Nov.	39	13	30
Jan. 1979	42	15	29
Mar.	34	11	31
Jul.-Aug. 1981	44	11	34
Jan. 1982	49	14	23
Apr.-May	51	12	26
Jun.	52	10	29
Jul.	41	12	31
Jan. 1983	49	12	22
Jul.	48	12	26
May 1988	43	20	20
Dec.	46	24	16
Aug. 1989	50	14	15
Oct. 1990	48	23	19
Feb. 1991	64	8	19
Mar.	60	17	16
Aug.	59	21	12

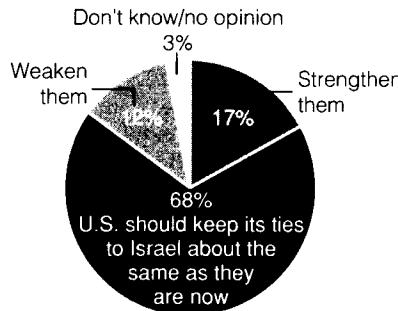
Note: Based on group that says it is following the situation in the Middle East very or fairly closely. * In 1988, category changed to "Palestinian Arabs."
Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization, latest that of August 8-11, 1991.

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



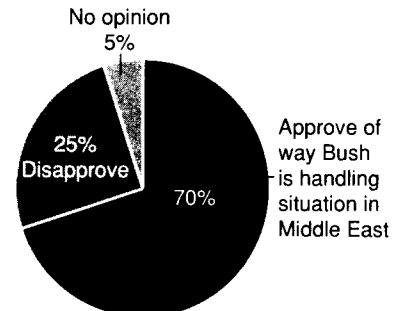
Source: Survey by Peter Hart and Robert Teeter for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, July 26-29, 1991.

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?**



Note: This question has been asked five times since January 1987, and responses have been consistent.
Source: Survey by ABC News, September 13-15, 1991.

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



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.