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TRUMAN'S GREEK POLICY WINNING WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT WAR NOT FEARED, POLL FINDS

Many Voters Wish U. N. Could Be Consulted; Want Inspection of Spending in Greece

By GEORGE GALLUP
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PRINCETON, N. J., March 27 — The first complete national survey of public opinion to aid to Greece shows that President Truman's program has substantial backing from the American people.



Their view is shown in the following vote among people who have heard or read about the issue of aid to Greece:

"Do you approve or disapprove of the bill asking for 250 million dollars to aid Greece?"

AID TO GREECE

Yes	**56%**
No	**32**
No opinion	**12**

On the proposed 150 million dollar aid to Turkey the poll finds the following vote:

AID TO TURKEY

Yes	**49%**
No	**36**
No opinion	**15**

In short, aid to Greece is favored by nearly 2-to-1 and aid to Turkey by about 1½-to-1, at this stage of developments on the issue. Further debate and discussion may alter sentiment.

In probing opinion the Institute covered many aspects of the issue, using a multiple-question technique. A comprehensive ballot was used in the interviewing of voters, their opinions being drawn out by a series of questions dealing with the Greek and Turkish problems.

Among the significant findings were the following:

1—Mr. Truman's speech to Congress asking for $400,000,000 to help Greece and Turkey made a great impression on the American people. More than three out of every four so far say they have heard or read about his speech.

2—While approving Mr. Truman's general policy, the majority express regret that the problem of Greece was not put up to the United Nations in the beginning.

Most voters recognize the reasons why the United Nations was by-passed, but they have faith in the U.N. and under ideal circumstances would have preferred the U.N. to handle the controversy.

3—The majority of Americans are not afraid that the proposed stand in Greece and Turkey will lead to war.

On the contrary, the general feeling is that a strong stand which shows Russia that we are not bluffing will, in the long run, improve the chances of a European peace settlement.

The viewpoint of the majority is well expressed in the comments of a Philadelphia office manager, one of thousands of voters questioned in the poll. His statement sums up the typical attitude as follows:

"If we let Russia get away with her aggressive policy she'll start reaching out for more and more and then we're bound to have a war on our hands. Dictators never know when to stop if you appease them.

"I think that putting our foot down now at the risk of war is more likely to bring lasting peace than giving in to the Russians."

4—The people are being fairly hard-headed in their attitude toward money for Greece and Turkey. They're willing to see aid given, but they want American experts sent over to supervise the uses to which the money will be put.

The Administration's plan to send such experts is approved by a vote of approximately 8-to-1.

5—The country is anxious, however, to avoid military involvements of any kind in Greece.

This is shown when voters were asked whether they favor sending American military advisers to train the Greek and Turkish armies. The replies were an overwhelming "no."

Early this week Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States would send no troops to Greece.

6—There is a very widespread feeling that the so-called "Truman doctrine" will have to apply to other nations if they get themselves in the same fix as Greece.

In short, the public seems aware that our stepping into Greece may prove anything but an isolated incident, and that we might have to repeat the process in other nations where free government is considered threatened.

7—The only major point on which the public does not seem to be clear is whether the governments of Greece and Turkey truly have the backing of a majority of voters in those countries.

More than half say they don't know whether the Turkish government is backed by the people and about four in every ten say they don't know whether the present Greek government has the support of a majority of Greeks.

Those Americans who venture an opinion are inclined to think the Grecian and Turkish governments are supported by a majority of citizens. But the poll clearly indicates that a very large section of the American public is looking to the State Department and other sources for more light on the question.

8—Eighteen months after the ending of World War II the country continues to be anti-isolationist in its sentiments.

When asked whether we should take a strong stand in European affairs or try to get out of Europe, the voters indicate a 2-to-1 preference for a positive role across the Atlantic.

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FOLLOWING is a summary of the survey questions and answers in addition to those given in the beginning of this report. The Institute is continuing its study of public opinion on the Greece-Turkey issue, and will continue its reports at periodic intervals until the issue is settled by a vote of Congress.

ADVANCE PROMOTION BOX

How Is Greece Affecting Truman's Popularity

The Gallup Poll is completing a new national check-up on President Truman's popularity.

Will his handling of the Greek situation improve his chances for 1948—or has the outcry against American failure to consult the United Nations injured Mr. Truman's popularity?

A full and authoritative report on how satisfied the voters are with their president will be released in the NAME OF PAPER on Sunday (Monday).

"What do you think are the chief reasons FOR helping Greece and Turkey?"

Principal reasons given by voters: (1) To check communism and stop Russia; (2) Greece is starving, needs food, needs help; (3) to strengthen America's position and keep peace.

"Can you tell me what are the chief reasons AGAINST helping Greece and Turkey?"

Principal reasons given: (1) It might lead to war; (2) it would cost too much, we can't afford it; (3) we might forfeit all possibility of Russia's friendship.

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"Would you favor sending American civilian experts over to Greece to help supervise the uses to which this money will be put?"

Yes	**93%**
No	**14**
No opinion	**3**

The same question was asked concerning Turkey, with virtually the same result — 77 per cent in favor, 17 per cent opposed and 6 per cent no opinion.

"Would you favor sending American military advisers to train the Greek army?"

Yes	**37%**
No	**54**
No opinion	**9**

"Would you favor sending them to train the Turkish army?"

Yes	**33%**
No	**55**
No opinion	**12**

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"Why do you think this problem was not turned over to the United Nations to handle?"

Principal reasons given by voters: (1) The U.N. is too slow, speed is needed here; (2) the U.N. is not equipped to handle the problem, not ready to meet such issues, has no money to spend and no police force; (3) Russia would use her veto to prevent any action on Greece.

However, 56 per cent indicated disapproval of by-passing the U.N. completely, while 25 per cent approved and 19 per cent gave no opinion.

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"Do you think that lending money to aid Greece and Turkey is or is not likely to get us into war?"

Is likely	**30%**
Is not likely	**54**
No opinion	**16**

"Do you think the present Greek government has the backing of the majority—that is, more than half—of the Greek people?"

Yes	**33%**
No	**25**
No opinion	**42**

"Do you think the present Turkish government has the backing of the majority — that is, more than half—of the Turkish people?"

Yes	**34%**
No	**14**
No opinion	**52**

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"Suppose other nations find themselves in the same fix as Greece. Do you think the United States will have to do something about it?"

Yes	**68%**
No	**20**
No opinion	**12**

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"Generally speaking, should the United States take a strong stand in European affairs, or should we try to get out of European affairs?"

Take strong stand	**58%**
Get out	**32**
No opinion	**10**