

For Release FRIDAY, Sept. 15, 1950

PERMANENT COPY
DO NOT REMOVE FROM FILE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC OPINION
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Use of A-Bomb in Korea Rejected 2-to-1 By U.S. Public in Survey

Better Educated Found Most Opposed, But Majority Would Sanction Its Use in General War

By GEORGE GALLUP

Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N.J., Sept. 14—In spite of three months of almost continuous bad news from the Korean front, and our lack of sufficient fighting manpower there, American public sentiment is overwhelmingly opposed to using the atom bomb against North Korea, a national opinion survey shows.

The Truman administration announced in the early days of the Korean war that the A-bomb was not to be used. But as the military situation deteriorated with the Red Koreans continually driving our forces back, some observers wondered whether there might not be increasing pressure to use the powerful bomb which five years ago so greatly hastened the surrender of Japan in World War II.



Gallup

Today's survey shows that the public rejects the idea of using the A-bomb in Korea by a decisive ratio of greater than 2-to-1. #60 TDS:10

This does not mean, however, that the country disapproves using the A-bomb at any time, in any war. A recent survey found a vote of nearly 5-to-1 in favor of using the bomb in the event of a general war with Russia.

The question in today's survey was:

"Do you think the United States should or should not use the atom bomb in Korea?"

Interviewing of voters took place during the last ten days

in August, with the following results:

Should use A-bomb in Korea	28%	✓
Should not	60	✓
No opinion	12	✓
#60 TDS:10	100%	

An interesting pattern of opinion according to degree of education is found, with those most educated (college training) most opposed to atom-bombing the North Koreans.

* * *

Arguments in Opposition

The arguments put forward by military experts against using the A-bomb in Korea are partly military, partly psychological.

It is argued that since Korea has few large cities, few industrial and manufacturing targets or supply bases, the bomb could not achieve decisive effects commensurate with the cost.

Next it is believed that the psychological effect throughout Asia of the white man dropping the A-bomb on the Koreans would be bad for the United States.

The Russians in their propaganda at the United Nations and in the Far East are already making much of Amer-

ican bombing of Korean town with ordinary bombs.

Today's study of American public opinion closely parallels one completed recently in Australia by Australian Public Opinion Polls, an affiliate of the American Institute of Public Opinion.

This found Australians in the survey voting 4-to-1 that the United States should not use the atom bomb in Korea.

* * *

Use in General War

The question of whether American public opinion would sanction use of the A-bomb in the event of a general war was covered in a survey by the Institute reported Aug. 2.

The findings:

"What is your opinion about our using the atom bomb if the U.S. gets into another world war—do you think we should use it, or not?"

Yes	61%	} 77%
Qualified yes	16	
No	16	} 7
No opinion	7	
#58K:23	100%	

One reason for the vote, the survey further revealed, is that an overwhelming majority of Americans think Russia would not hesitate to use the atom bomb against us in case of a war.