

LONELY AMERICA: LITTLE GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICIES

*Majority of 14 Countries Polled Want Leaders To Be Less
Supportive of American Positions*



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Majority of 14 Countries Polled Want Leaders To Be Less Supportive of American Positions

Toronto, CANADA (February 5th, 2003) – A majority of 14 countries polled indicate that their citizens want their leaders to be *less* supportive of American government policies. Further, only about one-in-three citizens or fewer in 12 out of 14 countries surveyed want to see their own country's leaders become more supportive of U.S. government policies, according to a survey by Ipsos-Reid.

In nine of 14 countries surveyed by Ipsos-Reid, nearly half or more of citizens say they want to see their nation's leaders become *less* supportive of American government policies. In all, Ipsos-Reid interviewed 8,000 adults last November and December.

In every European country polled, at least half of the public rejected more support by their political leaders for positions taken by the U.S. government.

"In virtually every corner of the world, there is significant public support for scaling-back domestic endorsement of American government policies," said John Wright, Senior Vice President of the company's public affairs and public opinion polling division in Canada.

"Clearly, the United States has some major fence-mending to do."

Even among Canadians, public opinion is evenly divided between those who think their leaders should be less supportive (48%), and those who favor either more support (37%) or maintaining current position on U.S. policy (10%).

These international survey research data were collected via Ipsos's Global Express, a quarterly international omnibus survey. Fieldwork was conducted between November 11 and December 14, 2002. Data are based

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on individual surveys taken with a random sampling of adults (18+) across 15 national markets. The target sample size in each country was 500, except for the United States where 1,000 interviews were conducted. Within each country, the survey results can be said to be within ± 4.5 percentage points of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed; ± 3.1 percentage points for the 1,000 sample in the United States. In 10 of these 15 surveyed countries, the samples provide national coverage. In most of these national sample countries the data were collected via randomized telephone interviewing, the exceptions being Argentina, Philippines, Poland, and Turkey, where in-person door-to-door interviewing was used. Door-to-door interviewing was also used in the non-national samples of Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, South Africa, and Thailand, where the sample coverage was limited to the largest cities.

And elsewhere:

- In Europe, outright opposition is highest in France, where more than two out of three French citizens say their government should be less supportive of American policies.
- It would be difficult to express more support for the Bush Administration's stance on Iraq than Tony Blair's government has done, though a few (20% of Britons) think more should be expressed, and a very few (13%) would like to see it maintained.
- A slim majority of Germans think their leaders are still giving too much support to the Americans, even after the distinctly anti-American rhetorical tilt of German Chancellor Schroeder in the last election. Fifty-three per cent think their leaders should be less supportive of American government policies.
- In the Americas, large majorities in urban Brazil (70%), Argentina (63%) and Mexico (61%) say their leaders should show less support for U.S. government policies.
- Japanese opinion is mildly supportive, with a slim majority favoring either the current level of U.S. government support (29%) or more support (25%).



The Balance of Support for U.S. Policy

All things considered, do you think your country's leaders should be more Supportive or less supportive of American government policies?

	More Supportive %	Less Supportive %	Same As Now %	Don't Know %
The Americas				
Argentina	14	63	8	15
Brazil*	18	70	5	7
Canada	37	48	10	5
Columbia*	51	41	2	6
Mexico*	23	61	15	2
Europe				
France	15	68	4	13
Germany	28	53	12	7
Poland	20	52	10	18
U.K.	20	63	13	5
Asia				
Japan	25	40	29	6
Philippines	43	42	6	10
Thailand*	35	40	14	11
Africa/Middle East				
South Africa*	35	35	8	22
Turkey	20	57	8	15

** Urban-only samples.*

“Endorsement of American government policies has held up in just a handful of countries -- and slipped into negative territory in some places that are usually considered allies,” said Wright, of Ipsos-Reid.

“In recent elections in South Korea and earlier in Germany, the winning national candidate took an overtly anti-American position,” Wright said. “For political leaders in other countries, such as U.K., the message of those elections – and the message in the findings for this latest Ipsos-Reid Global Express poll – is that there is little political cover for politicians who express strong support for American government policies at this time.”

About World Monitor

The findings from this news release will appear in longer form in an upcoming issue of *World Monitor*, a quarterly research reporting service that tracks consumer trends and public

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