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Majority Backs Nixon's Performance But Support  
Rests On Cambodian Success

A majority of Americans, 57%, gave President Nixon a vote of confidence for his handling of the presidency in a survey conducted immediately following April 30 speech in which he announced his decision to send U.S. troops into Cambodia.

However, the views of survey respondents indicate that this level of confidence could fade if the action in Cambodia fails to achieve the President's announced objectives of Vietnamizing the war and stepping up the rate of U.S. troop withdrawal.

In a survey completed last weekend, 57% of all persons interviewed said they approved of the way Nixon was handling his job as President, 31% disapproved and 12% did not express an opinion.

These findings are virtually the same as those recorded in a survey two weeks earlier, when 56% expressed approval, and represent a 4 point gain from the President's low point to date of 53% approval, recorded in late March.

Public Rallies Around President

The public traditionally rallies around the President immediately following a major foreign policy decision. However, Nixon's vote this time is less impressive than that registered immediately following his major November 3 speech of last year in which he spelled out his plan of withdrawing troops and turning the fighting over to the South Vietnamese.

At that time, President Nixon registered a 12 point gain in his overall approval rating -- from 56% to 68%.

War is Top Factor

Many factors are involved in the President's popularity rating, but his handling of the situation in Southeast Asia is clearly the main one. Ending the fighting in that area of the world and bringing our troops home have long been top goals of the American public.