

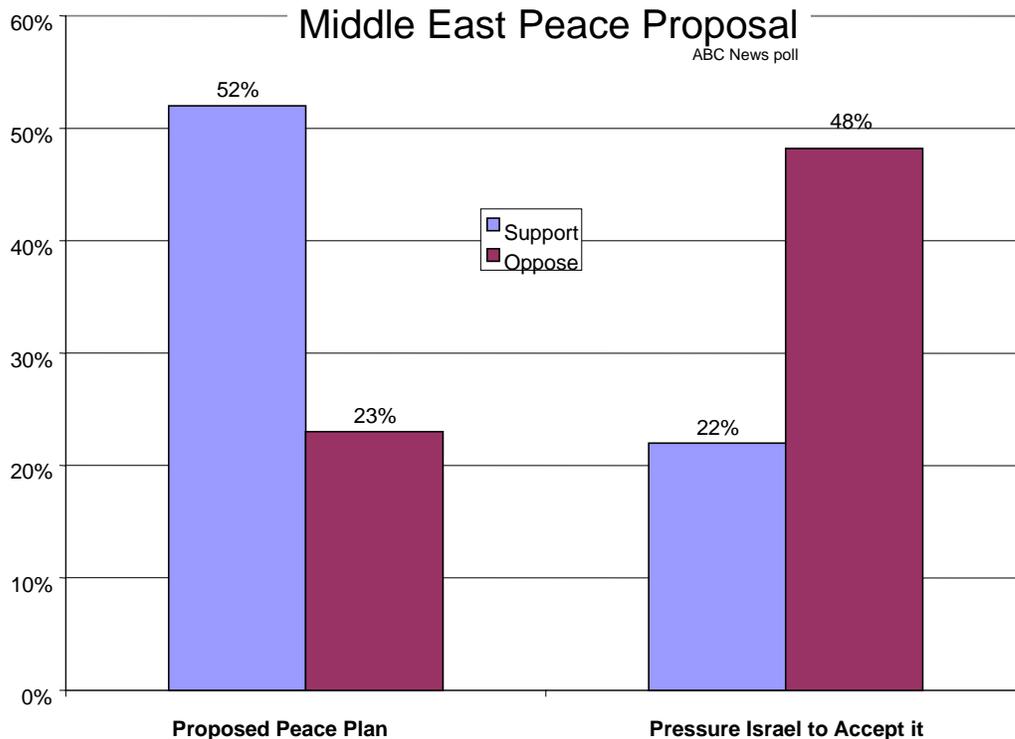
Public Supports Mideast Peace Plan by 2-1 Margin

Americans by a 2-1 margin support a Saudi Arabian proposal for peace in the Mideast, but far fewer think the United States should tighten the screws on Israel to accept it.

Fifty-two percent support the plan for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories in exchange for Arab recognition of its right to exist. About a quarter oppose the plan; as is common in foreign affairs, a sizable number – another quarter – have no opinion in it.

If Israel opposes the plan, however, less than half those who support it say the United States should pressure the Jewish state to accept it. Overall, that means just 22 percent of Americans say the United States should push the plan if Israel is unwilling.

Some of those who oppose pushing Israel may simply prefer to defer to the frontline state – especially given unfamiliarity here with the complexities of the issue.



	Support	Oppose
Proposed peace plan	52%	23
Pressure Israel to accept it	22	48

Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah floated the land-for-peace plan last month. Monday, the Gulf Cooperation Council, a group of six Arab nations, said it would seek international support for the idea.

GROUPS – Support for the peace plan is lower among some groups that are more likely to have no opinion on the issue, including older adults and those with lower incomes and less education. Women are more likely to be undecided than men, but support is similar in both groups; instead, women are less likely to oppose the plan.

There are no partisan differences.

	Middle East peace proposal		
	Support	Oppose	Don't know
All	52%	23	26
Men	53	28	20
Women	51	18	31
Age:			
18-34	55	22	23
65+	41	20	40
Income:			
<\$25K	44	26	30
>\$100K	63	26	10
Education:			
Less than H.S.	42	25	33
Some college+	56	21	23
Party ID:			
Democrat	54	20	26
Republican	54	24	23
Independent	50	27	23

The field period for this poll coincided, in part, with the bloodiest week in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since September 2000.

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News.com survey was conducted by telephone March 6-10, 2002, among a random national sample of 1,025 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Daniel Merkle.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com on the Internet at:
<http://www.abcnews.com/sections/us/PollVault/PollVault.html>

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Here are the full results:

142. (and 143)

Would you support or oppose a plan in which Israel would withdraw from the territories it occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and in exchange the Arab nations would recognize Israel's right to exist?

(IF SUPPORT) If Israel opposes this plan, should the United States pressure Israel to accept it, or not?

		-----Support-----				
		U.S. should pressure Israel				
	NET	Yes	No	No op./Ref.	Oppose	No opin.
3/10/02	52	22	26	4	23	26

END