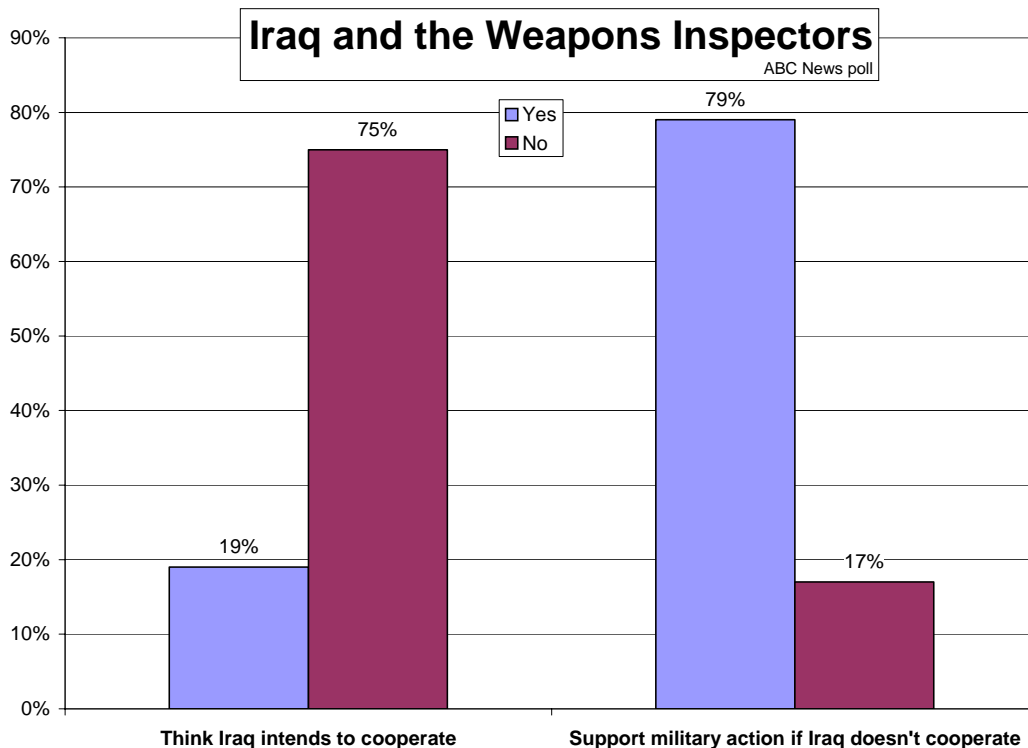


U.S. Public Doubts Iraq’s Intentions As U.N. Weapons Inspectors Arrive

Three-quarters of Americans believe Iraq does not intend to cooperate with newly arrived U.N. weapons inspectors – and if that doubt is borne out, support for U.S. military action jumps.

In broad principle, 64 percent support U.S. action to oust Saddam Hussein, about the same as it was six weeks ago. But if Iraq interferes with the inspectors, support for U.S. military action jumps, to 79 percent in this ABC News poll.

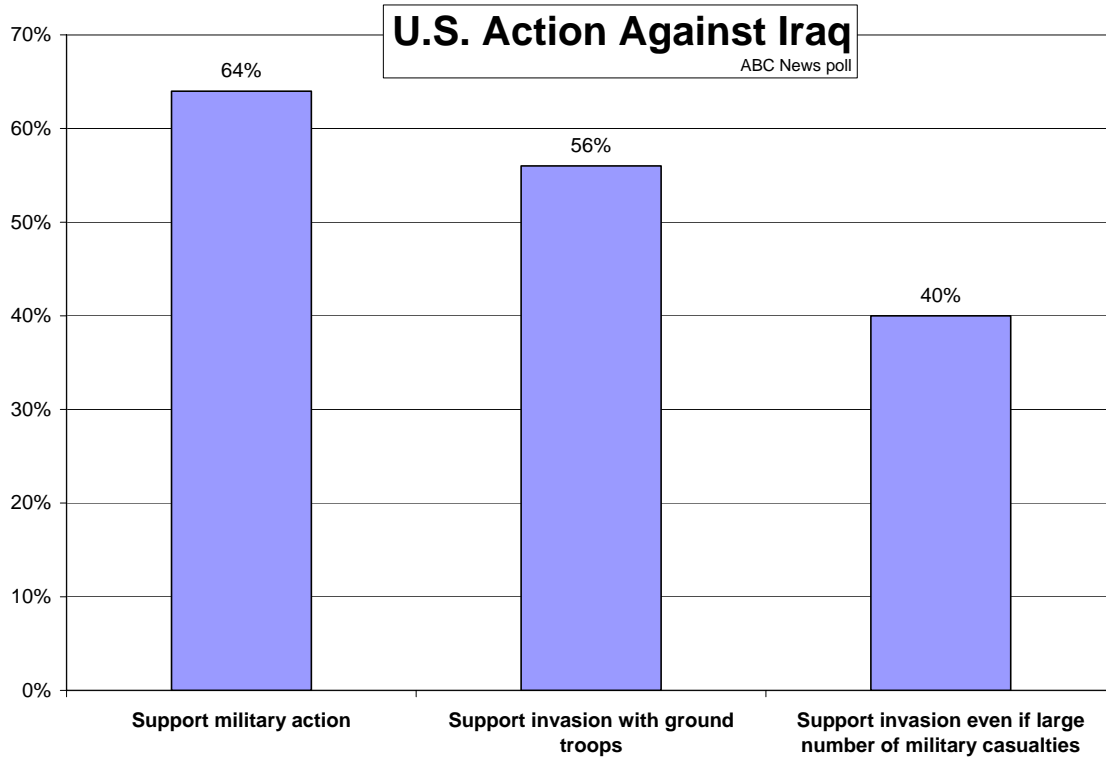
By the same token, if Iraq does cooperate with the U.N. inspectors, far fewer – 55 percent (down 11 points since late September, albeit still a majority) favor continued U.S. efforts to remove Saddam from power. As noted, 75 percent don’t expect Iraqi cooperation.



	Yes	No
Think Iraq will cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors	19%	75%
If Iraq interferes with inspectors,		

favor U.S. military action?	79	17
If Iraq cooperates with inspectors, still try to oust Saddam?	55	39

As has been the case for months, support for action remains conditional in other regards, as well. While interference with the inspectors sends it up, support declines modestly (to 56 percent) given the prospect of a ground war, and falls sharply (to 40 percent) given a high-casualty ground war. These have held steady since mid-August.



Support U.S. military action vs Iraq	64%
Support invasion with ground troops	56
Support high-casualty ground war	40

All these measurements posit general, hypothetical scenarios – such as whether Iraq cooperates or not, and whether a ground war causes a high number of casualties – without more specific details. Future opinions will depend on events as they actually unfold.

Led by chief inspector Hans Blix, an initial contingent of U.N. weapons inspectors arrived in Baghdad today after a four-year absence. The United States has threatened military action unless Iraq cooperates with the inspectors and is certified as free of weapons of mass destruction.

GAPS – There are some sharp differences in views on military action, especially between the sexes and by political affiliation: Men and Republicans are much more apt to support U.S. action against Iraq; women and Democrats, much less so. Despite these differences, sizable majorities across the board expect that Iraq will not cooperate with Blix and his team, and support U.S. military action if that turns out to be so.

	Men	Women	Dem	Rep	Ind
Support U.S. military action vs Iraq	75%	54	47%	82	60
Support invasion with ground troops	65	47	42	71	49
Support high-casualty ground war	52	30	26	56	33
Think Iraq won't cooperate	75	74	68	82	75
Support action if it interferes	85	74	68	92	75

METHODOLOGY - This ABC News survey was conducted by telephone Nov. 13-17, 2002, among a random national sample of 1,030 adults. The results have a three-point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by TNS Intersearch of Horsham, Pa.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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

Media Contact: Cathie Levine, (212) 456-4934

Full results follow.

1. Would you favor or oppose having U.S. forces take military action against Iraq to force Saddam Hussein from power?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
11/17/02	64	29	7
9/26/02	61	34	5
9/14/02	68	29	3
8/29/02	56	34	10
8/11/02	69	22	9
3/10/02	72	24	4
2/21/02*	67	30	4
1/27/02	71	24	4
12/19/01	72	24	5
11/27/01	78	17	6
10/11/94**	72	23	5
1/15/93***	82	15	3
8/21/92 RV	65	30	5
2/9/92	62	35	3
4/22/91	51	43	6
4/5/91	54	37	9
3/15/91	57	38	5

*Strongly/somewhat follow asked

**10/11/94 and previous: Gallup

***1/15/93 and previous: Would you support or oppose having U.S. forces resume military action...?

2. Would you support or oppose a U.S. invasion of Iraq with ground troops?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
11/17/02	56	39	6
9/14/02	58	39	3
8/11/02	57	36	8

3. (IF SUPPORT, Q2) What if that caused a significant number of U.S. military casualties in that case would you support or oppose a U.S. invasion of Iraq with ground troops?

Q2/3 NET

	--If significant casualties--				
	Support	Oppose	Don't know	Oppose	No opinion
11/17/02	40	12	3	39	6
9/14/02	41	15	2	39	3
8/11/02	40	15	2	36	8

4. As you may know, Iraq has told the United Nations that it will allow U.N. weapons inspectors back into the country. Do you think Iraq (intends to cooperate) or (does not intend to cooperate) with the U.N. inspectors?

	Intends to cooperate	Does not intend to cooperate	No opinion
11/17/02	19	75	6
9/26/02	16	79	5

5. If Iraq admits the weapons inspectors, but then interferes or does not cooperate with them, in that case would you favor or oppose having U.S. forces take military action against Iraq?

	Favor	Oppose	No opinion
11/17/02	79	17	4
9/26/02	77	20	3
9/14/02*	81	17	2

*"If Iraq agrees to admit..."

6. If Iraq cooperates fully with United Nations weapons inspectors, do you think the United States should (drop) its efforts to force Saddam Hussein from power, or (continue) its efforts to force Saddam Hussein from power?

	Drop efforts	Continue efforts	No opinion
11/17/02	39	55	6
9/26/02	31	66	3

END