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CF/Central Files

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dy*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 27, 1975

*Mr. President -
FYI -
Dn R*

MEMORANDUM FOR:

DICK CHENEY

FROM:

JERRY JONES *JJ*

SUBJECT:

Poll Information

MACZ

You asked this morning for the latest poll information concerning the President's handling of the SS Mayaguez incidents. At this time, data is very sketchy. Neither Gallup nor Harris have published polls since the incident. However, both are presently in the field, Harris should publish his findings by the end of this week and Gallup will publish his results during the first week in June.

Although sketchy, NBC and the RNC have conducted polls which are helpful in indicating opinion trends:

1) NBC conducted a poll on May 13th and 14th (the day before and the day of the return of the Ship) asking this question -- "As you probably know, the new government of Cambodia has seized a U.S. cargo ship in the Gulf of Siam. Do you think we should take military action to get back our ship and crew?" -- The response to this questions was:

YES	65%
NO	20%
NOT SURE	15%

2) The RNC has conducted three field surveys which shed light on the shift in the President's approval rating based on this incident. These polls have not been completely tabulated and the findings are thus preliminary:

A) A statewide survey in Montana in mid April

700 interviews

57%	Approve
36.1%	Disapprove
5.2%	Don't know

B) In Metropolitan Louisville, Kentucky:

1) May 14th (The Cambodian's returned the ship that same evening)

48 interviews

48%	Approve
31%	Disapprove
21%	Don't know

2) May 15th through the 17th (The three days after the return of the ship)

98 interviews

68%	Approve
19%	Disapprove
13%	Don't know

3) In Louisville and Lexington, Kentucky, ~~May 19th~~ through the 23rd (Days 5 through 9 after the return of the ship)

259 interviews

72%	Approve
17%	Disapprove
11%	Don't know

C) A statewide survey in Oregon May 20th through the 23rd (Days 6 through 9 after the return of the ship)

471 interviews

58%	Approve
28%	Disapprove
12.5%	Don't know

We can telex additional data as it becomes available to the Presidential party in Europe.