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Polls: Most Americans Back Allied Attack on Iraq

Tue Feb 11, 12:27 AM ET

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WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Most Americans back use of force to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) even without United Nations ([news](#) - [web sites](#)) support, according to two polls released on Monday.



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A majority of respondents, 57 percent, said they would support an allied attack against Iraq even over objections of the United Nations, a Washington Post/ABC News poll found.

The survey found that 63 percent of Americans believe the Bush administration has made a strong enough case to justify force. That is a new high, up from 48 percent, in a mid-January poll.

Nearly two-thirds of the respondents said they would favor giving the U.N weapons inspectors "weeks, not months" to finish their work in Iraq.

However, broad support for building an international alliance to address the Iraq problem appeared more important than a quick strike. Fifty-nine percent said it was more important to bolster international support while 37 percent favor quick action, even if the United States has to go it alone.

A new CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll found that 63 percent of Americans favor invading Iraq to remove Saddam, up from 58 percent in poll conducted a week earlier.

Fifty-six percent said they believe the Bush administration had made a convincing case for taking action against Iraq up, from 49 percent two weeks ago. More than half of those polled said an invasion should come in the next few weeks, unless Saddam fully complies with UN demands that he rid Iraq of its most dangerous weapons.

Both polls showed that more than half of Americans believe Iraq has chemical and biological weapons. Only about a third feel Iraq poses an immediate threat, according to the CNN/USA Today poll. Fifty percent labeled the economy a more important issue than Iraq.

The WASHINGTON POST/ABC poll surveyed a random sample of 1,000 adults Feb. 6-9, and has a three percentage point error margin.

The CNN/USA Today poll was based on telephone interviews with 1,000 people conducted Feb. 7-9 and has a three percentage point margin of error.

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