

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Zealanders favour resumption of visits of US warships.

Sir Geoffrey Palmer, former Prime Minister who succeeded David Lange, recently suggested that visits by American warships could be resumed, because in practice only non-nuclear armed and powered ships could visit New Zealand, the United States having decided to remove tactical nuclear weapons from its conventionally-powered surface warships. Nuclear powered and armed submarines and aircraft carriers are unlikely to be selected by the United States for a visit to New Zealand, because they are known to be nuclear power and/or nuclear armed. Therefore, any visits that might take place would not be in contravention of New Zealand legislation banning the visits of nuclear powered or armed ships.

The New Zealand public is certainly ready for the resumption of such visits as a recent Research New Zealand poll shows.

Three-quarters of New Zealanders 15 years and over favour visits by American warships that are not nuclear powered or armed, the poll shows. Support for such visits is strongest among those 55 years and older at 81 percent, while 64 percent of people under 35 years are in favour. Six percent of those interviewed did not have a view on this. Males also expressed stronger support, some 83 percent being in favour compared with 67 percent of females.

“Interestingly, Maori and Pacific People at 64 percent were noticeably less supportive of such visits than the rest of the population”, Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis said.

The Research New Zealand poll of 510 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 20 and 27 April. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.9 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

Research New Zealand is an independent, New Zealand-owned research organisation undertaking social and business research.

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Table 1:

Q9. Are you in favour or not in favour of American warships that are not nuclear powered and not nuclear armed visiting New Zealand?

	Total	15-34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years and over
Base=	510	91	186	233
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	75%	64%	80%	81%
No, not in favour	20%	27%	15%	16%
Don't know	6%	9%	4%	3%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2:

Q9. Are you in favour or not in favour of American warships that are not nuclear powered and not nuclear armed visiting New Zealand?

	Total	Male	Female
Base=	510	239	271
	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	75%	83%	67%
No, not in favour	20%	12%	27%
Don't know	6%	5%	6%
Total	100%	100%	100%

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3:

Q9. Are you in favour or not in favour of American warships that are not nuclear powered and not nuclear armed visiting New Zealand?

	Total	North North Island	Lower/Central North Island	South Island
	510	177	199	134
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	75%	75%	73%	77%
No, not in favour	20%	21%	17%	22%
Don't know	6%	3%	11%	1%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 4:

Q9. Are you in favour or not in favour of American warships that are not nuclear powered and not nuclear armed visiting New Zealand?

	New Zealand			
	Total	Maori/Pacific	European	Other
	510	65	400	67
	%	%	%	%
Yes, in favour	75%	64%	76%	73%
No, not in favour	20%	31%	18%	21%
Don't know	6%	5%	6%	7%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.