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NEWS RELEASE

International Poll

Canadians, British, Mexicans and Israelis Believe George W. Bush has Made the World Less Safe

**Bush ranks after Bin Laden and Kim Jong Il but ahead of Nasrallah
and Ahmadinejad as Threat to World Peace**

As the American mid-term elections approach, George W. Bush and his foreign policy are getting a comprehensive thumbs down from the residents of some of the United States' closest neighbours and allies, including Canada.

EKOS research designed and conducted the poll for La Presse and the Toronto Star here in Canada. The same questions were asked on behalf of the BBC in Britain, Ha'aretz newspaper in Israel and Reforma newspaper in Mexico.

"As we approach next week's mid-term elections in the United States, the polls show pretty clearly that many Americans are dissatisfied with the Bush foreign policy, particularly in Iraq," said EKOS President Frank Graves. "Now we have clear confirmation that Bush's policies are even more unpopular abroad among the citizens of countries with very close ties to the United States."

The most striking result of the poll may be that many Canadians, as well many of those in the other countries polled, see President Bush as a greater danger to world peace than the Lebanese Hezbollah leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Not surprisingly, Israelis see this differently, rating Ahmadinejad and Nasrallah, who are determined enemies of Israel as well as neighbours in the region, as much more serious threats; in fact, Israelis, unlike the residents of other countries, generally do not regard Bush as a threat to world peace at all.

In Canada, the United Kingdom and Mexico, very large majorities now believe in hindsight that it was wrong for the United States to invade Iraq. Opinion is sharply split in Canada whether the U.S. and its allies should stay now that they are there. Once again, Israeli opinion differs from

OTTAWA OFFICE
99 Metcalfe Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6L7
T: 613.235.7215
F: 613.235.8498

TORONTO OFFICE
480 University Avenue, Suite 1006
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2
T: 416.598.8002
F: 416.598.2543

EDMONTON OFFICE
9925 109th St. NW, Suite 606
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J8
T: 780.408.5225
F: 780.408.5233

the norm in the other countries polled, with most supporting both the original invasion and the U.S. and its allies remaining there for the time being.

“George Bush has developed a very bellicose image abroad,” said Graves. “Majorities in Canada, Mexico and Israel believe that the United States is likely to intervene militarily in either Iran or North Korea in the next two years, and with the exception of Israel, they generally fear that it will have a negative impact on the safety and stability of the world.”

“The findings are testament to the precipitous decline in Western attitudes to President Bush and his foreign policy,” said Graves. “Immediately after September 11, attitudes were almost universally supportive. Today, Bush is seen as a sorcerer’s apprentice on the world stage, bringing calamity wherever he goes.”

METHODOLOGY

The polls were conducted in the four participating countries at the end of October 2006. Telephone surveys of a representative sample of approximately 1,000 residents were conducted in each country. A sample of this size produces a statistical margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

All the data were statistically weighted to ensure the sample’s composition reflects that of the actual population from which it was drawn.