



NOTE TO EDITORS: The regular (Sunday) scheduling of this story is being delayed by a day to permit concurrent release of the results in all participating countries.

The Gallup Poll

FOR RELEASE:
Monday,
September 12, 1988

In International Poll

Olympics Seen as Improving Relations Between Participating Nations

By George Gallup, Jr. and Alec Gallup

PRINCETON, N.J. — Although the 1980 and 1984

Great Britain has experienced the most about this

between the superpowers, the overwhelming consensus

in 1984 to the present vote of 60% 77% against this

as a partial solution to the Games' politicization.

Substantially fewer Americans (36%) than Australians (87%), Britons (81%), West Germans (81%), or

rather than make them worse (3%) or not affect them much (40%).

and Uruguayans (45%) lag behind the Americans in this regard.

Not surprisingly, the South Koreans, hosts of the 1988 Summer Games that begin Saturday, are most in-

Aside from the host nation of South Korea, where 86% are either "very interested" or "interested,"

tralia (58%) also ascribe to this view. Only in Great

vote about the Games locale, Americans rank fourth in interest (61%) followed by the Spanish (59%)

participants. The proportion saying the Olympics generally worsen international relations does not exceed 6% in any country.

Following are the questions and key findings:

Permanent Site in Greece

On the whole, do you think the Olympic Games generally improve relations between participating nations?

Los Angeles Games heightened demands for reform, including the proposal endorsed by President Carter

appear in any of the nations surveyed, with large majorities preferring that the Games continue to move from country to country every four years.

A closer division of opinion on this issue was found in 1984, after the Soviet Union's announcement that it would boycott the Los Angeles Olympics. At that time, 54% of Americans favored rotating the location while 37% backed a permanent site. Today, 60% of Americans

	IMPROVE	WORSEN	NOTHING
South Korea	82	6	2
Spain	71	2	19
Uruguay	68	2	21
Turkey	67	1	16
Mexico	66	3	23
Australia	58	4	35
UNITED STATES	55	3	40

Which would you prefer for future Summer Olympic Games — a permanent site to be established in Greece, or that the Olympic Games continue to move from country to country?

Can you tell me in which country the Summer Olympic Games are being held this year?

Awareness of 1988 Games' Location
(Percent naming South Korea or Seoul)

	Perma- nent	Move	No opinion
Great Britain	37	61	2
West Germany	17	67	16
United States	11	82	7
Uruguay	7	82	11
South Korea	5	94	1
Turkey	2	79	20
Mexico	7	85	8
Spain	6	86	7

Australia	87%
Great Britain	81
UNITED STATES	37

NOTE: Question not asked in South Korea and Spain.

	Very interested	Interested	Not very, not at all
	%	%	%
South Korea	61	25	15
Australia	31	47	22
Great Britain	28	40	31
UNITED STATES	24	37	39
Mexico	18	36	43
Spain	14	44	40
West Germany	14	42	38
Uruguay	10	47	43
Turkey	8	32	60

Games?

Interest in Olympic Games

South Korea	61	25	15
Australia	31	47	22
Great Britain	28	40	31
UNITED STATES	24	37	39
Mexico	18	36	43
Spain	14	44	40
West Germany	14	42	38
Uruguay	10	47	43
Turkey	8	32	60

NOTE: "No opinion" omitted.

The U.S. results are based on telephone interviews with 1,000 adults, 18 and older, conducted in scientifically selected localities across the nation July 1-7. For results based on samples of this size, one can say with

NOTE: Some totals do not add to 100% due to rounding.

Question not asked in Mexico and Spain in 1984.

and other random effects could be 4 percentage points in either direction.

The international samples range in size from 658 interviews (in Spain) to 2,575 (in Mexico), with an average of 1,253 interviews per country. The surveys were conducted in June, July and August by affiliates of Gallup International Research Institute (GIRI).

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls. This report conforms to the standards of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.