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Memorandum on Recent Polls on Korea

1) Expectations on Truce (April, May 1953)

"Do you think we will be able to reach a satisfactory agreement with the Communists in the next month or so, to stop the fighting in Korea?"

	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>
Yes, satisfactory agreement soon	34%	17%
No	54	74
No opinion	12	9
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

2) Truce Along Present Line

U.S. Success or Failure? (mid-May 1953)

"If we do get a truce in Korea along the present battle line, would it seem to you that we had generally succeeded or generally failed in our main purpose in going into Korea?"

Generally succeeded	45%
Generally failed	38
No opinion	17
	<u>100%</u>

Approve Signing? (early April 1953)

"Would you approve or disapprove of our government signing an armistice to end the fighting in Korea along the present battle line?"

Approve	69%
Disapprove	20
No opinion	11
	<u>100%</u>



3) Korea Worth-while? (Oct. '52 - April '53)

"As things stand now, do you feel that the war in Korea has been worth fighting, or not?"

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	Oct. 1952	Nov. 1952	Jan. 1953	Apr. 1953
Worth fighting	32%	34%	39%	36%
Not worth fighting	56	58	52	55
No opinion	12	8	9	9
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

4) Should U.S. Take Strong Steps? (Feb. 1953)

"Do you think the United States should take strong steps to try to end the war in Korea, even though our allies in the United Nations refuse to go along with us?"

Yes, strong steps	62%
No	31
No opinion	7

For more than two years, popular majorities--but not the press--have supported such steps as:

Bombing across the Yalu  
Using Chinese Nationalist troops in Korea  
Giving Chiang "all the help he needs" to invade the Chinese mainland.

5) Risk In Taking Strong Steps (Feb. 1953)

"If we did take strong steps, how much risk do you think there would be of getting into a long drawn-out war with China--a great risk, or not much risk at all?"

Great risk	40%
Not much risk	47
No opinion	13



6) Confidence in President

All polls have testified to the great majority (70% to (10%) which places great confidence in President Eisenhower's handling of foreign affairs.

This has been particularly true of his handling of the Korean problem.

PA:PS:HSF:mb  
June 2, 1953

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