

# Despite travels, Carter slips in poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans' rating of Pres. Carter's performance in office has continued its downward slide despite his recent overseas trip, an Associated Press-NBC News poll shows.

Only 41 percent of those interviewed rated Carter's overall performance as excellent or good. About 57 percent rated his performance only fair or poor, with the remaining 2 percent undecided.

That rating is the lowest for Carter since he entered office one year ago.

Carter's January rating was slightly below that found by an AP-NBC News poll in late November. At that time, 43 percent of

those surveyed rated his performance excellent or good, while 54 percent said his work was only fair or poor.

The January poll involved telephone interviews with 1,604 adults last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Foreign travel traditionally has boosted a president's popularity. And it was expected Carter's seven-nation, nine-day journey two weeks ago would provide him with a similar boost.

For example, Carter's first overseas journey, to England and Switzerland in May, apparently bolstered Americans' rating of his job performance.

An NBC News poll taken in late May after Carter returned found that 61 percent gave Carter a positive rating, with only 28 percent giving him negative marks. That positive rating was up eight points over the finding of the April NBC News poll.

But since that high point in May, Carter's rating has slid.

The seven-nation journey apparently did give a slight boost to Americans' opinion of Carter's performance in foreign policy.

About 39 percent of those questioned rated Carter's foreign policy performance favorably, versus 55 percent who gave him negative marks.

Those figures are slightly more positive

than the 36 percent positive, 56 percent negative ratings found in the November AP-NBC News poll.

Americans' opinion of Carter's role in the Middle East peace negotiations is more positive than it was in November.

Half of those questioned rated his performance as a negotiator excellent or good, with 43 percent giving him only fair or poor marks. The remaining 7 percent were undecided.

In November, the situation was reversed. Half of those questioned gave him poor marks, with only 45 percent rating his role positively.

## World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

### Military alliance claimed

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syria's foreign minister said in an interview published Sunday that Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat's peace initiative is aimed at forging a political and military alliance of Egypt, Israel and Iran.

Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam was quoted as saying the United States "encourages and blesses" a bilateral peace accord between Egypt and Israel to bring about the tripartite alliance. Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran met with Sadat in Egypt last week and gave his support to the Egyptian peace drive.

### Carter sets economic address

WASHINGTON — Pres. Carter will deliver personally a no-quick-fix State of the Union address Thursday that will call for a national effort to grapple with economic and other problems that defy easy solutions.

Aides said Carter, in his nationally broadcast appearance before a joint Senate-House session at 9 p.m. EST, will set forth his legislative goals for the new year without attempting to submit a laundry list of administration proposals.

### Ecuador votes on constitution

QUITO, Ecuador — Ecuadorians voted on a new constitution Sunday in a referendum that could break the almost solid wall of military rule in South America.

There was widespread confusion among the 1.6 million voters about the issues involved, where to vote, or even whether their names were on registration rolls that were 200,000 names short because of computer failures.

## Mideast peace talks resume

JERUSALEM (AP) — After a day of uncertainty, Egypt's foreign minister arrived here Sunday night for resumed Egyptian-Israeli peace talks, now delayed until Tuesday because of a dispute over the agenda. Sources here

said the dispute involved the agenda's wording on the Palestinian issue. A U.S. official in Washington said it was settled when the two aides agreed to seek an interim agreement, instead of an immediate permanent

solution, on the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

The last-minute agreement was reached in urgent communications passed through the U.S. embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv.

"It's close to what we wanted," said the U.S. official, who declined to be identified.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said U.S. pressure and proposals for a compromise led to resolution of the agenda dispute. He said the opening of the talks was postponed from Monday to Tuesday to allow time for Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's arrival from Washington.

Vance was to leave for Jerusalem Sunday night.

Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat gave the go-ahead for Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibrahim Kamel to attend the talks after a confusing weekend of public and private maneuvering that appeared to threaten a major setback for the peace process.

## Floating house of ill-fame raises Rotterdam's wrath

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — An "odd couple" alliance of Rotterdam prostitutes and embarrassed citizens is trying to torpedo city plans for a floating brothel and sex center in the world's busiest harbor.

The prostitutes complain that a sex palace in the public eye will frighten off their trade, and other critics say the so-called "Eros Center" will give Rotterdam a bad name.

"Nine out of 10 girls will tell you that this is a bad idea," said Leen Persy, 58, who operates a hotel and bar in the Katendrecht, the bustling red-light district on Rotterdam's south side.

"When you pick up a prostitute in Katendrecht, nobody sees you," Persy said, "but in going to the Eros Center, everybody will see you, maybe even your neighbors."

Prostitutes oppose the plan on economic grounds as well.

"The girls now rent rooms in Katendrecht at about 22 a day. On the boat they'll be paying at least twice that," Persy said.



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