



## Prestige of U.S. still way above Russia

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Skoðanakönnun – Staða Varnarliðsins á Íslandi – Kalda stríðið – 1955

## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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- a. Prestige of U.S. still way above Russia.
- b. Russian prestige considered comparable to prestige of other countries.
- c. U.S. desire for peace distinctly above Russia's.
- d. U.S. blame for East-West tensions distinctly less than Russia's.
- e. Sentiment for neutrality (40%) outweighs adherence to West (34%) - sentiment for neutrality as distinctive as anywhere, no worse than Western Europe and distinctly better than France.
- f. 11% are Communists (usual Communist vote is 16%) - this, of course, has to be considered in assessing other results.
- g. Dead heat as to whether East or West gained more by Geneva conference.
- h. Fear of war as low in Iceland as anywhere.
- i. As to whether any Iceland political groups are widely influenced from abroad: 51% said Communists under Russian influence, 11% said Conservatives under U.S. influence.
- j. Culture. American distinctly above Russian; below Norway, Denmark and Iceland; about even with France. (1) Good effect during past year: 20% U.S.; 20% Russia; (2) Visiting artists. Especially good impression: U.S. 12%; Russia 12%; Sweden 2%; Italy 1%; other 5%.
- k. NATO:
  - (1) 88% heard of NATO (highest anywhere - Belgium next, 74%).
  - (2) 80% knew Iceland a member, 71% Norway.
  - (3) 76% knew U.S. a member.
  - (4) 65% knew Russia not a member.
  - (5) 71% knew NATO defensive, 4% thought offensive, 7% qualified (this was good all over Western Europe).
  - (6) Should Iceland be a member? - 43% yes, 22% no, 9% qualified.
  - (7) Any NATO troops in Iceland? 63% yes. From where? - 61% U.S. Any foreign troops? 11% yes.

- (8) Approve or disapprove of 1951 agreement re stationing of U.S. troops in Iceland? -  
Approve 28%, disapprove 47%, qualified 15%.
- (9) Keflavik Base good for Iceland? - Good 20%,  
not good 40%, qualified 26%.

1. On the whole, what do you think is the most important problem facing Iceland today?

- (1) High prices. The inflation. Economic problems. 18%
- (2) The Iceland Defense Force; the occupation; the Base at Keflavik. 14%
- (3) Political corruption; too much politics, etc. 9%
- (4) Government finances. 7%
- (5) Foreign trade. Adverse balance of payment; lack of foreign currency. Import restrictions. 6%
- (6) Bad fishing conditions; bad hay harvest. 6%
- (7) Alcoholism; intemperance in drinking and smoking. 5%