

SPIES

Few Americans Surprised After Arrest of Russian Spies Living in U.S.

Two-thirds of respondents believe the CIA should continue to train and send American spies abroad.

[NEW YORK – Jul. 13, 2010] – The arrest of 10 Russian spies in the United States did not come as a shock for many Americans, who also believe that their country should continue to train and send its own agents abroad, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,002 American adults, three-in-four respondents (77%) say they are not surprised to hear that there are Russian spies currently posing as American citizens in the U.S. Only 17 per cent of Americans are surprised with this development.

Half of respondents (50%) think Russia should not be singled out for its espionage because many other countries keep active spies elsewhere. One-third of Americans (34%) disagree with this view, and believe Russia should be shamed for maintaining a Cold War mentality by keeping active spies in Western countries.

Two thirds of Americans (65%) think the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) should continue to train and send American spies into other countries, while only 12 per cent believe this activity is no longer necessary.

KEY FINDINGS

- **77% are not surprised to hear that there are Russian spies currently posing as American citizens in the U.S.**
- **50% believe Russia should not be singled out for these events because many other countries keep active spies elsewhere**
- **65% think the U.S. should continue to train and send spies abroad**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From July 8 to July 9, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,002 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.

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Spies

As you may know, 10 Russian spies who were leading “normal” American lives as civilians were recently arrested in various U.S. cities. They are all now facing charges and possibly trial in an American court. In light of these events, would you say you are surprised, or not surprised to hear that there are Russian spies currently posing as American citizens in the U.S.?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Surprised	17%	20%	14%	17%	18%
Not surprised	77%	75%	80%	78%	76%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%

Spies

Thinking about these events, which of the following statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Russia should be shamed for maintaining a Cold War mentality by keeping active spies in Western countries	34%	31%	28%	35%	40%
Russia should not be singled out for these events because many other countries keep active spies elsewhere	50%	57%	55%	45%	45%
Not sure	16%	12%	17%	19%	14%

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Spies

As you may know, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) trains and sends American spies into other countries. Thinking about this, which one of these statements comes closest to your own point of view?

	Region				
	Total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
The U.S. should continue to train and send spies abroad	65%	64%	66%	66%	62%
Training and sending American spies abroad is no longer necessary	12%	9%	16%	10%	12%
Not sure	23%	27%	18%	23%	27%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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