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**Annual Reagan National Defense Survey Shows Broad Support for
Peace Through Strength, American Leadership in the World**
Americans Now View China as Greatest Threat

SIMI VALLEY, California - The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute today released the results of its second annual National Defense Survey. The survey reveals that Americans back President Reagan's philosophy of "peace through strength" and support active U.S. leadership in the world.

"The Reagan National Defense Survey clearly shows that Americans remain steadfast in their support for a strong military that both keeps the peace and advances the values of freedom and democracy abroad," said Roger Zakheim, the Washington Director of the Reagan Institute. "These are not the views of a country that would eschew global leadership but rather a nation where President Reagan's vision of peace through strength is alive and well."

The survey, which is conducted annually leading up to the Reagan National Defense Forum, found the following key takeaways:

- **American Leadership** - By a 17-point margin, Americans believe the United States should be more active in global affairs. Half of those surveyed want the United States to be more engaged in international events. Only one in three Americans said the United States should be less engaged and instead react to events.
- **U.S. Military Presence** - A majority of Americans support an overseas military presence, with 65% saying it is better for the United States to maintain bases around the world and only 28% supporting a reduced military presence overseas.
- **Freedom & Democracy** - Three in four Americans support a U.S. military role in defending freedom abroad and preventing human rights violations in other countries. When asked about the situation in Hong Kong, 68% of Americans said the United States should support the pro-democracy movement—even if it angers China.
- **China** - 60% of Americans see China as an enemy—and, more than any other country, Americans believe China presents the greatest threat to the United States. With the trade war dominating headlines, nearly two-thirds of Americans see China as more of an economic threat than a military treat. While Americans are nearly evenly split on support for the trade war, 72%

of those surveyed are concerned that the trade war will destabilize relations and increase the chances of conflict.

- **Russia** - While 71% of respondents believe that Russia is an enemy, the percentage identifying Russia as an ally has increased from 19% in 2018 to 28%. Russia comes in just behind China as the greatest threat to the United States, at 25%. More Americans are concerned about Russia sponsoring cyberattacks than aiding rogue regimes, interfering in our elections, or invading its neighbors.
- **Cybersecurity** - Americans identify cyberattacks as the top near-term threat. Almost nine in ten Americans are concerned about cyberattacks on government, and nearly as many are concerned about cyberattacks on personal computers and accounts.

The second annual National Defense Survey was conducted October 24-30 by a bipartisan survey team at Beacon Research and Shaw & Company Research. It is based on the interviews of more than 1,000 U.S. adult citizens.

For more information about the survey, including an executive summary and additional data, visit reaganfoundation.org/defensesurvey.

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About the Reagan Foundation and Institute:

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute is the nonprofit organization created by President Reagan himself and specifically charged by him with continuing his legacy and sharing his principles - individual liberty, economic opportunity, global democracy and national pride. The Foundation is a non-partisan organization which sustains the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA, the Reagan Center for Public Affairs, the Presidential Learning Center, The Air Force One Pavilion and the award-winning Discovery Center, as well as the Reagan Institute, which carries out the Foundation's work in Washington, D.C. The Reagan Library houses over 55 million pages of Gubernatorial, Presidential and personal papers and over 60,000 gifts and artifacts chronicling the lives of Ronald and Nancy Reagan. It also serves as the final resting place of America's 40th President and his First Lady. www.reaganfoundation.org

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