

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — President Ford and Jimmy Carter have set off shock waves among politicians and diplomats with their second campaign debate. Among voters, the audience that really counts, an Associated Press poll today gave Carter a narrow edge.

Ford's pronouncements on Eastern Europe and the Arab boycott, and a hard line by Democrat Carter on the Panama Canal Zone, stirred instant controversy. At the same time, the debate thrust foreign and defense policy to the forefront in the

presidential campaign.

The 90-minute debate was livelier than the first encounter between the Republican President and his challenger. Both were more aggressive this time. Each attacked his opponent more freely, dropping much of the restraint and studied politeness that had marked their first confrontation.

The AP telephone survey of 1,071 registered voters was conducted immediately after the debate Wednesday night. It showed 38.2 per cent thought Carter had won, 34.6 per cent

rated Ford the victor, and the rest called it a tie or said they didn't know who won.

The theoretical margin of error for a sample of this size is about 2.9 per cent in either direction if the results are projected to reflect the reaction of the entire debate audience.

So neither man was a clearcut winner. By similar margins, Ford gained the advantage in an identical survey after the first debate, two weeks ago.

The poll also showed that Carter had slightly increased his lead over Ford in the presidential preferences of those who watched the televised debate. Before the debate, Carter led Ford 45.8 per cent to 43 per cent. Afterward, Carter's margin had increased, and stood at 48.5 to 44.8.

The AP poll was conducted by Chilton Research Services of Radnor, Pa.

Highlighted by sharp differences on details but broad agreement on the objectives of foreign and defense policy, the debate no sooner had ended than both candidates said they thought they had done well.

"I think I won and I'm sure he feels the same way," Carter said as he left the ornate Palace of Fine Arts, site of the nationally televised debate. Carter said he had rated the first debate a tie "'but I feel better about this one.'"

"I think we did all right," said Ford.

Both men had the same reaction after their first encounter two weeks ago in Philadelphia.

The third and final debate between

the two presidential candidates is scheduled for Oct. 22, in Williamsburg, Va. On Oct. 15, their vice presidential running mates, Sens. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., and Bob Dole, R-Kans., will debate, most likely in

Houston.

The Associated Press poll that followed the first debate concluded that Ford picked up some support. The first debate covered domestic and economic policy.