Address given by Harry Truman to the US Congress (12 March 1947)

Caption: On 12 March 1947, US President Harry Truman delivers an address to US Congress in which he sets out the general direction of US foreign policy.

Source: Office of the Federal Register (Ed.). Harry S. Truman, Containing the public messages, speeches and statements of the president : January 1 to December 31, 1947. Washington: US Government Printing Office, 1963. 613 p. (Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States). p. 178-179.

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URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/address_given_by_harry_truman_to_the_us_congress_12_march_1947-en-263dc0b0-98f5-44a6-bd8b-78d0030f0206.html

Last updated: 02/07/2015

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[...]

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

[...]