President's Message to Congress on the Greek Situation

I lay before you today for consideration and decision a grave problem of national security.

The British Government, through its ambassador in Washington, has informed the Government of the United States that as of March 31, this year, it will be obliged to discontinue its program of financial assistance to Greece.

On March 3 the Secretary of State received, from the Greek Government, through the Greek Minister in Washington, an urgent appeal for financial, economic, and expert assistance from the United States. The text of this message has been made public. The Greek Government states that without its immediate receipt, it cannot meet its urgent needs for essential commodities, which are essential for the subsistence of its people. The Secretary of State has directed the Department of State to inform the Greek Government that the United States is ready to provide financial and economic assistance to Greece, and has directed the Department of State to inform the Greek Government that the United States is prepared to provide financial and economic assistance to Greece.

The Greek Government therefore asks for financial and economic assistance which
seeds and the like that are indispensable for the subsistence of her people and that are only obtainable from abroad;

in order to

enable the civil and military establishments of the Greek Government to operate from abroad the means of restoring the tranquility and feeling of security necessary for economic and political recovery;

able Greece to create the means for self-support in the future.

Finally the Greek Government asks for the assistance of experienced American administrators, economic and technical personnel to assure the utilization in an effective and up-to-date manner of the financial and other assistance given to Greece, and to help restore a healthy condition in the domestic economy and public administration. The

Greek Government expresses its determination to restore Greece as a self-supporting and self-respecting democracy, but states that because of circumstances it must have aid from the outside.

I do not believe that the American people would be willing to see this desperate appeal from the Greek Government for assistance in maintaining its
its independence and democracy restored. I therefore ask you today to grant to the Executive sufficient authority to lend a hand to the Greek Government, of a kind and on the scale that is required by the circumstances.

The primary objective of the foreign policy of the United States is the creation of conditions in which nations shall be able to work out their own way of life free of coercion by other nations. This is the deeper meaning of the war with Germany and Japan. Our victory was won against countries who sought to impose their will upon other nations, in order to create conditions for peaceful development of nations free from coercion. The United States has taken a leading part in establishing the United Nations, which is designed to make possible freedom and independence for all its members.

Our policy of the world of free peoples means that we resist aggressive movements of any kind, whether they be Fascist, Nazi, or Communist. This policy is a frank recognition that only in such a world can the United States maintain its freedom and security.
A frank appraisal of the present world situation, nevertheless, reveals the fact that majorities in a number of countries of the world have had totalitarian forms of government imposed upon them against their will. In recent months the Government of the United States has made it clear that it considers that this has happened already in Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. I think we must also frankly admit that in a number of other countries there is imminent danger of similar developments.

At the present moment in world history there is a conflict between two ways of life. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, 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 imposition of the will of a minority upon a majority, upon control by a minority of the press and other means of communication, and upon terror and oppression.

It is the policy of the United States to give support to free peoples who are attempting to resist subjugation by armed minorities or outside forces. It is our policy to assist free nations to work out their own destiny in their own way.
It is important to our security that we be engaged in the struggle for freedom and independence of neighboring countries and possibly other countries engaged in the struggle for freedom and independence. The principle of the United Nations as an accomplishment in the Charter of the United Nations rests on the recognition of the principle of a stable economic structure in Greece. Assistance of this kind is necessary to help the Greek nation to prevent the Greek nation from becoming a victim of the world economic crisis. It is important to our security that we be engaged in the struggle for freedom and independence of neighboring countries and possibly other countries engaged in the struggle for freedom and independence.
help coming from another country. The British Government, which has been assisting Greece, has informed us that it can give no further financial or economic aid in this crisis. Great Britain finds itself under the necessity of reducing or liquidating its commitments in several parts of the world, including Greece and Turkey. It would be difficult to overemphasize the importance of these developments to the United States and to American foreign policy.

No government is perfect. One of the chief virtues of democracy, however, is that its defects of government are always visible and under democratic process can be pointed out and rectified. Greece's government is not perfect. It has been operating in an atmosphere of chaos and extremism, and has made mistakes. The extension of aid by this country does not mean that this government endorses everything that the Greek Government has done or will do. We have condemned in the
and we do condemn now any extremist measures of the Right or the Left. We have in the past advised tolerance and we advise it now.

The Greek Government in power today represents 85% of the members of the Greek Parliament. The elections for the Greek Parliament, it will be recalled, were held last March under the eyes of 1,500 American, British, French, and South African observers invited by the Greek Government. These observers spent the two months preceding the elections observing pre-election conditions throughout Greece and it is their opinion that the elections were fair and that the present Parliament is the true choice of the majority voters. Certain political groups, representing at most about 12% of the electorate, abstained from the polls, but a great majority of those eligible to vote cast their ballots.

The Greek Government in its communication to the Government of the United States emphasizes that economic reconstruction must be based upon administrative efficiency. I consider it
The future of Turkey as an independent and economically sound state is clearly no less important than that of Greece. The circumstances in which Turkey finds herself today are considerably different. Turkey has been spared the disaster that beset Greece. And during the war, the United States and Great Britain furnished Turkey with very material aid. Since the war, however, Turkey has sought additional financial assistance from both Great Britain and United States for the purpose of effecting modernization of its defensive establishments.
Finally, I ask that the Congress provide authority which will permit the speediest and most effective use, in terms of needed commodities, supplies, and equipment, of such funds as may be authorized.

If further funds, or further authority, should be needed for purposes indicated in this message, I shall not hesitate to bring the situation before Congress. This is a time when the Executive and legislative branches of the Government must work together expediently, and in close coordination, to ward off dangers which are no less certain to affect the peace, security, and prosperity of the nation because they are a step removed in time and space.