"My fellow citizens, we cannot escape history."

Never were those words of Abraham Lincoln more appropriate than they are today.

The history of our time has been shaped by the national policy and national force of the United States, and we must take care of its consequences. Whether we like it or not, we are largely responsible for the shape of the world today. We now know, if we did not before, that our responsibility to the world has not ended. We must assume the obligations of history — or take the consequences.

Now no less than during the war, the democratic nations of the earth are under attack. We know this to be true. And we cannot, under penalty of national subjection, refuse to recognize this bitter challenge. It would be fruitless here to trace the relations of Russia with the other nations of the world. But it has been made all too clear during the past two years that their leaders are the same type of incomplete men whom the Allies met and conquered in Germany, Italy, and Japan. They are incomplete because they must hold power by the rule of the pistol instead of the rule of law. Men of complete faculties do not need fear and the executioner to govern.

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Faced by such an enemy, which now no longer bothers to mask its intentions, we dare not stop. In not one single place in the world, according to our standards, have the Russians been fair or even decent. The Russian policy of obstructionism has been planned with cunning care. The Russians have deliberately troubled the waters so as to fish to their advantage. This has happened in Japan. This has happened in Korea. This has happened in China. This has happened in Iran and Turkey. This has happened all over Central Europe. We have seen the Russians, through their fiction of "democratic" elections, make Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania into stooge states which equal or surpass in wickedness and evil intent the puppet protectorates of Nazi Germany.

We have seen them systematically loot those nations. Although we Americans have never practiced the theory of reparations, we must admit that it has historical justifications. Yet Russia has not used reparations as reparations. It has used them as an immensely powerful political instrument. It has deliberately eaten up the substance of the states it occupies. It has deliberately inflated their currencies. It has deliberately exerted every means at its command to hasten economic disaster. This, like everything else the Communists do, has been done with a purpose in mind. It has been done to force the people of those hapless states (((more))))
to spend all of their resources. Then, when they are gone, those unfortunate people will be faced with harsh alternatives — Communism or starvation. In order to eat, they must become Communists. And once Communists, they will remain Communists so long as the dictators of Russia ride in the saddle.

We know that the promised dissolution of the Comintern in 1943 was as phony as any other Russian pledge. We know that the Russians have never abandoned their program to take over the entire world. We know that in our two major democratic outposts on the continent of Europe — France and Italy — the Communists have set up underground armies, that those armies are organized in regular military formations and are well-equipped with arms, including tanks. We know that the Russians have not set up those armies for nothing. When the time comes, they will be used.

We also have the unhappy knowledge that at least 100,000 citizens of our country, induced by rewards, or blackmail, or misguided idealism, are members of the Communist Party. These people are working to overthrow our government. Let no one tell you that they are leftist or liberals; they are the same pure type of Fascist that formed the core of the SS and the Gestapo. They are no longer Americans; they are Russian agents.

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We must fight these enemies of democracy in the United States. In the larger picture, we have been brought to the harsh realization that we are compelled to go further afield. We must fight Communism in Europe and Asia if we are to keep it from overwhelming the United States by force.

How best can we beat Communism? Let us demand of our government first-rate national preparedness and military research. For the Russians, no less than did the Axis powers, respect force, nothing else. Let us also profit by a lesson we learned before and during the war. This is to use money wherever we can, as an instrument of national policy.

Many of you who hear me today have seen personally the desperate shape of the nations of Europe who are outside of the Russian occupation zone. They must have help. We, in a moral sense, as well as a sense of self-preservation, have an obligation to history and to ourselves to help them. We are the only nation which can help them. If we do not, we will hand them over to Russia on a silver platter. Never before have we ever needed allies as much as we do in these perilous years of our generation.

For the past two years, we - we Americans - have been the reason why Russia has not seized Europe and Asia. We should thank God that our political and military leadership has been
grim and realistic. We have not and we must not run a bluff against Russia. You cannot hypnotize an automaton with fine words; You cannot bluff a gangster who holds a tommygun.

One reason why America has become great is because Americans have always had their eyes fixed on the main chance. Our main chance now is to put our money on the still-free democracies of Europe. The best minds of this country have arrived at the conclusion that our best way to avoid war is the Marshall plan to help the democracies of Europe help themselves. To those who would be shocked at the cost, let me say that another war would be a thousand times more costly in money alone. I, like all of you, would hate to see veterans of a third World War.

Let us give our full support to the Marshall Plan. We have fought two wars to keep Germany from controlling Europe. We do not want to fight another to keep Russia from controlling it. But if we do not put our money to work to save Western Europe, we will have to fight it or surrender, and (surrender is not in the American blood.)

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