



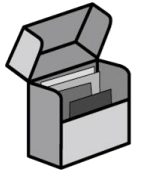
Welcome to the National Archives Know Your Records program!



The Know Your Records program consists of free events with up-to-date information about our holdings. Events offer opportunities for you to learn about the National Archives' records through ongoing lectures, monthly genealogy programs, and the annual genealogy fair. Additional resources include online reference reports for genealogical research, and the newsletter *Researcher News*.



About the National Archives



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all the documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%–3% are determined permanently valuable. Those valuable records are preserved and are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.



April 19, 2017



KNOW YOUR RECORDS
National Archives and Records Administration

The Truman Doctrine and the Origins of the Cold War

Samuel W. Rushay, Jr.

Sam Rushay, Supervisory Archivist at the Harry S. Truman Library, will discuss the historical significance of the Truman Doctrine in observation of its 70th anniversary.

Presenter's Biography



Samuel W. Rushay, Jr.

Supervisory Archivist

Harry S. Truman
Library and Museum
Independence, MO

Samuel W. Rushay, Jr., is supervisory archivist at the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum in Independence, Missouri, where he worked as an archivist from 1993 to 1997. From 1997 to 2007, he was an archivist and subject matter expert at the Nixon Presidential Materials Staff at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

Sam has published articles on Harry Truman and Richard Nixon in the National Archives *Prologue* magazine, *The Missouri Freemason*, and contributed to the book *Native Americans and the Legacy of Harry S. Truman, Volume 4*.

A Columbus, Ohio native, Sam holds a doctorate in U.S. history from Ohio University, where he wrote his dissertation, “The Farm Fair Dealer: Charles F. Brannan and American Liberalism” (2000), under the direction of Truman biographer Alonzo Hamby.

Sam, his wife, Laura, and their two children live in Liberty, Missouri.

The Truman Doctrine



Map of Greece and Turkey



King Paul of Greece



Greek home and school after World War II



Soup kitchen, orphaned children



Bulgarian church



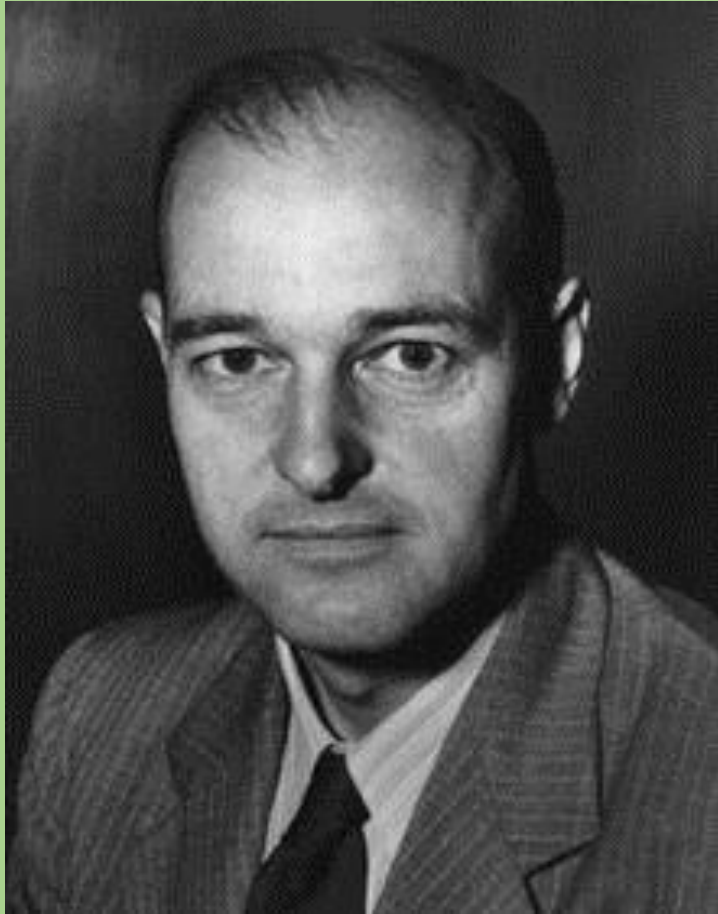
*Drama: The Hospital buildings razed to the ground by the Bulgars.-
67-1659*

Greek insurgents



Greek insurgents

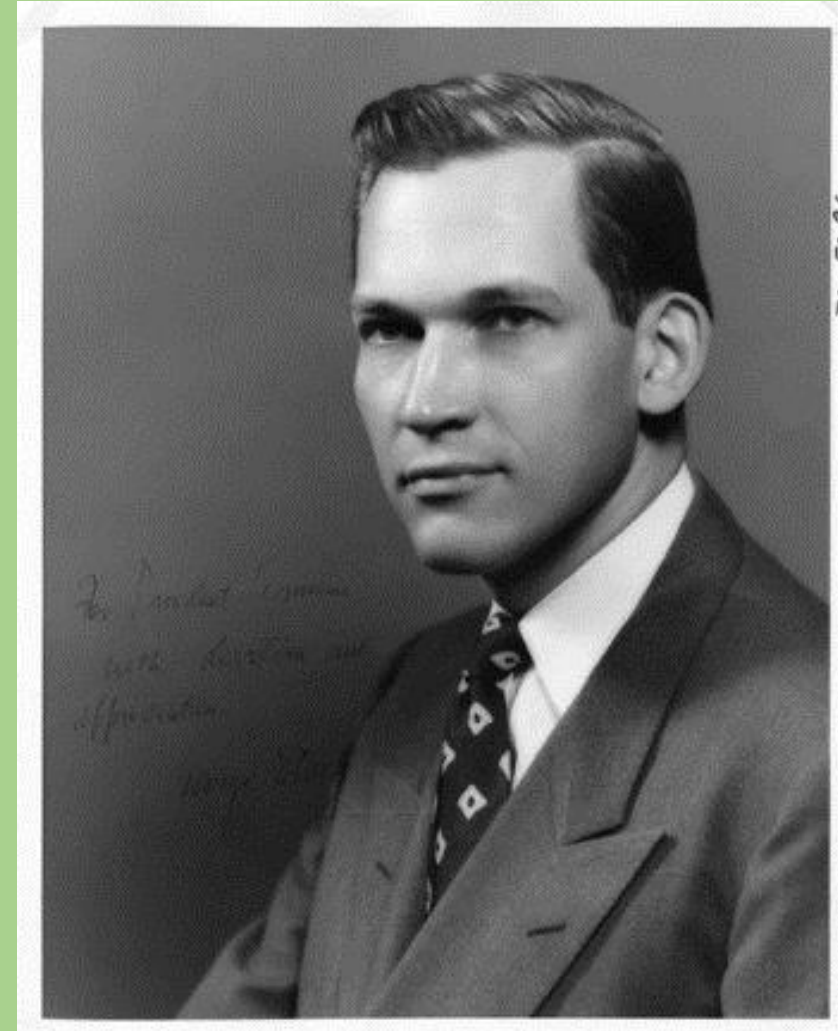
Diplomat George Kennan's Views



- Long Telegram of 1946 said Russian leaders historically had “neurotic” worldview.
- X Article: “The main element of any United States policy toward the Soviet Union must be a long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment of Russian expansive tendencies.”
- He criticized tone of early draft of Truman Doctrine, which contained excess "rhetoric."
- Soviet threat primarily economic and psychological, more than military.

Clifford-Elsey report of 1946: *American Relations with the Soviet Union*

- Soviets hope for troop withdrawals from Greece so they can set up a “friendly” government there. Turkey would become a puppet state and springboard for Soviet domination in the region.



White House Meeting on February 27, 1947



Truman Library - Daily Presidential Calendar

February 1947

Thursday, February 27, 1947

8:30 am (Mr. Augustus Vincent Tack—artist)

10:00 am The [Secretary of State](#) ([George C. Marshall](#))
The Under Secretary of State
Senator Tom Connally, Texas; Senator Styles Bridges
Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, Michigan
Speaker Joseph W. Martin, Jr.
Congressman Charles A. Eaton, New Jersey
Congressman Sol Bloom, New York
Congressman Sam Rayburn, Texas
(The President asked them to come in)

10:30 am Senator Arthur V. Watkins, Utah
Mr. David J. Wilson
(Requested this through Mr. Leslie Biffle)

10:45 am Lt. General Ira C. Eaker and the members of the Rescue Ship which flew to Greenland and brought off the fliers: they are:
First Lieutenant Bobby Joe Cavnar, Pilot
First Lieutenant Fred Sporer, Co-pilot
First Lieutenant Wm. A. Seward, Jr., Navigator
Technical Sgt. Walter L. Hustus, Flight Engineer
Technical Sgt. John H. Schuffert, Radio Operator
Pvt. 1st Class Charles J. Erchak, Second Flight
Captain Herbert G. Dorsey (not a member of the crew)

11:00 am Miss Katherine C. Blackburn
(Arranged by Mr. [Charles Ross](#))

11:15 am Honorable James Webb, Director, Bureau of the Budget
(Phoned Mr. [Matthew Connolly](#) for this appointment)

11:30 am (Mr. and Mrs. Alden Hatch)
(Wrote biography of President Roosevelt, published last month. Liberty Magazine ran part of this book and had commissioned Mr. Hatch to do a biographical feature about the President in same informal, friendly vein. Mr. Hatch asked to bring Mrs. Hatch as she is co-author. Off record)

11:45 am The President received a group from the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, as follows:
Mr. William L. Batt, Member of Advisory Committee
Dr. Joseph P. Chamberlain, Chairman, American Council
Mr. Cornelius Kruse, American Friends Service Committee
Mr. Harold Linder, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee
Mr. [Francis P. Matthews](#), War Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference
Dr. Leslie B. Moss, Church World Service, Inc.
Mr. Arthur C. Ringland, Executive Director of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid
Mr. Spyros Skouras, Greek War Relief Association, Inc.
(Mr. Ringland, the Director, wrote Mr. Niles that Mr. Charles P. Taft, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Voluntary Aid felt a delegation of the American Council should meet with the President and inform him of the work of the member agencies in the field)

White House Meeting on February 27, 1947



- Under Secretary of State Dean Acheson said Greece was “the rotten apple that would infect the whole barrel.”

US-British Relations

- On February 21, 1947 the British announced that they could no longer bear the burden of maintaining economic and military support for Greece and Turkey.
- British Ambassador, Lord Inverchapel, shakes hands with President Truman in photo on right.



President Truman addresses Congress on March 12, 1947



President Pro Tem Arthur Vandenberg (center) and Speaker of the House Joseph Martin (on right)



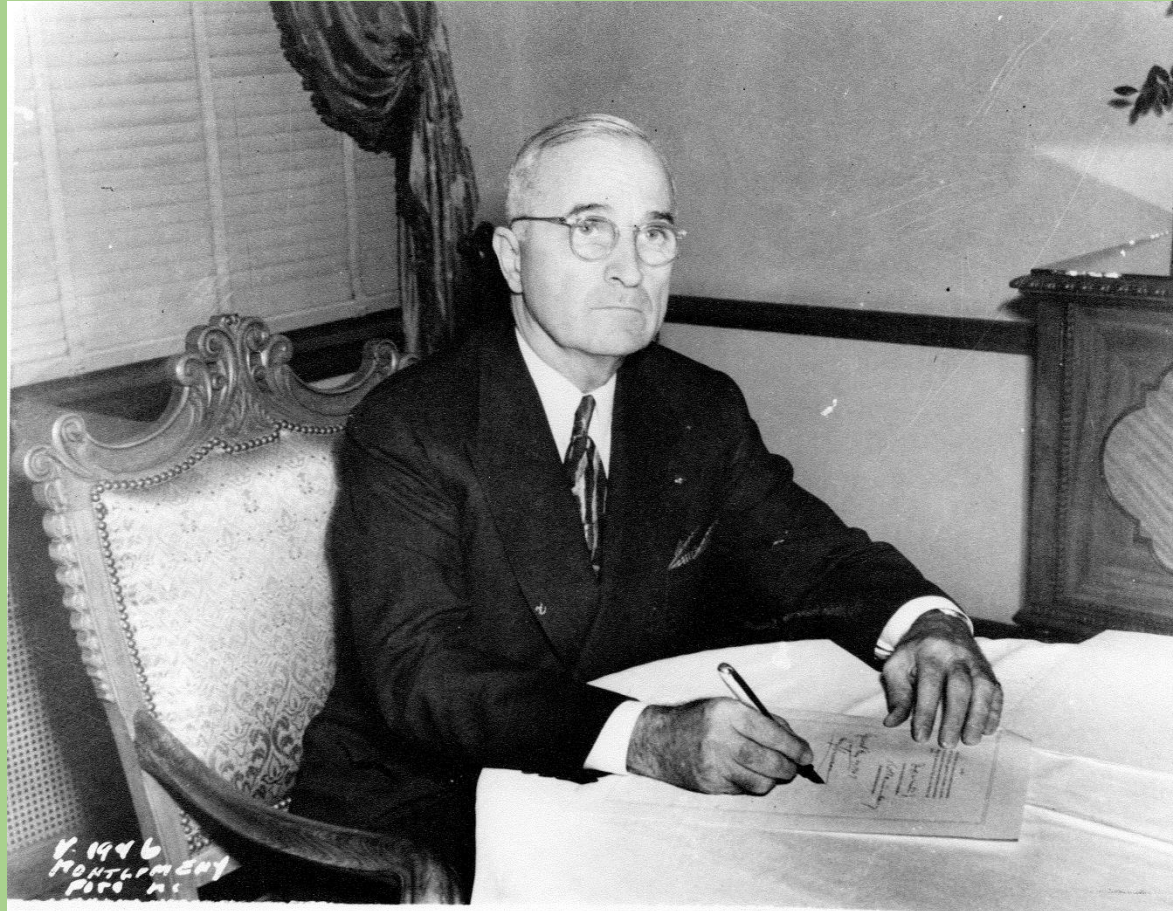
Loyalty Review Board

- Executive Order 9835, issued March 21, 1947
 - Required full-scale loyalty investigations of new federal employees
 - Required agencies and departments to set up procedures to verify loyalty of existing employees.
 - 400-1200 employees were dismissed and 1000-6000 resigned out of about 2.5 million government workers.

Dean Acheson (on right), Warren Austin (center), March 25, 1947



President Truman signs Greek-Turkish aid bill, May 22, 1947



Greece and Turkey join NATO in 1952



NATO flag

Lyndon Johnson's phone call to Truman, 1964



Harry Truman's View of Truman Doctrine Legacy

- In a 1965 newspaper article for the North American Newspaper Alliance, he compared American's role in Vietnam to the aid program for Greece in 1947.

HST-2
(NANA)

This resulted in a new threat to the independence and freedom of South VietNam. A new colonial power - communist China - became interested in absorbing all of Viet-Nam in the Communist block and the pressure was turned on in full force from several directions.

There came a plea to us for help and we answered the call in keeping with our policy to respond to the call of any nation seeking to protect its freedom and independence.

There are those who refer to South VietNam as another Korea. There are some similarities but in many respects the situation is very different.

As a matter of fact the case of South VietNam is more comparable to that which confronted the Greek nation after the war, when civil war broke out and communist elements marched on the government with open Russian support.

The plight of Greece soon became desperate and the situation verged on anarchy. Economic reasons compelled Britain to withdraw her forces stationed in Greece. This proved a stunning blow.

We received an urgent plea from the Greek government for help. We did not hesitate long in giving our answer. This government acting with the emphatic accord of the Congress - sent word that all the necessary help would soon be on the way. We acted with decision and speed because we realized, that if we did not come to the aid of Greece in time we would in effect deliver this great and historic nation - a nation that in its day was a model citadel of freedom - to a Russian communist take-over and to reduce it to another satellite. It is to the everlasting credit of our people that because of their willing sacrifices and their timely intervention Greece was saved. Her current resurgence of art and culture will once again go forth to the benefit of civilization.

President Reagan's Statement on the 40th Anniversary of the Truman Doctrine:

- “The **Truman doctrine** was rooted in a fundamental assumption as true now as in 1947: A healthy democracy in the United States requires strong democratic partners in the world.”



President George W. Bush's Comment on Occasion of Greek Independence Day:

- “Like democracy itself, the **Truman** Doctrine grew out of the experience of the Greek people and affirmed the desire for freedom for all people—not just a handful, not just some, but for all.”



What Historian Melvin Leffler said in *The Preponderance of Power*, p. 513:

- “The Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, and the London Agreements were the decisive steps leading to the collapse of the wartime coalition.” The coalition referred to the alliance between the US and the Soviet Union during World War II. After the war, the “Russians showed some restraint but not enough to allay US fears.” The US “felt the need to take the initiative.” Soviet actions were “reactive.”

What Historian Alonzo Hamby said in *Man of the People*, p. 392:

- The Truman Doctrine “reflected both his long-held view of totalitarianism...as an implacable enemy of human freedom and his faith (embodied in his reverence for Tennyson’s “Locksley Hall”) in the eventual triumph of a universal world order based on liberal values. In this, he almost instinctively had grasped what was perhaps the central issue of the twentieth century.”

What John Lewis Gaddis said in *George F. Kennan*, pp. 263-64:

- In March 1947, Kennan saw the post-war crisis that the Truman Doctrine tried to address in cultural terms. The danger “was not from rotten apples but from cultural despair.”
- To abandon Europe would be to sever the roots of cultural and tradition, leaving the United States with fewer safeguards against tyranny than one might think....”
- “Such a strategy [a modified Truman Doctrine] would depart from decades of isolationism extending back to the Monroe Doctrine.”

For more information see:
https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/doctrine/large/index.php

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Truman Library & Museum website. The address bar shows the URL https://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/doctrine/large/index.php. The page features a navigation bar with links: Home, Research, Museum, Events, Education, Gift Store, Kids Page, and Support. The main heading is 'THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE'. Below this, there is a section titled 'About the Collection' which states: 'This collection focuses on the Truman Doctrine. The collection includes 67 documents totaling 574 pages covering the years 1946 through 1952. Supporting materials include photographs, oral history transcripts and an audio clip.' To the right of this text is a search box labeled 'Document Search:' with a 'Search' button. The page also displays a list of documents under the heading 'Documents', sorted by 'Category | Year'. The documents listed are: 1946 August: Dean Acheson to Harry S. Truman, with attached press release (August 7, 1946); 1947 February: Meeting Notes (ca. February, 1947) and Summary of Telegrams, Department of State (February 25, 1947); 1947 March: Loy Henderson's draft of President's Message (ca. March, 1947), Chronology: "Drafting of the President's Message of March 12, 1947" (ca. March, 1947), Draft suggestions for President's Message to Congress on Greek Situation (March 3, 1947), Background memo on Greece (March 3, 1947), and Paul Economou-Gouras to George Marshall.

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THE TRUMAN DOCTRINE

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Documents

Sort by: [Category](#) | [Year](#)

1946

August

Dean Acheson to Harry S. Truman, with attached press release
August 7, 1946 [View \(4 pages\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#)

...

1947

February

Meeting Notes
ca. February, 1947 [View \(6 pages\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#)

Summary of Telegrams, Department of State
February 25, 1947 [View \(1 page\)](#)

March

Loy Henderson's draft of President's Message
ca. March, 1947 [View \(14 pages\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#)

Chronology: "Drafting of the President's Message of March 12, 1947"
ca. March, 1947 [View \(4 pages\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#)

Draft suggestions for President's Message to Congress on Greek Situation
March 3, 1947 [View \(5 pages\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#)

Background memo on Greece
March 3, 1947 [View \(5 pages\)](#) | [\(PDF\)](#)

Paul Economou-Gouras to George Marshall

Orphaned children in Greece, ca. 1947.

About the Collection

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Document Search:



Thank you for attending!

If we did not get to your question,
you may submit it to inquire@nara.gov

Today's video recording and materials
will remain available at
www.archives.gov/calendar/know-your-records



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