

## **HARRY S. TRUMAN, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH**

**April 16, 1945: First Speech to Congress**

"Today, the entire world is looking to America for enlightened leadership to peace and progress. Such a leadership requires vision, courage and tolerance. It can be provided only by a united nation deeply devoted to the highest ideals.

With great humility I call upon all Americans to help me keep our nation united in defense of those ideals which have been so eloquently proclaimed by Franklin Roosevelt.

So that there can be no possible misunderstanding, both Germany and Japan can be certain, beyond any shadow of a doubt, that America will continue the fight for freedom until no vestige of resistance remains!

...To settle for merely another temporary respite would surely jeopardize the future security of all the world.

Our demand has been, and it remains—Unconditional Surrender! We will not traffic with the breakers of the peace on the terms of the peace."

## **RICHARD M. NIXON, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH**

**May 8, 1972: Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia**

"Here is what over 3 years of public and private negotiations with Hanoi has come down to: The United States, with the full concurrence of our South Vietnamese allies, has offered the maximum of what any President of the United States could offer.

We have offered a deescalation of the fighting. We have offered a cease-fire with a deadline for withdrawal of all American forces. We have offered new elections which would be internationally supervised with the Communists participating both in the supervisory body and in the elections themselves.

President Thieu has offered to resign one month before the elections. We have offered an exchange of prisoners of war in a ratio of 10 North Vietnamese prisoners for every one American prisoner that they release. And North Vietnam has met each of these offers with insolence and insult. They have flatly and arrogantly refused to negotiate an end to the war and bring peace."

Sources:

Nixon, Richard M. (1972). "Address to the Nation on the Situation in Southeast Asia." National Archives. Miller Center, University of Virginia. <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/may-8-1972-address-nation-situation-southeast-asia>

Truman, Harry S. (1945). "First Speech to Congress." National Archives. Miller Center, University of Virginia. <https://millercenter.org/the-presidency/presidential-speeches/april-16-1945-first-speech-congress>