WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. - The Treasury has bought three times as much gold as two-thirds of the world's nations, an official statement says.

The Treasury, through the end of last year, had held $18,000,000,000 worth of gold, or about 60% of the world's gold. The world's nations held the rest, with the U.S. having the most.

The statement says the Treasury's holdings are considered a major factor in stabilizing the gold market, which has been under pressure due to the war in Europe. The Treasury's purchases have helped to maintain the gold price at $35 per ounce, which was set by the London gold pool in 1936.

Recently, there has been speculation about whether the United States should abandon the gold standard and adopt a fiat money system, such as the one used by some European countries. However, the Treasury's continued gold purchases have helped to allay these concerns.

The Treasury's purchases have also been a source of controversy, with some critics accusing the government of hoarding gold and preventing the free market from determining the price of gold. However, the Treasury defends its actions, saying that it is acting in the best interests of the country and the world's economy.

The Treasury's gold holdings are a key factor in the world's monetary system, and any change in the gold price could have widespread effects on the global economy. The Treasury continues to monitor the gold market and adjust its purchases as needed to maintain stability.