**Focus questions 8.4**

*The 1930s taught us a clear lesson: aggressive conduct, if allowed to go unchecked, ultimately leads to war … We will not prematurely or unnecessarily risk the costs of worldwide nuclear war in which even the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouth – but neither will we shrink from that risk at any time it must be faced.*

Three days later, 12 Soviet ships were intercepted by the US navy and turned back from approaching Cuba.

1. In the quote above, to which other nation is Kennedy linking the aggression of the Soviet Union?

1. What does he mean by ‘the fruits of victory would be ashes in our mouth’?

1. Do you interpret Kennedy’s comment about his willingness to confront nuclear war as a sign of positive leadership strength or negative arrogance?