**Analysis activity 9.2: Famous photos**



**Source 9.20** South Vietnamese police chief General Nguyen Ngoc Loan executing a Vietcong prisoner on a street in Saigon on 1 February 1968 during the early stages of the Tet Offensive. This famous photo was taken by Eddie Adams and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1969.



**Source 9.21** Nine-year-old Kim Phuc, known as ‘the girl in the picture’, escaping her bombed and burning village with severe napalm burns to her back and arms. This Pulitzer Prize–winning photograph was taken by Nick Ut and was declared the world photo of the year in 1972.

1. Look at the famous photos in Sources 9.20 and 9.21. What is your initial impression of each of these photos?

1. What do you consider the reaction of the American public would have been to these two photographs?

1. Use the information in the captions to research the full stories of General Loan and Kim Phuc. The true story behind General Loan’s action might surprise you! Make sure you read about Kim’s reaction to meeting John Plummer in 1996; he coordinated the napalm bomb attack on Kim’s village.

1. What is your understanding of each photo now?

1. Also research other famous photos: Buddhist monk Quang Duc setting himself on fire in Saigon in 1963, or the student placing a flower in a soldier’s gun barrel in an anti-war rally in Washington in 1968.

1. Why are photographs and other visual images such a powerful source of communication? What are the problems with using photographs as a source?