Worksheet 17.1

US Perceptions of the USSR

Read this document (Presidential National Security Directive 23) and then answer the questions below.

Questions:
Read first five paragraphs.
1. What does this document reveal about the USA’s views on:
   • The aims of containment as established post WW2?
   • How the USA perceived the threat of the USSR?
   • The new international situation that the USA believed could develop in 1989?
   • The general attitude of the USA towards the USSR in 1989?
2. How useful is this source to a historian studying the end of the Cold War?