Worksheet 9.2

The Cuban Missile Crisis

Watch these clips from Robert McNamara’s documentary The Fog of War and answer the questions.

**Excerpt 1**
1. What impressions do you get from the conversations between McNamara and Kennedy about their handling of the crisis?
2. Do these conversations and the discussions in the ExComm confirm the orthodox view that Kennedy acted in a statesmanlike manner?
3. What point does McNamara make about the role of ‘empathy’ in the resolution of the crisis?
4. How would you describe the first telegram that Khrushchev sent?

**Excerpt 2**
1. What does this excerpt reveal about the role of Castro in the Cuban Missile Crisis?
2. What does it reveal about the potential dangers of the crisis?

**Excerpt 3**
1. What point does McNamara make about nuclear weapons?
2. What are his conclusions about the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis?
3. What does he say should be the lessons of the Cuban Missile Crisis?