8 Examining activity: Who started the Cold War - The USA or the Soviet Union?

2. Read this document.

a) Answer the questions in the same way you did before.

b) Report to each other about the information of your text and in pairs write down your second hypothesis regarding the Historical Question.

> Who was primarily responsible for the Cold War – the United States or the Soviet Union?

D Soviet Ambassador Telegram

The foreign policy of the United States, which refl ects the imperialist tendencies of American monopolistic capital, is characterized in the post-war period by a striving for world supremacy. This is the real meaning of the many statements by President Truman and other representatives of American ruling circles; that the United States has the right to lead the world. All the forces of American diplomacy – the army, the air force, the navy, industry, and science – are enlisted in the service of this foreign policy. For this purpose broad plans for expansion have been developed and are being implemented through diplomacy and the establishment of a system of naval and air bases stretching far beyond the boundaries of the United States, through the arms race, and through the creation of ever newer types of weapons(…) During the Second World War (…) the United States of America, entered (the war) only at the last minute, when it could easily affect the outcome of the war, completely ensuring its interests.In this regard, (…) the United States by virtue of this circumstance would assume the role of the most powerful factor in resolving the fundamental questions of the postwar world.

Analysis of American policy on post-war American policy, Nikolai Novikov,
Soviet Ambassador to the United States, 27 September 1946

1. Who was Nikolai Novikov? When did he write this telegram?

2. Who is he talking about?

3. How does Novikov describe the United States? What evidence does he use to support his description.

4. What does Novikov claim the United States planned during the Second World War?