

**SS.912.A.7.4 1960's Foreign and Domestic Policy- Example 1 Answer**

Base your answer to the question on the passage below and on your knowledge of social studies.

*"This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet Military buildup on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the Western Hemisphere. . . ."*

— President John F. Kennedy, October 22, 1962

Which action did President Kennedy take following this statement?

- a. urging Allied forces to remove Soviet weapons from Cuba**
- b. ordering a naval quarantine of Cuba**
- c. breaking off diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union**
- d. asking the United Nations to stop grain shipments to the Soviet Union**

Answer

**b. ordering a naval quarantine of Cuba**

The blockade began October 21 and, the next day, Kennedy delivered a public address alerting Americans to the situation. In his speech, he warned a frightened American public that the missiles on Cuba were capable of hitting **Washington, D.C.** or anywhere in the southeastern portion of the country, the Panama Canal, Mexico City or "as far north as Hudson Bay, Canada, and as far south as Lima, Peru." A military confrontation appeared imminent when Kennedy told his audience that he ordered the evacuation of the U.S. base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and put military units on standby. Boldly, he stated, "one path we shall never choose is the path of surrender or submission."