

# LESSON 6: NATIONAL SECURITY, 1919–1920

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## Student Handout 5

### OPTIONS

As Attorney General Palmer, you are in a position to influence how the government deals with the communist threat to American security. Here are some possible options for you to consider:

- A. Close off all the borders, preventing any immigrants or illegal aliens from entering the country.
- B. Start an anti-radicalism unit within the government to investigate and spy on suspected radicals. These groups could be already be spying on the government.
- C. Send more U.S. troops to Russia. If the communists are defeated in Russia, they will not be able to spread their ideas throughout the world.
- D. Raid radical organizations to collect information about the groups and arrest suspected terrorists. Imprison American citizens that belong to the groups, and deport the immigrants.
- E. Make it illegal to support communism. The government will arrest people who join the Communist Party or who make statements supporting the communists or criticizing the government.
- F. Remembering the riots from this past May Day (1919), put police on high alert to prevent a revolution on the next May Day (1920).

### QUESTION FOR ANALYSIS

1. Which of these options do you think the attorney general actually chose? What makes you think so?