Oasis International School Model United Nations

Historical Security Council

President
Habiba Ghoneim

Vice-President
Dalida Samih

Topic 1: The United Nations Security Council on
the Cuban missile crisis 1962

The 19th annual OISMUN conference
October 2026

Table of contents:

I. Abstract……..…3

II. Introduction……...….6

III. Background of the topic……10

IV. Causes…….…11

V. Importance of the topic……...…12

VI. Key terms……...…..13

VII. UN involvement……17

VIII. Major countries and organizations involved……...19

Major countries……..……

Major Organizations……..……

IX. Useful links……..……...22

X. Possible solutions……..……23

XI. Guiding questions……..……24

XII. Bibliography…….26

I. Abstract

As a result of the hostile Cold War rivalry between the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, the world came closer than ever before to nuclear war during a thirteen day period, October 1962. This constitutes the Cuban Missile Crisis. This rivalry expressly intensified when the Cuban revolution of 1959 drove revolutionist Fidel Castro to establish a government that increasingly aligned itself with the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the failed Bay Of Pigs invasion in 1961, which consisted of a U.S. backed military raid, further fueled the fear that Cubans had of American intervention and led to the Soviet Union cooperating even closer with the Cuban military. By October 1962, a rivalry that was broader, indirect and ideological had turned into a confrontation and an international crisis that endangered many.

By October 1962, the U.S. imposed a naval quarantine around the island after discovering the Soviet nuclear missile installations and demanded that they be removed immediately. On the 25th of October, the missile installations in Cuba remained a serious source of conflict as the Soviet vessels began to approach the quarantine area. Thus, the possibility of a direct confrontation between the

two superpowers created an extremely urgent threat to all peace and security on a global level.



The central issue that was faced was the way in which the United Nations Security Council would be capable of juggling an effective method of de-escalation whilst actively addressing all of the competing security concerns of the United States, the Soviet Union and Cuba. Past Security Council records illustrate the crisis becoming an acute international diplomatic crisis, mostly because of the false dichotomy[1] between the two nations that was caused by the lack of diplomatic dialogue and comprehension. This urgency was even more heightened by the lingering possibility of a military confrontation that could rapidly escalate beyond the control of the states involved. Acting Secretary General U Thant had already attempted to create a diplomatic space for negotiations by proposing a temporary moratorium[2] and encouraging restraint between American and Soviet forces.

Following UNSC records, all official communications from the states involved, and contemporary diplomatic statements, the crisis is to be assessed

[1] False Dichotomy: A wrong belief that two things must fight or cannot both be true at the same time.
[2] Moratorium: a temporary stop or delay of an activity or a legal obligation

strictly from the perspective available on the 25th of October 1962. This will help prevent the eventual resolution of the crisis from influencing the assessment of the choice available to the Historical Security Council at the moment.

II. Introduction



The cold war was a period that lasted four decades, where the world's two superpowers, the United States and USSR, were racing to achieve the most influence, possess the most nuclear weapons, and reach space. Throughout their rivalry, they never opposed each other directly. Their battles were fought indirectly through other countries. The most prominent example of this can be seen in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, a thirteen day period which risked unleashing a nuclear war, destroying the world as we knew it.



However, to understand the Cuban missile crisis, you must first understand what came before it. On the 1st of January 1959, a nationalist revolutionary “Fidel Castro” overthrew the pro-American regime of Francis Batista previously upheld in Cuba, which

marked the beginning of a communist regime in Cuba. This switch from capitalism to communism deeply worried the US, as not only was Cuba a country close to its borders, but this also meant that the USSR was growing in terms of influence and alliance. In an attempt to bring back the capitalist regime in Cuba, a military operation was launched by Cuban exiles backed and trained by the United States called the Bay Of Pigs in 1961. The operation had meant to overthrow Fidel Castro's government, the Bay of Pigs grew to be a big source of shame for the president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, and once again kept the Soviet Union ahead in the rivalry between both superpowers.

After the Bay of pigs invasion, an agreement was formed between Nikita Khrushchev the president of the soviet union and fidel castro in order to protect Cuba from any further invasions led by the USA. For some time the Soviets had been sending surface-to-air anti-aircraft missiles to Cuba, with no protest from president John F Kennedy. However he warned that if offensive weapons were sent to Cuba that the greatest issues would arise. On October 14th, 1962, US U-2 spy planes took several photos showing sites from medium-range and it was found that Nikita Khrushchev had in fact been sending offensive weapons to Cuba regardless of previous warnings from the U.S president. To help him deal with the crisis Kennedy assembled a team called The Executive Committee of

the National Security Council or EXCOMM for short. As a result, he decided to place a naval quarantine/blockade over Cuba.

Kennedy sent a letter to Khrushchev stating that the United States would not permit offensive weapons to be delivered to Cuba and demanding that the



Soviets dismantle the missile bases and return all offensive weapons to the USSR. He also went on national television to inform the public of the crisis in which he said; It shall be the policy of the nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the western hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union

On October 24th, Khrushchev responded to Kennedy describing the U.S blockade as an act of aggression, and the Soviet ships sent to Cuba would be ordered to keep going. Some Soviet ships turned back and others proceeded. They were stopped by the U.S Naval Forces but were discovered to contain no offensive weapons. Nevertheless US reconnaissance flights over Cuba indicated

the Soviet missile sites were nearing operational readiness. With no clear solution to the crisis the US Forces were put at DEFCON 2.

On 26th through 27th of October, USSR would remove missiles from Cuba in return for a promise from the United States not to invade the island. Resolution of the crisis was now looking hopeful, until a second letter was sent to the U.S. president by Khrutchev once again provoking a debate. The letter demanded that their deal would also remove U.S Jupiter missiles from Turkey. An attack on Cuba was now being prepared as hope for a diplomatic resolution of the conflict was being lost. Finally, Kennedy proposed to the Soviet Union steps for the removal of Soviet Missiles from Cuba under supervision of the United Nations and a guarantee that the United States would not attack Cuba. Attorney General Robert Kennedy was then sent to meet secretly with the Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin and indicated that the United States were planning to remove the Jupiter missiles from Turkey anyway and within six months. This was to be kept top secret. The next morning on October 28th Khrushchev issued a public statement that soviet missiles would be dismantled and removed from Cuba. The crisis was over.

As a result of the Cuban missile crisis, In 1963 a telephone hotline was set up to give instant contact between the two leaders and a nuclear test ban treaty was signed and in 1968 the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was signed meaning the superpowers promise not to supply Nuclear technology to other countries

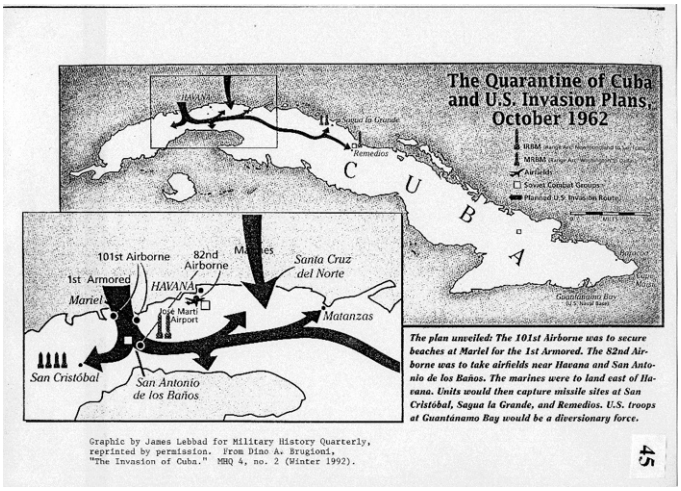
III. Background of the topic

The Cuban Missile Crisis took place during the Cold War, a period in which an intense rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union took place. By 1962, both superpowers competed for political and ideological dominance and strength in military fields, making the presence of nuclear weapons or any direct confrontation colosally dangerous.

Tensions increased Fidel Castro's Cuban Revolution in 1959 whose government increasingly aligned itself with the Soviet Union. Cuba's location that was particularly close to the United States made this alliance concerning to Washington. Furthermore, the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, backed by the United States, amplified the worries of Cubans in regards to an American intervention and further solidified their ties to the Soviet Union.
The Soviet Union also faced American nuclear missions that were positioned near the borders of Turkey. Krushchev seized that opportunity and interpreted their placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba as a way to strengthen Cuba's security whilst simultaneously improving their strategic position. On October 1962, the American U-2 aircraft discovered the Soviet missile sites that were

being constructed in Cuba and immediately shifted the Cold War Crisis into an international confrontation.

By 25 October 1962, Soviet ships were approaching the American quarantine around Cuba while the missile sites were getting ready to operate. The lingering yet powerful possibility of a nuclear or military clash between the two superpowers threatened the entire globe and its security. The United Nations Security Council became an important forum diplomatically and the Acting Secretary-General U Thant attempted to create time for negotiations and prevent any further escalation. At this point, however, the crisis remained unresolved.



IV. Causes of the crisis

The Cuban Missile Crisis was caused by a combination of Cold War rivalry, the Cuban Revolution, growing hostility between Cuba and the United States, fears of a second U.S. invasion, and the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. These factors gradually increased tensions until the discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba in October 1962 brought the two superpowers to the brink of nuclear war.

The most important underlying cause of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Following the Second World War, the two superpowers developed opposing political and economic systems: the United States supported capitalism and liberal democracy, while the Soviet Union supported communism. Both countries competed for global influence and built increasingly powerful nuclear

arsenals.This rivalry meant that developments in one country could be interpreted as a threat by the other. Cuba's growing relationship with the Soviet Union was therefore not viewed by Washington as simply a Cuban-Soviet partnership. Because Cuba was located very close to the United States, the possibility of Soviet nuclear weapons being stationed there represented a major change in the strategic balance.The crisis was therefore part of a much larger struggle between the two superpowers. The U.S. Department of State describes the Cuban Missile Crisis as a direct confrontation between the United States and Soviet Union and the point during the Cold War when they came closest to nuclear conflict.

A major turning point occurred on 1 January 1959, when Fidel Castro's revolutionary movement overthrew Cuban leader Fulgencio Batista. Batista's government had maintained close political and economic relations with the United States. After Castro came to power, relations between Cuba and the United States rapidly deteriorated. The new Cuban government nationalized or expropriated American-owned economic assets and developed increasingly close relations with the



Soviet Union. By becoming aligned with the USSR, Cuba became an important new point of competition between the two Cold War superpowers.

For the United States, the possibility of a communist government developing a close alliance with the Soviet Union only about 90 miles from Florida was a major security concern. For Cuba, however, cooperation with the Soviet Union provided an important source of economic and military support as relations with Washington deteriorated.This transformation of Cuba from the U.S.-aligned state into a Soviet-aligned communist state created the political conditions that eventually made the missile crisis possible.

The tensions between Cuba and the United States escalated significantly with the Bay of Pigs Invasion on 17 April 1961. The United States had supported and trained Cuban exiles who attempted to overthrow Castro's government. The invasion was defeated by Cuban forces within two days.The failed invasion had several consequences. First, it strengthened Castro's position within Cuba. Second, it convinced the Cuban government that another U.S. attempt to overthrow it was possible. Third, it pushed Cuba closer to the Soviet Union for protection. This was directly connected to the later missile deployment. Castro had reason to believe that the United States might attempt another invasion, while Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev saw an opportunity to strengthen the Soviet-Cuban alliance by offering Cuba military protection. Thus, the Bay of Pigs

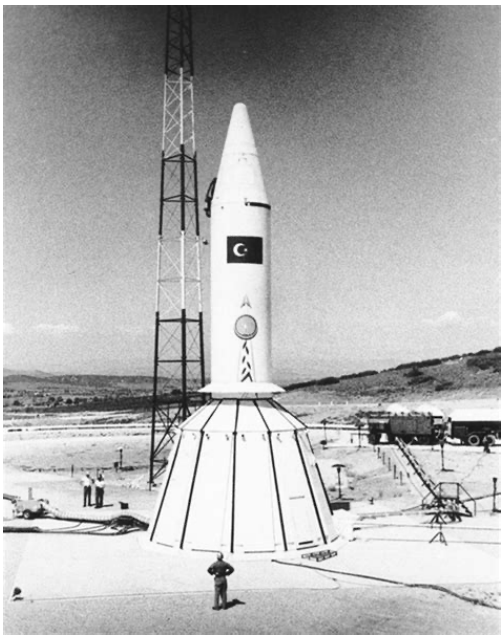
transformed Cuba's relationship with the USSR from a political partnership into an increasingly important security relationship.



The Bay of Pigs failure did not end U.S. efforts to remove Castro. In November 1961, the Kennedy administration launched a covert campaign intended to weaken and ultimately overthrow the Cuban government. The operation included political, economic, psychological, intelligence, and military-related activities. Planning continued throughout 1962, and U.S. officials considered the possibility of military intervention in Cuba. A January 1962 program review explicitly stated that the U.S. objective was to help overthrow the Communist government in Cuba. This was extremely important from the Cuban and Soviet perspectives. While the United States was attempting to contain and undermine Castro's government, Cuba was seeking greater protection from the Soviet Union. Consequently, U.S. actions intended to remove the Cuban government unintentionally contributed to Cuba's dependence on Soviet military support. By spring and summer 1962, U.S. intelligence was reporting increasing Soviet arms shipments to Cuba.

Washington became increasingly concerned that these shipments might include missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Therefore, the Operation contributed to the crisis by increasing Cuban fears of invasion and Soviet fears that their Cuban ally could be overthrown.

Another major cause was the nuclear arms competition between the United States and Soviet Union.The United States had deployed Jupiter intermediate-range ballistic missiles in Turkey, a NATO ally located close to the Soviet Union. These missiles gave the United States the ability to threaten targets inside the USSR from a nearby location.Khrushchev therefore saw an opportunity to improve the Soviet strategic position by placing missiles in Cuba. Soviet missiles in Cuba would be much closer to the continental United States, effectively creating a situation in which both superpowers had nuclear missiles positioned close to the other's territory. The issue was therefore not only about defending Cuba. It was also about counterbalancing U.S. nuclear forces and improving the Soviet Union's strategic position. In fact, a U.S. National Security Action Memorandum from 23 August 1962 specifically raised the question of how the United States could remove its Jupiter missiles from Turkey in response to the changing situation in Cuba. This contributed directly to the crisis because



Khrushchev believed that placing missiles in Cuba could both protect Cuba and alter the nuclear balance in favor of the Soviet Union.

During the summer of 1962, the Soviet Union began secretly transporting nuclear missiles and other military equipment to Cuba. Construction of missile sites began, and Soviet personnel worked to make the sites operational. The deployment was intended to remain secret. However, the increasing Soviet military presence eventually became visible to U.S. intelligence. By September, American officials were becoming increasingly concerned about the possibility that Soviet ballistic missiles were being installed in Cuba. This was particularly dangerous because President Kennedy had already publicly warned the Soviet Union on 4 September 1962 against introducing offensive weapons into Cuba. Despite this warning, the Soviet missile deployment continued.The situation had therefore moved from a political dispute over Cuba to a direct nuclear security crisis between the two superpowers.

On 14 October 1962, a U.S. U-2 reconnaissance aircraft photographed Soviet missile sites being constructed in Cuba. The photographs were analyzed on 15 October, and President Kennedy was informed of the evidence on 16 October. The photographs showed that Soviet medium-range and intermediate-range ballistic missile sites were under construction. These missiles could potentially reach large parts of the United States.

After several days of secret meetings with his advisers and the creation of EXCOMM, Kennedy decided against immediately launching an air strike or invasion. Instead, he announced a naval “quarantine” of Cuba on 22 October 1962. The purpose was to prevent additional Soviet military equipment from reaching Cuba while giving the Soviet Union an opportunity to remove the missiles already there. Therefore, the Soviet missiles themselves were the immediate trigger, but they were not the only cause. The crisis developed from several years of escalating Cold War tensions, the Cuban Revolution, the Bay of Pigs invasion, U.S. efforts to remove Castro, Cuban fears of invasion, Soviet attempts to protect Cuba, and the nuclear arms competition between the United States and Soviet Union.



TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS	
Date	**Event**
Early 1945	Cold war begins
During 1949	USSR developed an atomic bomb
1st of January 1959	Cuban revolution
17th April 1961	Bay of pigs invasion
Starting 1958 to 1962	U.S. Jupiter missiles in Turkey

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS	
7th of February 1962	U.S. embargo on Cuba
Early 1962	Continued U.S. pressure against Castro
May, 1962	Khrushchev decides to deploy missiles to Cuba
Summer 1962	Secret Soviet-Cuban agreement
29nth of August 1962	U.S. detects Soviet military buildup
4th of September 1962	Kennedy publicly warns against offensive weapons in Cuba
14th October, 1962	U-2 photographs missile sites
16-21st of October, 1962	EXCOMM deliberations
22nd October, 1962	Kennedy announces the quarantine

V. Importance of the topic

The Cuban Missile Crisis holds immense importance for a multitude of reasons. Firstly, it is widely regarded as the most dangerous crisis since the end of World War II, as it brought the world to the brink of nuclear war during the 13 day crisis from 16-28 October 1962. The crisis demonstrated how quickly tensions between superpowers could escalate and showed the consequences that nuclear weapons could unleash. In addition, it made world leaders more aware of the urgent need to prioritize diplomacy and negotiation over military action, especially in conflicts involving nuclear capabilities. This was demonstrated by the eventual agreement on 28 October 1962, when the Soviet

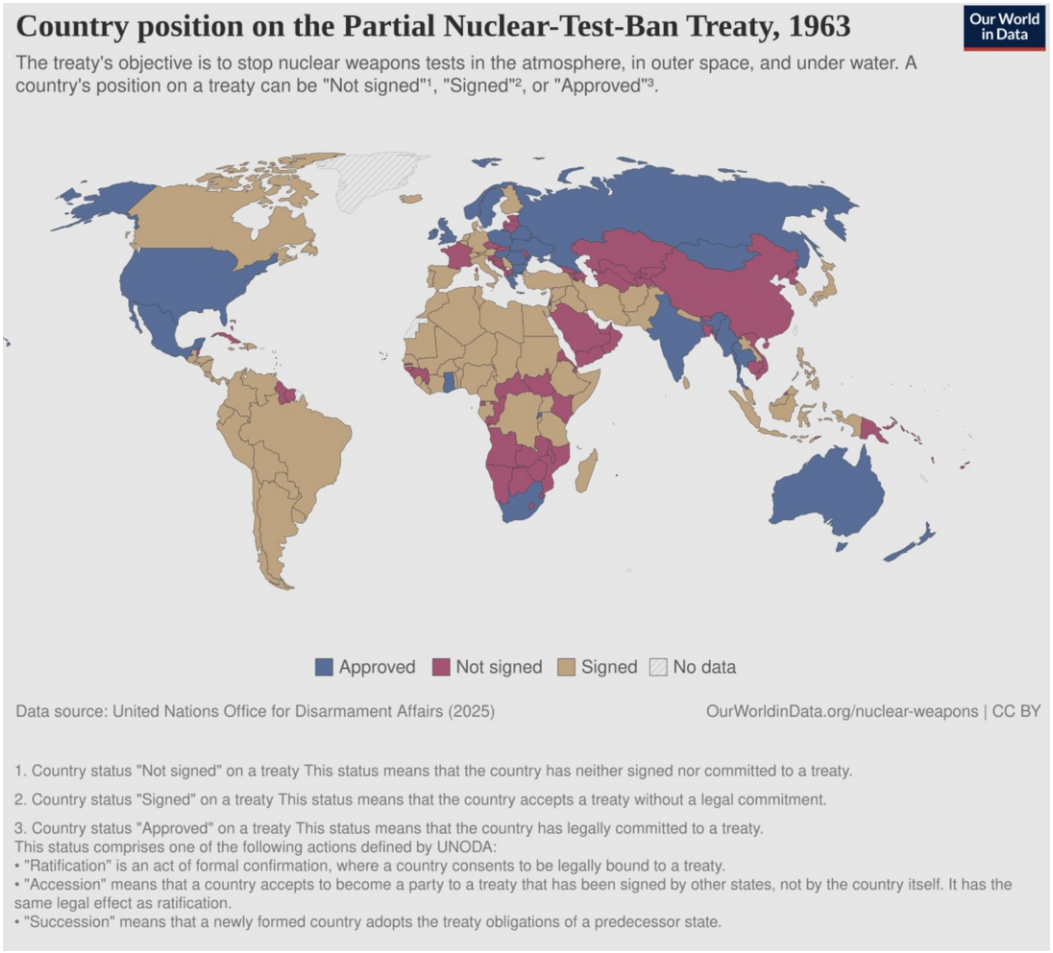
Union agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba in return for a U.S. pledge not to invade Cuba.

Furthermore, the crisis emphasized the importance of effective and rapid communication between nations. The lack of direct communication during the Cuban Missile Crisis increased misunderstandings and the risk of accidental war, leading to the establishment of improved communication systems. In particular, the Washington-Moscow Hotline was established in 1963, allowing the U.S. and Soviet leaders to communicate more quickly during future crises.

The events also reinforced the concept of deterrence, showing that while nuclear weapons could prevent direct conflict, they also posed an extreme risk if mismanaged. The crisis demonstrated that both the United States and Soviet Union had to consider the possibility of catastrophic consequences before taking military action.

All in all, the Cuban Missile Crisis served as a turning point in the Cold War, demonstrating the necessity of cooperation, restraint, and communication in maintaining global peace and security. Its aftermath contributed to further efforts

to reduce nuclear tensions, including the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963.



VI. Key terms

1. **Capitalism**: an economic system characterized by private or corporate ownership of capital goods, by investments that are determined by private decision, and by prices, production, and the distribution of goods that are determined mainly by competition in a free market

2. **Communism**: A political and economic system based on common or public ownership of the means of production, with the goal of creating a classless society.
3. **Soviet Union (USSR):** The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, a federation of socialist republics that existed from 1922 until 1991 and was dominated politically by Russia.
4. **Surface-to-air missiles:** Guided missiles designed to be launched from the ground or another surface against aircraft or other airborne targets.
5. **Anti-aircraft missiles:** Missiles designed to attack and destroy aircraft or other targets in the air.
6. **Offensive weapons:** Weapons intended primarily for attacking an enemy rather than for defensive purposes.
7. **U-2 spy planes:** U.S. high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft used to gather intelligence by taking photographs and collecting information from above areas of interest.

8. **Medium-range missiles:** Missiles capable of traveling a medium distance between their launch point and their target.
9. **Executive Committee of the National Security Council (EXCOMM):** A special group of senior U.S. officials and advisers assembled by President John F. Kennedy advised him during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

10. **Naval quarantine:** A naval operation designed to prevent ships carrying certain goods or materials from reaching a particular country or area.
11. **Blockade**: The use of ships, soldiers, or other forces to prevent people or goods from entering or leaving a country.
12. **Missile bases:** Military installations where missiles are stationed, maintained, prepared, or launched.
13. **Retaliatory response:** An action taken in response to an attack or harmful action, intended to answer or punish the original action.
14. **Western Hemisphere: T**he half of Earth generally consisting of North and South America and their surrounding regions.
15. **Reconnaissance flights:** Flights conducted to gather information about an area, particularly through observation, photography, or other forms of intelligence collection.
16. **Missile sites:** Specific locations where missiles or missile-related equipment are installed, stored, prepared, or operated.
17. **Operational readiness:** The condition of being prepared and capable of carrying out a planned operation or mission.
18. **DEFCON 2:** A U.S. military readiness level indicating that the armed forces are at a very high state of readiness and that a major military conflict may be imminent.

19. **Diplomatic resolution:** A solution to an international disagreement reached through negotiation, communication, and diplomatic agreement rather than military action.

20. **Attorney General:** The chief legal officer of a government or state and, in the United States, the head of the Department of Justice.

21. **Soviet Ambassador:** A senior diplomatic representative of the Soviet Union stationed in another country or representing the Soviet government in diplomatic relations.

22. **Jupiter missiles:** U.S. intermediate-range ballistic missiles developed during the 1950s and deployed in countries including Turkey and Italy.

23. **Nuclear Test Ban Treaty:** An agreement prohibiting nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater while allowing underground tests.

24. **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT):** An international treaty intended to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and nuclear-weapons technology, while encouraging peaceful uses of nuclear energy and pursuing nuclear disarmament.

25. **Proliferation:** A rapid or large increase in the number or amount of something. In international relations, nuclear proliferation refers to the spread or increase of nuclear weapons among states.

26. **Ideology:** A set of beliefs or principles, especially those forming the basis of a political system, party, or organization.
27. **Counterbalance:** Something that balances or offsets the influence, power, or effect of something else.
28. **Deterrence:** The act or strategy of discouraging someone from taking an action by making them believe that doing so would have serious or undesirable consequences.

VII. United Nations involvement

The United Nations became directly involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis when the governments of the United States, Cuba, and the Soviet Union came forward with their complaints before the Security Council. The Security Council

records log meetings that took place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of October in concerns of the complaints submitted by these three states.

The U.S. brought the issue before the Security Council on 22 October and depicted the Soviet Union's deployment of offensive weapons in Cuba as a real threat to international peace and security, with the objective of their removal. The United States sought international support and recognition for its position and for the implementation of measures that would be able to halt any further Soviet military shipments to Cuba.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union accused the United States of violating the UN charter and intervening with Cuba's sovereignty and right to self defense because of their actions against the island. Therefore, the USSR openly challenged the legitimacy of the American quarantine in the hopes of shifting international attention towards the American actions against Cuba.

Cuba also addressed the Security Council, also backing up the argument that American actions constituted of a violation of national sovereignty. The Security Council's October agenda included a letter from the Cuban representative dated 22 October.

The Acting Secretary General U Thant evidently had a role that was significant, he appealed to Kennedy and Khrushchev to establish a temporary

two to three week moratorium on the 24th of October 1962. He also called for the suspension of the construction and development of major military facilities in Cuba while the negotiations took place. On the 25th, U Thant resumed his diplomatic efforts because of Soviet ships that were still approaching the quarantine area. He asked that the Soviet vessels were to be kept away from the area temporarily and for the American focus to be instructed to avoid any direct confrontation with Soviet vessels. This proposal was accepted by both Khrushchev and J.F.K with attached conditions from the United States's part.

The United Nations have been able to create important diplomatic channels and establish temporary time for negotiations, however it is inaccurate to state that a peaceful settlement has been reached. It is obligatory to determine how the United Nations can prevent any further escalation and propose a permanent solution through the facilitation of diplomatic dialogue.

VII. Major countries and organizations involved

a. Major countries

1. United States of America:

The U.S was one of two superpowers during the Cold War, and played a central role in the Cuban Missile Crisis after U-2 reconnaissance flights



discovered Soviet nuclear missile sites being constructed in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy responded by imposing a naval quarantine around Cuba and demanding that the Soviet Union remove the missiles. The United States also negotiated secretly with the USSR, eventually agreeing not to invade Cuba while arranging for the removal of U.S. Jupiter missiles from Turkey.

2. **Soviet Union (USSR):**



The Soviet Union, led by Nikita Khrushchev, secretly deployed nuclear missiles to Cuba in order to strengthen Cuba's defense and counterbalance U.S. nuclear missiles stationed in Turkey. When the United States imposed the naval quarantine, tensions between the two superpowers increased significantly.

3. **Republic of Cuba:**



Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, became closely aligned with the Soviet Union after the Cuban Revolution and the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Fearing another U.S. attempt to overthrow the government, Cuba accepted Soviet military support and allowed Soviet nuclear missiles to be placed on its territory. Cuba therefore became the central location of the crisis and an important part of the confrontation between the United States and Soviet Union.

4. **Republic of Turkey:**

Turkey was indirectly involved because the United States had stationed Jupiter nuclear missiles on Turkish territory near the Soviet Union. These missiles contributed to Soviet concerns about the nuclear balance and influenced Khrushchev's decision to place missiles in Cuba. Their eventual



removal became part of the secret negotiations that helped bring the crisis to an end.

5. **Italian Republic:**



Italy was indirectly involved because the United States had also stationed Jupiter missiles on Italian territory. Although Italy was not directly involved in the negotiations or confrontation in Cuba, its role was connected to the wider deployment of American nuclear weapons during the Cold War.

b. Major organizations

1. **United Nations:**



The United Nations played an important diplomatic role during the crisis by providing an international forum for negotiations and discussion. The removal of the Soviet missiles was proposed to take place under United Nations supervision, demonstrating the organization's potential role in helping achieve a peaceful resolution.

2. **Organization of American States (OAS):**



The OAS was relevant because the Cuban Missile Crisis directly affected security in the Western Hemisphere. The United States sought support from other American states for its actions against the Soviet missile deployment in Cuba.

3. **Executive Committee of the National Security Council (EXCOMM):**



EXCOMM was a special U.S. advisory group created by President John F. Kennedy during the crisis. It brought together senior officials to evaluate possible responses, including military action, diplomatic negotiations, and the naval quarantine.

4. **Soviet Armed Forces:**



The Soviet military was responsible for transporting, installing, and operating the missiles and other military equipment sent to Cuba. Soviet military personnel also maintained the missile sites while the crisis developed.

IX. Useful links

1. “Security Council official records, 17th year : 1025th meeting, 25 October 1962, New York” , New York : UN, June 1964. Security Council Official Records (October 1962 meetings)

2. USSR, “Violation of the United Nations Charter and threat to the peace by the United States of America : draft resolution Union of the Soviet Socialist

Republics". [New York] : UN, 23 Oct. 1962, Violation of the United Nations Charter and threat to the peace by the United States of America : draft resolution Union of the Soviet Smnjkocialist Republics

3. United States,"Draft resolution United States of America". [New York] : UN, 22 Oct. 1962, Draft resolution United States of America

4. Tom Kirvan, "Historical Quotes: President John F. Kennedy" President John F. Kennedy | Primerus

5. Cuba, "Letter dated 22 October 1962 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba addressed to the President of the Security Council" [New York] : UN, 22 Oct. 1962, https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/628972?v=pdf

6. "National Security Action Memorandum 1960: Establishment of an Executive Committee of the National Security Council." Washington, 22 October 1962. https://www.jfklibrary.org/asset-viewer/archives/jfknsf-339-006#?image_identifier=JFKNSF-339-006-p0002

7. "Letter from President Kennedy to Chairman Khrushchev." 22 October 1962. https://microsites.jfklibrary.org/cmc/oct22/doc4.html

8. "Statement by President Kennedy on Cuba." 22 October 1962. https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/historic-speeches/address-during-the-cuban-missile-crisis

X. Possible solutions

1. **Calls upon** the United States, the Soviet Union and Cuba to establish an immediate 72-hour diplomatic pause, during which no party shall undertake any actions that could escalate the crisis;

2. **Requests** that Cuba participate in all negotiations that concern its territory and security, ensuring that no agreement would be reached without Cuban representation;

3. **Calls upon** all parties to accept UN observation of any agreed suspension of military activity, having observers report directly to the Security Council if said agreement(s) is/are breached;

4. **Encourages** the establishment of permanent emergency communication mechanisms between the United States, Soviet Union, Cuba and the United Nations to reduce the risk of any future misunderstandings during international crises;

5. **Encourages** the United States and the Soviet Union to negotiate reciprocal security agreements, including assurances against military intervention in Cuba rather than requiring unilateral concessions;

6. **Calls for** the establishment of a temporary UN-administrated security zone around CUbain which all military movement that is directly connected to the current confrontation are temporarily suspended;

7. **Proposes** that all parties submit their military concerns and proposed concessions to the SC through confidential diplomatic channels to reduce the risk of any public statements escalating the tensions;

8. **Requests** the Acting Secretary General to report to the SC every 24 hours on diplomatic developments and any violations of agreed measures;

XI. Guiding questions

To understand the crisis, ask yourself...

1. Why did the Soviet Union choose Cuba as their location for missile deployments?
2. Why did the United States view the Soviet missiles as a threat?
3. How did the Bay Of Pigs invasion contribute to/amplify Cuba's security concerns?
4. What factors caused the Cuban Missile Crisis to escalate so rapidly?

To delve deeper into the Security Council's role, you should know…

1. What authority does the Security Council have when two nuclear superpowers are confronting each other?
2. Is it possible for the SC to supervise the military installations in Cuba without violating Cuban Sovereignty
3. Should the DC support the American quarantine, oppose it, or seek a compromise?

To help de-escalate in a diplomatic manner, ask yourself…

1. Should the United Nations prioritize immediate de-escalation over determining which side is primarily responsible for the crisis?
2. How can the United Nations make sure that there will be no accidental confrontations between American and Soviet naval forces?

3. What mechanisms can be established to assure compliance, accompanied by diplomatic agreement?
4. What kind of guarantees would sway the U.S. and the Soviet Union to reduce their military tensions?
5. Should the negotiations involve Cuba rather than treating this solely as a dispute between the United States and the USSR?

XII. Bibliography

Simple history, “The Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)”. 2017
https://youtu.be/XbKCyQn5oTc?si=yewJ5OdOG5XG0mpO

“Cuban Missile Crisis”
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuban_Missile_Crisis

Matthew A. Jordan, “The history of the Cuban Missile Crisis”. 2017
https://youtu.be/bwWW3sbk4EU?si=va7ele4XH5zXYzef

Ziyad Aboushair, “livret C5 Unité 2 Orientation dans le temps et l’espace”, 2025
Livret C5 Unité 2 Orientation Temps Espace

Merriam Webster dictionary
https://www.merriam-webster.com/

Cambridge English dictionary
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/

United Nations “Resolutions adopted by the Security Council by year”
https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/resolutions-0

“Statement by President Kennedy on Cuba.” 22 October 1962.
https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/historic-speeches/address-during-the-cuban-missile-crisis

Center for Arms Control and Non-proliferation, “The Cuban Missile crisis”
https://armscontrolcenter.org/the-cuban-missile-crisis/

John F. Kennedy presidential library and museum “Cuban Missile crisis”
https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/cuban-missile-crisis

United Nations. “Preventive Diplomacy at the United Nations: U Thant’s Preventive Diplomacy during the Cuban Missile Crisis.” Accessed August 15, 2026.
https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/preventive-diplomacy-united-nations

United Nations. *Security Council Official Records, 17th Year: 1024th Meeting, 24 October 1962*. New York: United Nations, 1964. S/PV.1024. https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/520147

National Archives and Records Administration. “Forty Years Ago: The Cuban Missile Crisis.” *Prologue* 34, no. 3 (Fall 2002). Accessed August 15, 2026. https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2002/fall/cuban-missiles.html

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. “Cuban Missile Crisis Chronology.” Accessed August 15, 2026. https://www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/life-of-john-f-kennedy/fast-facts-john-f-kennedy/cuban-missile-crisis-chronology