



1962 United Nations Security Council: The Cuban Missile Crisis

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Cuban Missile Crisis Committee! I am Chris, your chair, and I am thrilled to have you here. The Cuban Missile Crisis is a crucial historical event with enduring significance, as nuclear weapons continue to influence global interactions and shape policies today. I can't wait to witness your innovative approaches to the challenges ahead.

Myself, and Teeron, joined UCBMUN in the spring of 2023 and have loved participating in conferences as both competitors and administrative workers. I recently got to participate in CHOMUN on the Alcapone Committee, it was a great experience. At UCBMUN, I had the opportunity to serve as an Assistant Crisis Director for the JCC Emus and Parliament of Singapore Committees.

A bit about myself: I am currently a senior at Berkeley, originally from Thousand Oaks, CA. Before coming to Cal, I attended Moorpark Community College. I am majoring in Political Science, and I have a minor in Public Policy. International relations and their impact on developing nations fascinate me. This is evident in my involvement with the International Relations Councils at Berkeley and the Alexander Hamilton Society. Beyond campus, I am working on a museum exhibit about Indigenous Immigrants from Mexico, a project that reflects my Hispanic Heritage.

On a lighter note, I enjoy playing sports, with soccer being my favorite (I am an FC Barcelona supporter!). I also enjoy staying active outdoors through activities like hiking, running, and spending time at the beach. Looking forward to a fruitful Model UN committee session!

Best always,
Christopher Alejandro Ojeda
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Letter from the Crisis Director

Hello Delegates!

In this committee, we will be placing you into one of the most contentious periods in human history, with the United States of America and the Soviet Union on the brink of armageddon, loaded up with nuclear weapons and a deep ideological divide. This situation set numerous precedents on dealing with nuclear disarmament, an issue that remains noteworthy to this day. I am excited to see how each of you tip-toes around the end of the world, and how you will choose to approach the situation.

As Chris stated, he and I joined in the same semester (Spring 2023), and have been friends since. I hope you join our playful dynamic and have fun during this conference. If this is your first ever committee, we will do our best to properly introduce you to the structure and flow of Model United Nations.

Regarding competing, I have attended VICS (University of Virginia) and ChoMUN (University of Chicago), winning an award in the latter. I am excited to travel to more conferences in the future, and I hope to one day engage with some of you on the circuit. I have also worked in setting up a conference, being an Assistant Crisis Director for our collegiate conference last spring (UCBMUN). I have learned a great deal about how to engage with and gain support from others through this club, and I hope you all have similar takeaways.

I am currently a sophomore and Bay Area native. I love hiking, climbing, playing soccer, skiing, and being outdoors. For me, this club is done purely out of passion and enjoyment. I am a computer science major minoring in mathematics and forestry, and I plan to have a career in financial technologies or software engineering. I believe the best way to go through life is to do a lot of what you're passionate about; that's why not everything I do intends to directly move my career forward. Looking forward to meeting you all!

Best,
Teeron Hajebi Tabrizi
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Important Disclaimer

The Crisis staff will implement the following restrictions to maintain a respectful and cordial environment in the committee:

1. All virological arcs are expressly prohibited in light of COVID-19 and its impact.
2. Arcs involving the exploitation of minorities and human trafficking are prohibited.
3. Arcs that promote real-world misinformation are expressly prohibited.
 - a. Note, this is not a ban on misinformation arcs; this is a ban on arcs that attempt to deny real-world events or facts, such as genocides and exoduses.
4. Anything else that is deemed inappropriate, insensitive, or offensive by the Code of Conduct will not be a part of the proceedings.

If you have questions about your arcs, feel free to reach out to Crisis staff before the conference or during proceedings.



Committee Details: What is the United Nations Security Council?

For the purpose of maintaining global peace, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), holds the authority to enforce binding obligations on all 193 member states since the founding of the United Nations. Armed with sanctions, peace-keeping operations, or formal censures, the UNSC is meant to enforce international laws. The structure of the Council is based around five permanent members that have veto power that they can use when voting on any resolution. These countries are the People's Republic of China, the United States, the Russian Federation, France, and the United Kingdom. However, for the purpose of this simulation, there will be no veto powers.

The UNSC regularly convenes to assess threats to international security, encompassing conflicts, natural disasters, arms proliferation, and terrorism. Since its founding in 1946, it has dealt with crises such as the Syrian Civil War, the COVID-19 pandemic, and more recently, the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

This committee will focus specifically on the role of the Security Council during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. During this period, the Council was mostly paralyzed by the Cold War, mainly immobilized by its most powerful veto powers: the US and the then-Soviet Union. Throughout the war, it played a significant role in addressing the escalating tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, as well as promoting diplomatic negotiations to resolve the crisis to prevent a nuclear catastrophe at every corner. In this committee, you will be moving back in time to 1962 and represent the states that were UNSC members at the time to explore your own response and solution to the Crisis.

Procedural Overview

This committee will be run following the BearMUN official policies, accessible through the conference website, in a standard crisis committee format. During this simulation, delegates will be crafting directives instead of resolutions. Directives are concise (no more than one page) and actionable statements that guide the Council's response to each crisis update. You will be passing multiple directives in each committee session as opposed to a General Assembly's focus on creating one final resolution. They should be requests which will be reviewed and approved or denied by the backroom staff. This format allows for focused and efficient decision-making while also moving along the time committee.

Crisis updates will be provided throughout every session to reflect the evolving situation and introduce new challenges. These updates count as real-time developments and test delegates' abilities to adapt and respond effectively to the crisis. These updates will guide discussion and directives. As a reminder, your crisis notes do not have to adhere to the realistic timeline of the events that took place, but you should employ your character and its responsibilities to come up with your own unique events and updates.



It is important to note that while this simulation focuses on a real historical event, the discussions and decisions made during this session prioritize the functions of the Security Council. That said, you have free range to make the outcome of the event your own.

The staff of this committee looks forward to seeing each and every delegate make use of the many options available to them. They are encouraged to reach out if they have any questions regarding the intricacies of a joint crisis committee.



Historical Context



Figure 1: New York Times front page in October 23, 1962

To understand the events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis, it is essential to analyze the actions and motivations of the Soviet and Cuban leadership in the months preceding the crisis.

Soviet Deployment of Missiles in Cuba

In the fall of 1962, reports emerged that the Soviet Union was secretly deploying offensive missiles in Cuba. These missiles, with the capability of reaching major U.S. cities, posed a significant threat to American security. President John F. Kennedy responded with a series of stern warnings to Moscow, clearly indicating that the United States would not tolerate the presence of such offensive weapons on its doorstep.²

President Kennedy's Warnings

Early in September 1962, President Kennedy issued warnings to Moscow, drawing a distinction between "offensive" and "defensive" weapons. He made it clear that evidence of offensive missiles in Cuba would be seen as a grave threat; he received congressional approval to call up additional reservists as a precautionary measure. These warnings were

¹Medland, William J. (1990). "The Cuban Missile Crisis: Evolving Historical Perspectives." *The History Teacher*, 23(4), 433–447. <https://doi.org/10.2307/494397>

²Lebow, Richard Ned. "The Cuban Missile Crisis: Reading the Lessons Correctly." *Political Science Quarterly* 98, no. 3 (1983): 431–58. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2150497>.



communicated through private channels, additionally, to ensure that the Soviet leadership understood their gravity.

Soviet Sensitivity and Assurances

The Soviet Union appeared sensitive to American strategic interests and the political needs of President Kennedy. Ambassador Dobrynin conveyed a confidential promise from Nikita Khrushchev, chairman of the Council of Ministers, that the Soviet Union would not create any trouble for the United States during the election campaign. The Soviets insisted that their actions were defensive in nature and not a threat to American security.

Possible Explanations for Soviet Behavior

Numerous hypotheses have been proposed to explain the Soviet decision to place missiles in Cuba. These explanations generally fall into four categories based on rational decision-making:

Gains that Justify the Risks

Some argue that the Soviet leadership accepted the risk of provoking a crisis with the United States because they expected significant political and strategic gains if the missiles remained undetected. These gains included resolving multiple dilemmas in Soviet foreign policy, gaining leverage in negotiations on other issues, and achieving an understanding with President Kennedy. However, this viewpoint has been criticized for its unrealistic assumptions about the feasibility of the expected gains as the USSR did not understand American military superiority, especially in intelligence gathering.

Soviet Leaders' Misinterpretation of American Intentions

Another hypothesis suggests that the Soviet leadership misinterpreted President Kennedy's intentions and believed that he would not respond forcefully if the missiles were discovered. This view assumes that the Soviet decision was based on faulty or incomplete information about American reactions.

Soviet Leaders' Desire to Prevent an American Invasion of Cuba

According to Khrushchev's own account, the Soviet missiles were sent to Cuba to prevent a U.S. invasion of the island. He claimed that the missiles would be removed if the United States pledged not to invade Cuba. However, critics argue that the means deployed by the Soviets were disproportionate to this objective, and the crisis resulted in significant political costs for the Soviet Union.

More Far-reaching Trade-offs



Some analysts speculate that the Soviet Union sought a more significant trade-off involving concessions on other issues, such as missile trades with Turkey, withdrawal of American bases threatening the USSR, or a resolution of the Berlin crisis.

Cuba during the Crisis

Amid the analysis of Soviet motives leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis, it is essential to examine the role of the Cuban government in allowing the deployment of Soviet missiles on their territory.

Fidel Castro's Concerns

Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, played a crucial role in the decision to accept Soviet missiles. In the early 1960s, Cuba was facing significant security concerns due to its proximity to the United States, a state that promised the implementation of communist containment as a mission directly related to its national security. The failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the ongoing hostility from the U.S. government had left Castro feeling vulnerable and isolated. He feared that the U.S. might launch another invasion to overthrow his government and eliminate the communist presence in the Western Hemisphere.

Security Assurances from the Soviet Union

Castro turned to the Soviet Union as a strategic ally to enhance Cuba's security. This request gave Khrushchev and the Soviet leadership a potential opportunity to expand their influence in the Western Hemisphere and demonstrate their commitment to supporting socialist movements worldwide. The deployment of missiles in Cuba could serve as a deterrent against any U.S. military aggression and reinforce Cuba's position as a Soviet ally.

Negotiating with the Soviet Union

Castro actively engaged in negotiations with Khrushchev and the Soviet government to secure military aid and, ultimately, the deployment of missiles on Cuban soil. He believed that the presence of Soviet missiles would deter any future U.S. invasion attempts and provide Cuba with a powerful bargaining chip in its dealings with the United States.

Cuban Sovereignty and National Pride

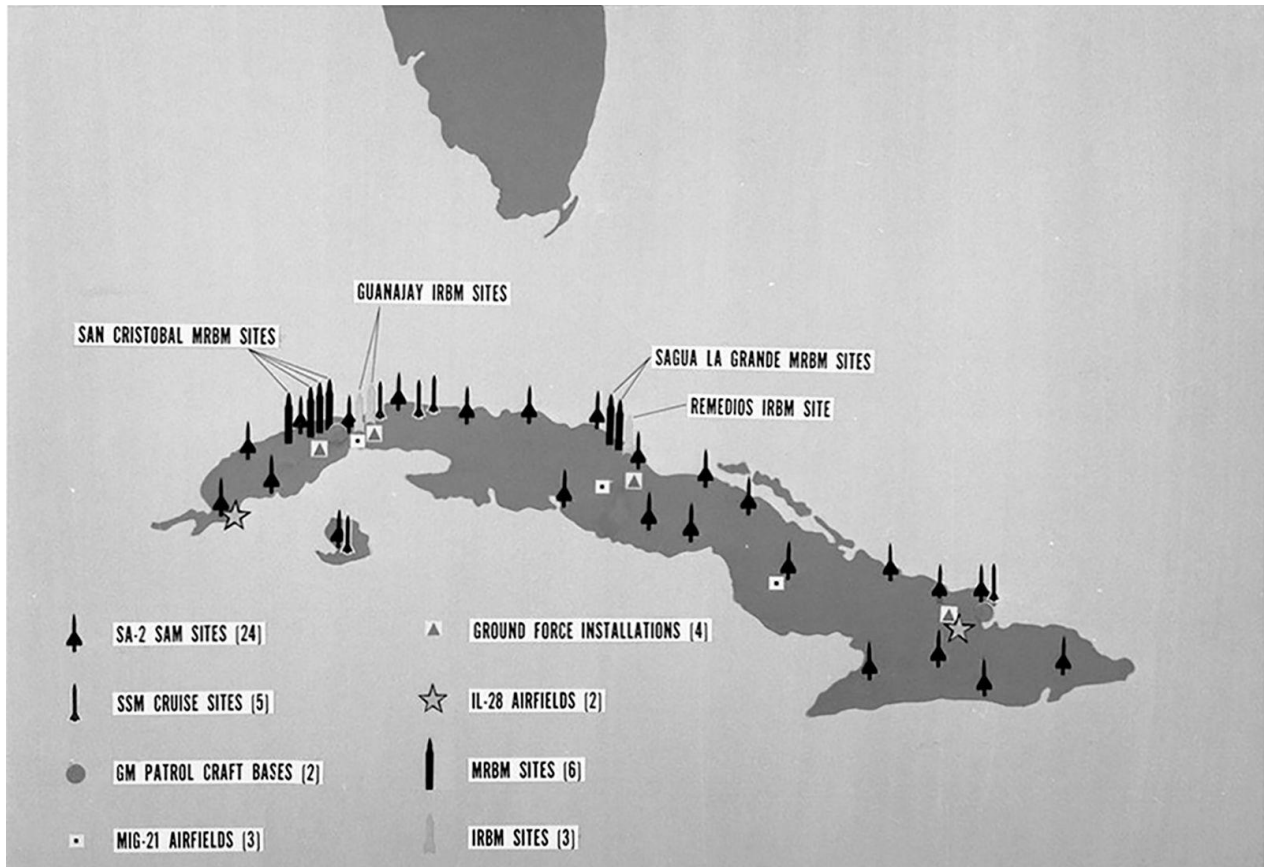
Furthermore, allowing the Soviet Union to deploy missiles on Cuban territory was also seen as a matter of sovereignty and national pride for Castro and the Cuban leadership. It symbolized Cuba's independence from U.S. influence and demonstrated its commitment to standing up against American aggression.



³*Figure 2: Fidel Castro addresses the crowd during an event at Revolution Square in Havana*

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-cuba-castro-correspondents-idUSKBN13L0VU>

Current Situation: October 1962



⁴Figure 3: Soviet military buildup in Cuba

As of the peak of the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962, the world is gripped in a state of fear and tension as the United States and the Soviet Union stand on the brink of nuclear war. The presence of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles on Cuba, just 90 miles from U.S. shores, has raised the stakes in the ongoing Cold War confrontation between the superpowers and resulted in the long-expected mutually assured destruction (MAD).

President John F. Kennedy's televised address on October 22 has shocked the American public and the world at large. He has made it clear that the U.S. is prepared to use military force if necessary to neutralize the perceived threat to national security. People everywhere anxiously await the Soviet response to this grave situation, and many fear that the slightest miscalculation or miscommunication could plunge the world into nuclear holocaust.

⁴History of Cuba. The Nations Online Project. <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/History/Cuba-history.htm>

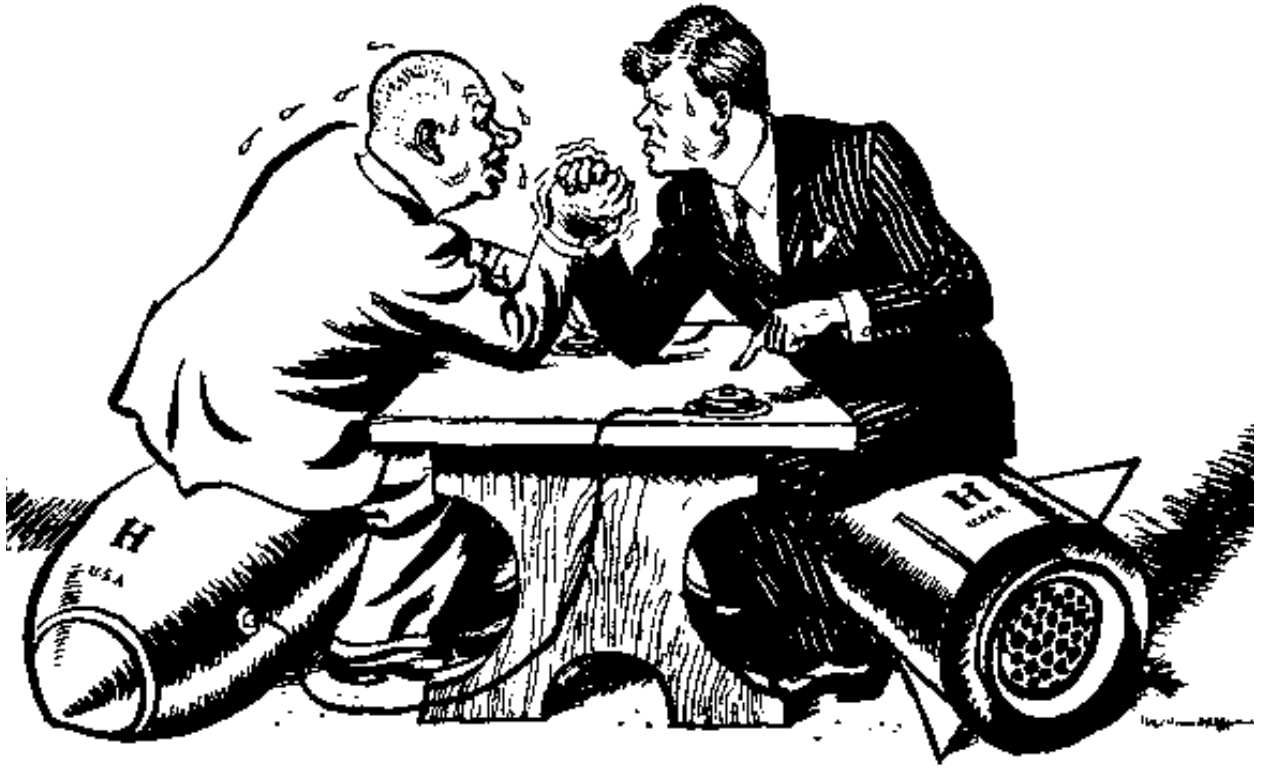


The urgency of the situation is driven by the missiles' proximity to the U.S. mainland. From their current location in Cuba, they can quickly reach targets in the eastern United States, posing an unprecedented threat to American security. The USSR, led by Nikita Khrushchev, took this calculated risk to bolster its own nuclear strike capability. Feeling vulnerable due to the presence of Western nuclear weapons in Western Europe and Turkey, Khrushchev saw the deployment of missiles in Cuba as a strategic move to level the playing field and deter further U.S. aggression against Cuba. On a larger scale, the growing MAD policy assured the rest of the world that if nuclear deployment happens on US land, the latter will respond with more nuclear attacks on different Soviet targets in which numerous other civilizations will fall as collateral damage.

President Kennedy and his advisors, known as the Executive Committee or ExComm, grapple with the enormity of the crisis. The options they consider range from a bombing attack on the missile sites to a full-scale invasion of Cuba. The decision-making process is tense and complex as they aim to find a resolution that removes the missiles without triggering all-out war.

Kennedy's chosen approach is a naval blockade, or quarantine, to prevent the Soviets from delivering more missiles and military equipment to Cuba. This measured response aims to avoid an immediate military confrontation while sending a clear message of resolve to the Soviet Union.

The situation escalates when Soviet ships approach the line of U.S. vessels enforcing the blockade. The possibility of a military confrontation looms large, and the world watches with bated breath to see how events unfold. Meanwhile, a U.S. reconnaissance plane has been shot down over Cuba, further heightening tensions and underscoring the gravity of the crisis.



⁵Figure 4: A cartoon depicting Kennedy and Khrushchev struggling for global global dominance

Amidst the escalating standoff, both sides engage in diplomatic communications through letters and other means. Khrushchev, in a message to Kennedy, offers to remove the Cuban missiles in exchange for a promise from the U.S. not to invade Cuba. He also suggests that the Soviets would dismantle their missiles in Cuba if the U.S. removes its missile installations in Turkey.

⁵ Illingworth, Leslie G. 1962, October 29. *The Daily Mail*.
<https://www.jchistorytuition.com.sg/jc-history-tuition-notes-cuban-missile-crisis-cartoon-analysis/>



Proposed Solutions

Diplomatic Negotiations and Confidence-Building Measures

The Security Council could propose intensive diplomatic negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union, with the aim of de-escalating tensions and reaching a mutually acceptable solution. Measures, such as mutual inspections and verifications, could be implemented to foster trust and transparency between the two superpowers. These negotiations could involve commitments to non-aggression and the removal of offensive weapons from Cuba, as well as the withdrawal of U.S. missiles from Turkey, which were of concern to the Soviet Union.

Establishment of a Demilitarized Zone in Cuba

To address the security concerns of both the United States and the Soviet Union, the Security Council could propose the establishment of a demilitarized zone in Cuba. This zone would prohibit the deployment of offensive military assets and establish buffer areas to reduce tensions. International peacekeeping forces, including troops from non-aligned nations, could be deployed to monitor and ensure compliance with the demilitarization agreement. This solution would help alleviate immediate security concerns and pave the way for long-term stability in the region.

Creation of a Nuclear-Free Zone in the Caribbean

The Security Council could explore the possibility of establishing a nuclear-free zone in the Caribbean, encompassing not only Cuba but also neighboring countries. This would involve a comprehensive agreement among states in the region, including the United States, the Soviet Union, and regional actors, to prohibit the possession, deployment, and testing of nuclear weapons. The Security Council could oversee the implementation of this agreement, working in collaboration with relevant regional organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

International Control and Monitoring of Missile Installations

As a confidence-building measure, the Security Council could propose the establishment of an international body to control and monitor missile installations worldwide, including those in Cuba. This body could consist of representatives from various member states, including non-aligned countries, to ensure impartiality and credibility. The international body would be responsible for overseeing the dismantling of existing missile installations, verifying compliance, and preventing future unauthorized deployments. This solution would provide a framework for arms control and non-proliferation efforts beyond the immediate crisis.

Comprehensive Disarmament and Arms Control Talks

The Security Council could call for comprehensive disarmament and arms control talks involving all nuclear-armed states, with the aim of reducing global tensions and preventing



future crises. These talks could address the concerns of both the United States and the Soviet Union regarding the proliferation of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. Topics of discussion could include limitations on missile deployment, reductions in nuclear stockpiles, and the establishment of international mechanisms for conflict resolution. This solution would require the commitment and cooperation of all relevant parties and could serve as a platform for long-term stability and the prevention of future crises.

UNSC Member States



⁶Figure 5: The UN Security Council Session on the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

Republic of Venezuela

Venezuela, a proud member of the Non-Aligned Movement, has historically opposed the spread of communism in the Western Hemisphere. As a Latin American nation, Venezuela shares close cultural and economic ties with the United States, which has influenced its stance on the Cuban Missile Crisis. Venezuela views the Soviet Union's military presence in Cuba as a direct threat to regional stability and its own sovereignty. President Rómulo Betancourt's government has emphasized the importance of upholding democratic values and resisting communist expansion. In light of these concerns, Venezuela has aligned itself closely with the United States in condemning the Soviet actions and supporting diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully.

Republic of Chile

⁶ U.S. ambassador to the UN Adlai Stevenson presents evidence of Soviet missiles in Cuba at the UN Security Council on October 25, 1962. (UN Photo/MH).

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/twe-remembers-adlai-stevenson-dresses-down-soviet-ambassador-un-cuban-missile-crisis-day-ten>



In Chile, the rise of communism sparked intense political debates. While some elements of society sympathized with the Cuban Revolution, others were concerned about its potential influence. Chile, under President Jorge Alessandri, expressed cautious support for the United States during the Cuban Missile Crisis. They believed that the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba posed a grave threat to the Western Hemisphere and supported the U.S. stance of demanding their removal. Chile advocated for diplomatic negotiations and the preservation of regional security.

Republic of Ghana

Ghana, led by President Kwame Nkrumah, championed the cause of pan-Africanism and anti-imperialism. As a newly independent nation, Ghana was deeply committed to decolonization and non-alignment. Nkrumah sympathized with Fidel Castro and his socialist aspirations. However, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Ghana found itself in a delicate position. Balancing its anti-imperialist stance with the need to maintain stability, Ghana supported diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully. They called for dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union while emphasizing the importance of African unity and the avoidance of any conflict that could disrupt the continent's progress.

The Socialist Republic of Romania

Under the leadership of President Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania pursued an independent foreign policy that diverged from Soviet interests. Romania distanced itself from the Soviet Union and criticized the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. However, they also condemned the United States' blockade as an act of aggression. Romania advocated for a peaceful resolution, urging both superpowers to engage in dialogue and compromise. Their position reflected a desire for non-alignment and a commitment to safeguarding national sovereignty.

United Arab Republic

The United Arab Republic (UAR), formed by the merger of Egypt and Syria, aligned itself with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. As a staunch supporter of anti-colonial movements and pan-Arab unity, the UAR expressed solidarity with Cuba and the Cuban Revolution. The UAR condemned the U.S. blockade as an act of aggression and advocated for the removal of U.S. military bases from the region. They called for a negotiated settlement that would address the concerns of all parties involved, while emphasizing the importance of respecting the sovereignty of Cuba and the right to self-determination.

Republic of Ireland

As a neutral nation with a long history of non-alignment, Ireland approached the Cuban Missile Crisis with a commitment to peaceful resolution and respect for



sovereignty. Ireland's foreign policy emphasized disarmament and the prevention of nuclear war. Ireland expressed concern over the escalating tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, calling for restraint and diplomatic negotiations. They urged both superpowers to pursue dialogue, highlighting the importance of upholding international law and the United Nations Charter.

Republic of China (Taiwan)

The Republic of China (Taiwan) found itself in a complex situation during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Having lost its seat in the United Nations to the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1971, Taiwan sought international support to maintain its status as the legitimate representative of China. Taiwan, under President Chiang Kai-shek, aligned itself closely with the United States in its opposition to communism. Taiwan condemned the Soviet Union's actions and supported the U.S. demand for the removal of missiles from Cuba. Their position was based on their ideological opposition to communism and their desire to counter the influence of the PRC.

French 5th Republic

France, under President Charles de Gaulle, pursued an independent foreign policy that sought to maintain its global influence. France had previously faced challenges in its former colony, Algeria, where anti-colonial sentiment and socialist ideas had been prevalent. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, France initially supported the U.S. stance of demanding the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. However, de Gaulle also criticized the United States' handling of the crisis and advocated for a peaceful resolution through direct negotiations. France's position reflected its desire to assert its own global role while avoiding unnecessary conflict.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

As one of the two major superpowers during the Cold War, the Soviet Union supported the Cuban Revolution and saw Cuba as a valuable ally in challenging American hegemony. The Soviet Union's deployment of missiles to Cuba aimed to counterbalance U.S. nuclear capabilities and protect their strategic interests. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Soviet Union condemned the U.S. blockade as an act of aggression. They called for the removal of U.S. missiles from Turkey in exchange for the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba. The Soviet Union emphasized the principle of mutual security and the importance of protecting Cuba's sovereignty.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom, a close ally of the United States, supported the U.S. stance during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As a key member of NATO, the UK viewed the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba as a direct threat to Western security. The UK backed the U.S. blockade and the demand for the removal of missiles. However, they



also emphasized the need for diplomatic negotiations to resolve the crisis peacefully. The UK played a vital role in facilitating communication between the United States and the Soviet Union, advocating for a diplomatic solution while ensuring the preservation of their own national interests.

United States of America

The United States, as the leading Western power, perceived the spread of communism as a direct threat to its national security and global interests. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U.S. considered the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba as an unacceptable provocation. President John F. Kennedy announced a naval blockade to prevent further Soviet shipments and demanded the removal of missiles from Cuba. While the U.S. maintained a firm stance, they also pursued diplomatic channels to resolve the crisis peacefully. The U.S. sought to safeguard its own security while avoiding a direct military confrontation with the Soviet Union, emphasizing the importance of international law and the preservation of regional stability.

Canada

As the peaceful neighbor to the north of the United States, Canada maintained a strong anti-communist stance during the Cold War. While not directly involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Canada supported the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Historically, Canada was a founding member of NATO in 1949, and this alliance played a pivotal role in shaping its foreign policy. The fear of communism's spread influenced its position, even though it had diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Canada's commitment to peacekeeping and diplomacy led to its active involvement in various UN missions during the Cold War, showcasing its dedication to resolving conflicts through international cooperation.

Republic of India

Led by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, India pursued a policy of non-alignment during the Cold War. This neutral stance positioned India as a key mediator during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Nehru's "Panchsheel" principles emphasized peaceful coexistence and non-interference in the affairs of other nations. India's history of anti-colonial struggle and its aspirations for global leadership in the post-colonial world shaped this stance. While India criticized nuclear weapons, it was also critical of the superpowers' Cold War competition. India's diplomatic efforts during the Cuban Missile Crisis reflected its commitment to maintaining global peace and stability.

Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil, under President João Goulart, pursued a policy of non-alignment during the Cold War, which influenced its position during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Goulart's



government was wary of taking sides in the superpower rivalry, focusing instead on domestic development. However, Brazil had historical ties to the United States and maintained close economic relations. This made the country cautious in openly opposing the U.S. blockade of Cuba. Brazil's primary concern was maintaining regional stability and economic growth, which influenced its relatively passive role in the crisis. While not directly involved, Brazil's position was shaped by its desire to avoid entanglement in the Cold War's global power struggles.

Kingdom of Sweden

Sweden pursued a policy of neutrality during the Cold War, a stance that was reinforced by the Cuban Missile Crisis. Sweden's historical position of non-alignment allowed it to play a role as a mediator and host of diplomatic negotiations during the crisis. The Swedish government, led by Prime Minister Tage Erlander, emphasized disarmament and diplomacy over military confrontation. Sweden's commitment to neutrality and its focus on welfare and social policies at home influenced its stance during this critical period of the Cold War.

Japan

In the aftermath of World War II, Japan was under the security umbrella of the United States. While officially not involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis, Japan was acutely aware of its implications for regional stability. The fear of nuclear conflict in Asia influenced Japan's support for the U.S. position. Japan's post-war constitution, which renounced war as a means of settling international disputes, made it a strong advocate for peaceful resolution to the crisis. Japan's historical experience with the devastation of nuclear weapons also played a role in its anti-communist stance and support for the U.S.

Federation of Nigeria

Nigeria, in the lead-up to and during the Cuban Missile Crisis, was navigating its newly acquired independence from British colonial rule. The country's foreign policy was influenced by a desire to maintain neutrality in the Cold War's superpower rivalry. Nigeria was a vocal advocate for decolonization in Africa and a founding member of the Non-Aligned Movement. While not directly involved in the crisis, Nigeria's stance was shaped by its commitment to self-determination and non-interference in the affairs of other nations. Nigeria's historical context as a newly independent African nation influenced its position on the global stage during the Cold War.



Questions to Consider

1. How can the Security Council balance the imperative of national security with the principles of non-aggression and respect for sovereignty in addressing the Cuban Missile Crisis?
2. What measures can the Security Council propose to prevent the recurrence of similar crises in the future and promote long-term stability in the region?
3. How can the Security Council address the concerns and interests of non-aligned nations in the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis, ensuring their active participation and representation in the decision-making process?
4. What role should the United Nations play in facilitating and overseeing the dismantlement of missile installations in Cuba and ensuring compliance with disarmament agreements?
5. How can the Security Council foster trust and confidence-building measures between the United States and the Soviet Union, considering their historical tensions and ideological differences?
6. What steps can the Security Council take to engage regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in the resolution of the crisis and in establishing mechanisms for regional security?
7. How can the Security Council consider short-term crisis management while maintaining long-term goals such as nuclear disarmament, arms control, and the prevention of future conflicts?



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Cover image

- Customers in the electronics section of a department store watch as JFK addresses the nation, October 22, 1962. (Ralph Crane/Time-Life Pictures/Getty). <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/01/the-real-cuban-missile-crisis/309190/>