

Historical Committee



Topic A: “The Cuban missile crisis of 1962”
(The committee will be held on Oct, 23rd, 1962)

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Inés Hernández-
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Welcoming letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Historical Committee on the Cuban Missile Crisis. It is an honor to have you here as we get into this crucial moment in history.

Your unique perspectives are crucial as we analyze the events of the crisis and discuss their lasting impact on international relations.

We encourage you to engage actively, share your insights, and collaborate with your fellow delegates to develop meaningful resolutions.

Thank you for your commitment to this model. We look forward to our discussions and the progress we will make together.

Sincerely,

Sofía Ruiz, Perla Pérez and Inés Hernández-Avendaño
Moderator and Chairs of Historical Committee



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I. Introduction to the Topic

This Cuban missile crisis, which occurred in October 1962, was a defining moment of the Cold War and showed the closest the world has come to a nuclear war. This 13-day confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union occurred after the discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba, just 90 miles from the American coast. The crisis was the result of tensions between the two powers, fueled by the rivalry of ideas between capitalism and communism, and the recent Cuban Revolution of 1959, which saw Fidel Castro come to power and align himself with the Soviet Union.

As the two engaged in a high-stakes game of diplomacy and military posturing, the world feared it could have catastrophic consequences. Through a series of difficult negotiations, clandestine communications and strategic decisions, the crisis was finally resolved without direct military conflict. However, the Cuban Missile Crisis left an impact on relations between the United States and the Soviet Union and shaped global security policy for the following years, showing the dangerous potential of nuclear weapons and the need to improve communication between the superpowers of the world.



II. Evolution of the Topic

U.S.-Cuban relations have been shaped by a complex transaction of historical events, particularly during the Cold War.

Following the Spanish-American War in 1898, Cuba gained independence from Spain but remained under U.S. influence, through the Platt Amendment, which allowed U.S. intervention in Cuban affairs until its repeal in 1934

The Cold War context significantly influenced U.S.-Cuban relations. After Castro's revolution, Cuba began aligning itself with the Soviet Union, seeking economic and military support against U.S. aggression. This shift alarmed the United States, which viewed Cuba as a strategic threat just 90 miles from its shores.

The U.S. responded with economic sanctions and a series of covert operations aimed at destabilizing Castro's regime.

III. Relevant Events

- **Discovery of Missiles (October 14, 1962):**
- A U.S. U2 spy plane conducted a reconnaissance flight over Cuba and identified Soviet nuclear missile sites under construction. This discovery marked the beginning of the crisis as it confirmed the presence of missiles capable of striking the United States.
- **Kennedy's Executive Committee Meeting (October 16, 1962):**
- President John F. Kennedy convened the National Security Council Executive Committee (ExComm) to discuss the implications of the missile discovery and potential responses. This meeting was critical in shaping U.S. strategy during the crisis.
- **Announcement of Naval Blockade (October 22, 1962):**
President Kennedy publicly announced the existence of Soviet missiles in Cuba and declared a naval blockade (termed a "quarantine") to prevent further Soviet shipments of military equipment to Cuba. This announcement escalated tensions and set the stage for subsequent negotiations between the superpowers.

IV. UN and External Actions

- **UN Actions**

The UN was a critical platform for dialogue among nations throughout this period. While no formal negotiations occurred at this stage, discussions about involving the UN in mediating or overseeing any potential agreements were considered as tensions escalated.

Multiple member states at the UN urged both superpowers to engage in diplomacy and avoid military confrontation. The emphasis was on finding a peaceful solution to prevent escalation into nuclear conflict

- **External Actions**

Following the missile discovery, President John F. Kennedy convened the National Security Council Executive Committee (EXCOMM) to deliberate on the crisis. This group met daily to explore various options, including military strikes and diplomatic solutions

The OAS was involved in discussions regarding collective regional security and responses to the crisis. Although an emergency meeting was held on October 23, discussions leading up to this point included considerations of how to address the threat posed by Soviet missiles in Cuba

V. Conclusion

The Cuban Missile Crisis represented a critical escalation in Cold War tensions following the discovery of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy's decision to impose a naval blockade demonstrated a commitment to preventing military conflict while seeking international support.

Although the United Nations had not yet directly intervened, its role as a platform for dialogue was significant, as member states called for restraint. This period laid the groundwork for negotiations that would ultimately resolve the crisis, emphasizing the importance of diplomacy in averting nuclear catastrophe.

VI. Committee Focus

- What caused the Cuban Missile Crisis, and what events led up to it?
- How did the U.S. government respond when they discovered Soviet missiles in Cuba?
- What were the main actions taken by President Kennedy during the crisis?
- How did the Cuban Missile Crisis end, and what agreements were made between the U.S. and the Soviet Union?
- What impact did the Cuban Missile Crisis have on U.S.-Soviet relations in the years that followed?



VII. Participation List

United States

- John F. Kennedy - President of the United States
- Lyndon B. Johnson - Vice President
- Robert McNamara - Secretary of Defense
- Dean Rusk - Secretary of State
- Robert F. Kennedy - Attorney General
- General Maxwell D. Taylor - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Adlai Stevenson - U.S. Ambassador to the UN

Soviet Union

- Nikita Khrushchev - Premier of the Soviet Union
- Andrei Gromyko - Soviet Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Anatoly Dobrynin - Soviet Ambassador to the United States.
- Valerian Zorin - Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations.
- Dmitriy Ustinov - Minister of Defense.
- Anastas Mikoyan - First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers.
- Yuri Andropov - Head of the KGB.

VII. Participation List

Cuba

- Fidel Castro - Prime Minister of Cuba
- Raúl Castro - Minister of the Armed Forces
- Ernesto "Che" Guevara - Key revolutionary leader and advisor to Fidel Castro
- Carlos Rafael Rodriguez - Deputy Prime Minister
- Mario Garcia-Incháustegui - Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations
- Manuel Pineiro - Head of the Cuban Revolutionary

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