



Cuban Missile Crisis Specialized Committee
Gunn Model United Nations Conference X

Jiho Seo—Head Chair
William Norwood—Assistant Chair

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Cuban Missile Crisis Specialized Committee and Gunn Model United Nations Conference X. Having formerly been a delegate at GMUNC, I am honored to serve as head chair and thrilled to be a part in bringing this experience to many more delegates.

When I first heard of Model United Nations in middle school, I imagined that there would be a circle of people with colorful flags delivering speeches into microphones and furiously writing notes. While there was truth in my guess, I was overwhelmed by the research and writing demands of this activity and the magnitude of the community surrounding it. At my first ever conference, I only spoke once, but seeing the people around me find resolution to utter disagreement was the impetus that led me to where I am now—chairing a committee of my own.

Now, it is your turn to find resolution in a moment of critical diplomacy, which borders on a nuclear disaster: the Cuban Missile Crisis. You will represent members of the United States' and Soviet executive cabinets. The U.S. comprises ExComm, led by President John F. Kennedy, and its allies; in opposition, the Soviet Union comprises Soviet leaders and ministers who served prominent roles in defense. Both parties must reach an agreement and prevent what may become a world war of nuclear destruction.

Position papers for this committee are due on October 14 to be considered for a research award. The final deadline for all position papers is October 20. Please submit position papers and pass questions to the following email: gmuncx.cmc@gmail.com. Additionally, all delegates are required to complete contact and medical forms to participate at the conference. Please confirm with your delegation that the required documents have been submitted.

We look forward to seeing you on **October 21** for the most amazing GMUNC yet.

Sincerely,
Jiho Seo
Head Chair

Contents

Introduction	4
Historical Context	5
Past U.N. Action	8
Current Situation	9
United States	9
Soviet Union	11
Goals for Committee	12
Questions to Consider	12
Works Cited	13

Introduction

The Cuban Missile Crisis, often referred to as the most perilous confrontation of the Cold War, unfolded in October 1962, bringing the world to the brink of nuclear conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. The crisis arose as a result of Soviet involvement in Cuba during the Cuban Revolution. Occurring between 1953 and 1959, the revolution was an uprising led by Fidel Castro and aimed to overthrow the autocratic rule of Fulgencio Batista, a dictator who maintained close ties with the United States. The success of the Cuban Revolution led to the establishment of a socialist government under Castro's leadership. The newly established socialist regime under Castro's rule aligned itself with the Soviet Union, allowing the nation to become a strategic ally of the USSR. Cuba's proximity to the United States made it a prime location for Soviet military installations. This decision by the Soviet Union to place missiles in Cuba came from strategic considerations aiming to counterbalance the United States' missile capabilities close to the Soviet Union. The discovery of these missile installations on October 14th, 1962 prompted the Kennedy administration to address the imminent threat to national security posed by the Soviet missiles. The diplomatic negotiations and military exercises during those thirteen days held the world in suspense and put nuclear war into perspective.

It is crucial to recognize that the Cuban Revolution's influence on the crisis was not limited to the installation of missiles. The ideological battle that fueled the revolution also played a role in the tense dynamics. The United States viewed the spread of communism as a direct threat to its own government, and the revolutionary spirit that Castro's Cuba embodied was seen as a catalyst for a potential spread of communism throughout Latin America.

Historical Context

Conflict between the United States and Soviet Union began in the form of anti-communist sentiment following World War I. In 1917, the Russian Revolution was a critical turning point in the role of government as rebellion forces led by Vladimir Lenin overthrew the Romanov dynasty—a result of widespread corruption and recent military failures. This successful demonstration of insurrection brewed a strong fear of anarchy in the U.S. known as the first Red Scare. Immigrants became a target for violent discrimination, as many Americans viewed their presence as an attack on American tradition and way of life. Many European immigrants worked in industries that increasingly went on strike—including steel working, shipbuilding, and coal mining—most notably disrupting the production of wartime supplies. The number of strikes peaked in 1919 with more than 3600 separate strikes.

The press portrayed these events as the invasion of foreign left-wing ideas on Americans, further reinforcing the hatred against communism and later spreading to the U.S. government. President Woodrow Wilson signed the Sedition Act of 1918, which launched an attack on disloyalty to the United States but failed to differentiate between terrorism and freedom of speech. This bill is an example of anti-communist legislation encroaching on the rights of citizens, uncritically removing individuals with any association to radical ideas or the Soviet Union. Eventually, the first Red Scare culminated in 1919 with bombings against major political and economic figures. In response to the bombing of his residence, Attorney General Alexander Mitchell Palmer launched the Palmer raids, which contributed to the deportation of 249 Russian immigrants and creation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). An additional 5,000 citizens were jailed, and their homes were searched in violation of the Constitution. Palmer's decline

began when he falsely predicted a left-wing uprising on International Workers' Day on May 1, 1920. His support quickly diminished and later contributed to his failure to win the presidency.

The second resurgence of the Red Scare occurred after the Second World War. Similar to the first wave of fear against communism, Americans reacted to the success of communist movements internationally. Events like the Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe, communist victory in the Chinese Civil War, and the outbreak of the Korean War served as a threat to American ideas by communism. Its influence eventually spread domestically, and by 1939, the Communist Party of the United States of America had 50,000 members. During this period, Senator Joseph R. McCarthy emerged as a notable figure in the anti-communist movement, frequently employing hearsay to instill fear and increase personal influence by positioning himself as the solution to communism. He regularly issued public statements against celebrities and prominent figures accusing them of having Soviet connections or conspiring against the U.S. The House Un-American Committee, formed to expose communists in the federal government, served a similar role by outing suspected individuals and removing them from power. In 1940, the Alien Registration Act was passed, criminalizing all involvement with conspiring to overthrow the U.S. government. While communism held the attention of the public, the United States conducted research on the nuclear bomb, authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1941 through the Manhattan Project.

Two years prior in 1938, German physicists discovered nuclear fission, successfully splitting the uranium atom. Concerned about the potential of nuclear power, Albert Einstein wrote to President Roosevelt a letter that became the basis for the Manhattan Project. Einstein, however, was later denied security clearance to the nuclear effort due to

his left-wing political affiliation. When the United States entered WWII, the War Department joined the effort, and the construction of facilities was assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Alongside the United States, Germany and Great Britain were also developing nuclear weapons in this period, and an agreement was reached with the latter in 1943, leading to British and Canadian engineers joining the project in the U.S. While previous work on the project was mainly theoretical, a laboratory was opened in Los Alamos, New Mexico to conduct further research and create a functional bomb that could be deployed by air. The laboratory was led by physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, who later became known as the “father of the atomic bomb” for his critical role in the bomb’s creation. On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was tested, marking the beginning of the Atomic Age. Two additional atomic bombs were produced in the following month that were later dropped in the Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Combined, both bombs killed over 100,000 individuals on impact and more than 50,000 additional people from injuries and radiation.

By 1949, the Soviet Union had developed its own nuclear bomb through information obtained by espionage, and a race began to create more destructive weapons. In the United States, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover aided investigations that ended in the conviction of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg for nuclear espionage and, later, their executions in 1953. As tensions between the U.S. and Soviet Union grew politically and militarily, the United States formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) with European allies. This organization attempted to militate against the increasing spread of Soviet control in Western Europe and fortify member countries.

Past U.N. Action

The weaponization of nuclear power and “problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy” have been a topic of discussion since the first resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations in January, 1946. Leaders of the United States and Soviet Union declined requests to reduce their nuclear ambitions, instead opting to justify the continued production of nuclear weapons using deterrence theory: the use of the threat of nuclear war to discourage fighting. World powers competed during the Cold War to produce more powerful nuclear arms and develop technologies for efficient distribution. In 1954, Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru proposed a Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to the U.N. Disarmament Commission following nuclear testing on the Marshall Islands. A Ten-Nation Committee on Disarmament was established in hopes of enforcing a CTBT but failed to produce an outcome, as its members were unable to show commitment. CTBT remains a critical part of disarmament demands due to the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weaponry.

In the late 1950s to early 1960s, the U.N. passed several resolutions to limit the creation and deployment of nuclear arms. General Assembly resolution 1664 acknowledged that all countries, regardless of whether they held nuclear arms, were a part of achieving nuclear disarmament. Additionally, General Assembly resolution 1653 recognized that victims of nuclear weapons included enemies and individuals not directly involved in war, asserting that the impact would “exceed even the scope of war and cause indiscriminate suffering and destruction to mankind...contrary to the rules of international law and to the laws of humanity.” Lastly, General Assembly resolution 1665 called for all possessing and non-possessing nations of nuclear weapons to cooperatively prevent the spread and additional production of nuclear weapons.

Current Situation

United States

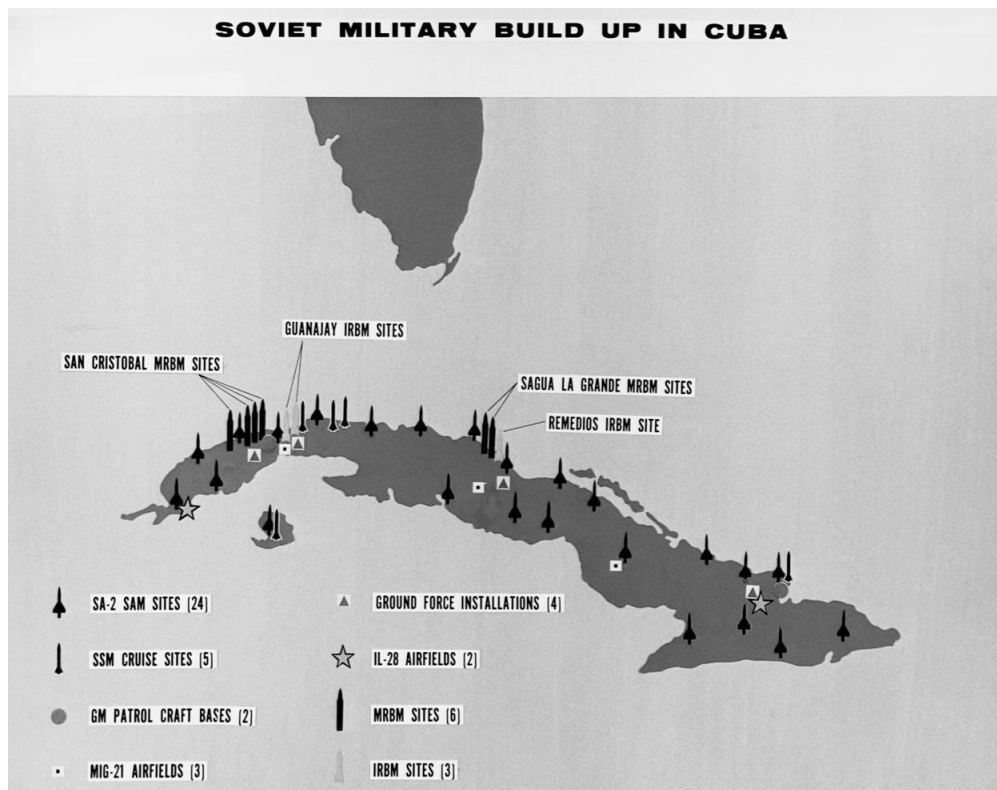
In the aftermath of World War II, as nations looked to rebuild their worn societies and economies, two superpowers emerged to dominate the global stage: the United States and the Soviet Union. These powers, however, brought forth an uncooperative and simmering rivalry that would come to define an entire era known as the Cold War. In this tense geopolitical landscape, the United States stands as the emblem of Western democracy and capitalism, while the Soviet Union is the picture perfect communist state. Within the United States, apprehension and uncertainty begins to surround society, which is fueled solely by the fear of communism.

An atmosphere of distrust paints communism as an evil force that could potentially change every ideal the American nation was built upon. This atmosphere of fear leads to an unparalleled level of preparedness for a potential conflict. The possibility of nuclear war is no longer a distant concept confined to military strategy but an imminent reality. The American public, gripped by the terror of a potential nuclear conflict, begins to prepare for the seemingly likely event of nuclear war. Schools across the nation hold routine drills, training students to "duck and cover" in the event of a nuclear attack. Families start to construct fallout shelters, hoping to protect their families from the devastation of a possible nuclear attack.

Amidst the tension, the resources available to the United States include an estimated 3.3 million military personnel, an arsenal of 27,000 nuclear-capable weapons, and the naval and air fleets. The available naval power comes from the Atlantic fleet, boasting vessels such as the Essex, Lake Champlain, Wasp, Newport, R.I., Intrepid,

Randolph, Shangri-La, along with amphibious assault ships Boxer, Okinawa, and Thetis Bay, in addition to the cruiser Canberra.

Along with the heightened tension and impending doom, comes a pivotal moment on October 14. A U2 Spy Bomber embarks on a mission and ends up capturing intelligence through the form of hundreds of photographs of newly established missile installations nestled within the Cuban countryside (pictured below).



A full lineup of the known Soviet Military installations on the Cuban island — September 4th, 1962.

This intelligence is now the largest American government secret, and as delegates, you must tread with unparalleled caution, recognizing that the world is on the edge of nuclear assured destruction. Any decision must be well thought out, and any single misjudgment could cause an all-out nuclear war. Now, you are tasked not only with safeguarding the security of their nation but also with upholding the values of diplomacy and reason in the face of unrelenting pressure.

Soviet Union

Within the borders of the Soviet Union, the atmosphere is a mix of strong nationalism, suspicion, and immense apprehension toward anything foreign or non-Soviet. The Soviet public, subjected to the iron grip of state-controlled media and propaganda, is conditioned to view the outside world with skepticism. Anything that deviated from the approved narrative is met with skepticism, and the population is encouraged to prioritize the collective good over individual desires. This mindset, cultivated by the authorities, emphasizes the reach of the regime's control in society and the lengths it was willing to go to in order to retain its hold on power.

The Soviet government employs powerful tools of persuasion to reinforce its ideology and vilify perceived enemies, with the United States being a primary target. Anti-American sentiment is deeply ingrained into society and fueled by narratives of American imperialism, cultural decadence, and economic exploitation. The population is continually reminded of the supposed dangers posed by the Western world, creating a common enemy in the minds of the Soviet population.

On October 14th, life in the Soviet Union carries on like any ordinary day, while the government remains blissfully unaware of the U.S. U2 bomber's discovery. The revelation of nuclear sites on Cuba causes a major situation in the international community, sparking a renewed sense of unease and uncertainty. The implications of this action are profound, casting a cloud of doubt over diplomatic efforts and global stability. However, the current objective remains to outsmart the U.S. and gain superiority over the capitalistic society of America. As Soviet delegates, you are unaware of the U2 bomber's discovery but are more than aware of the existence of the nuclear capabilities of Cuba.

Goals for Committee

Like the real-world event, the primary objective of this committee is to militate against nuclear war. Additional considerations include improving relations between the United States and Soviet Union in addition to establishing agreements against the destructive use of nuclear power in the future. Throughout the committee, the United Nations may offer input on the situation and the voices of countries not directly represented by delegates. Leaders in each executive cabinet must find common ground, whether through persuasion or other means, to facilitate progress and action.

Questions to Consider

1. What role could anti-communist sentiment in the United States have on manipulating the future of nuclear conflict with the Soviet Union?
2. How will world powers establish the regulation of nuclear arms, and what challenges must leaders overcome to ensure its sustainability and enforcement?
3. How can either the Soviet Union or the United States maintain an upper hand in the conflict while refraining from using nuclear weapons?
4. Is the path your country chooses aligned with the original principles you were elected on or the manifesto you intend to follow?

Works Cited

Bernstein, Barton J. "Reconsidering the Perilous Cuban Missile Crisis 50 Years Later."

Arms Control Association,

www.armscontrol.org/act/2012-10/reconsidering-perilous-cuban-missile-crisis-50-years-later. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

Briefing Board #87: Soviet Military Build up in Cuba. 6 Feb. 1963. *John. F. Kennedy*

Presidential Library and Museum,

www.jfklibrary.org/asset-viewer/archives/DODCMCBM/009/DODCMCBM-009-008
. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

Coleman, David. "U.S. Military Personnel 1954-2014." *History in Pieces,*

historyinpieces.com/research/us-military-personnel-1954-2014. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

"Cuban Missile Crisis United States Naval Aviation Operations." *Naval History and Heritage Command,*

www.history.navy.mil/content/dam/nhhc/browse-by-topic/War%20and%20Conflict/cuban-missile-crisis/pdf/Chronology_USNAviation_CMC.pdf. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Cold War." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 14 Aug.

2023, www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

---. "Cuban missile crisis." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 14 Aug. 2023,

www.britannica.com/event/Cuban-missile-crisis. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

---. "Manhattan Project." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 9 Aug. 2023,

www.britannica.com/event/Manhattan-Project. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

- . "Russian Revolution of 1917 summary." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 14 May 2003, www.britannica.com/summary/Russian-Revolution. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- History.com Editors. "Atomic Bomb History." *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2022, www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/atomic-bomb-history. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- . "Key Moments in the Cuban Missile Crisis." *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 17 June 2019, www.history.com/news/cuban-missile-crisis-timeline-jfk-khrushchev. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- . "Red Scare." *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 21 Apr. 2023, www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- Johnson, Rebecca. "The United Nations and Disarmament Treaties." *UN Chronicle*, United Nations, Dec. 2014, www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/united-nations-and-disarmament-treaties. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- Magnúsdóttir, Rósa. "The Soviet Side of the Cultural Cold War." *Wilson Center*, 23 Sept. 2019, www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/the-soviet-side-the-cultural-cold-war. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- "The Manhattan Project." *American Museum of Natural History*, www.amnh.org/exhibitions/einstein/peace-and-war/the-manhattan-project. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.
- McIntosh, Matthew A. "The Two 'Red Scares' of the Twentieth Century." *Brewminate*, 30 June 2020, brewminate.com/the-two-red-scares-of-the-twentieth-century/. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

"United States Relations with Russia: The Cold War." *U.S. Department of State Archive*,
Office of Electronic Information, Bureau of Public Affairs,
2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/85895.htm. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

"U.S.-Cuba Relations." *Council on Foreign Relations*,
www.cfr.org/timeline/us-cuba-relations. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.

"Who's Who in the Cuban Missile Crisis." *John. F. Kennedy Presidential Library and
Museum*,
www.jfklibrary.org/about-us/social-media-podcasts-and-apps/atomic-gambit/whos-who-in-the-cuban-missile-crisis. Accessed 20 Aug. 2023.