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Clemson Model United Nations Crisis – Soviet Background Guide

Part One: Introduction to the topic-

The Cuban missile crisis was a 13 day confrontation that occurred in October of 1962 involving the former USSR and Cuba against the United States. After failed US attempts to overthrow the Communist Cuban regime, Nikita Khrushchev proposed to Cuba that the Soviets place nuclear missiles on the island to prevent any future invasion attempt. This crisis will involve both the members of the United States and the USSR and their attempt at solving their conflict without war.

Part Two: The Russian Perspective on the “Caribbean Crisis”

From a Soviet perspective, the “Caribbean Crisis” and the placement of Soviet nuclear missiles was a direct retaliation to the United States’ missiles located at bases near the Soviet border. The Cuban Missile Crisis began where President Dwight D. Eisenhower miscalculated and misunderstood the nature of Fidel Castro’s insurgency and the likelihood of its victory. Intelligence was also miscalculated towards Soviet Union’s intentions with Cuba. Kennedy came into the presidency claiming that the Soviets were ahead of the United States in strategic nuclear capability. This was untrue, and Khrushchev knew that the United States, having missiles in Germany and Turkey and a large intercontinental bomber fleet could devastate the Soviet Union. The decision to put nuclear armed missiles in Cuba was the Soviet’s attempt at establishing a nuclear balance of power.
Khrushchev’s placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba was a direct response to the failed Bay of Pigs invasion that the United States and President Kennedy mounted in 1961. The Soviets, afraid of losing their only Socialist ally in the Americas, sent arms and artillery to aid Cuba in its fight against the pressure from the United States. Once the missile sites the Cubans and Soviets were building were discovered, the United States enacted a blockade of Cuba and refused to allow any other nuclear armed weapons from the USSR to be delivered.

Nikita Khrushchev declared that the American blockade of “navigation in international waters and air space” constituted “an act of aggression propelling human kind into the abyss of a world nuclear-missile war.” President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev engaged in talks to propose a resolution to the conflict. Some Soviet ships attempted to run the blockade to deliver crucial supplies to the island of Cuba. The United States ordered the US Navy were to fire warning shots, and then open fire. However, an American U-2 aircraft was flying over the island acting as a spy, and in retaliation was shot down. With the danger of war and nuclear exchanges imminent, this could have thrown the entire world into utter nuclear destruction.

The confrontation ended on October 28, when Premier Khrushchev entered into an agreement with President Kennedy to dismantle and remove the weapons from Cuba and return them to the USSR in exchange for an American promise to never invade the island of Cuba.

Part Three: Crisis

For this crisis session, as members of the Soviet Union, it will be your job to make sure that the U.S. doesn’t impose their will on you. If beginning a nuclear war is the end result of that, so be it. It is
important to remember that your priority is defending USSR interest and maintaining the presence of this super power in the allied country of Cuba. While this may include some deception, our implementation of this missile base in Cuba is paramount. As the Soviet Union, your options are limited. You may either bend to the will of the United States and lose the power that you have developed, or you may call the United States bluff and place the nuclear armament there anyway. Choosing either of these options could result in catastrophic events. However, the establishment of this nuclear-armed missile base is central to the alliance between the USSR and Cuba and the prevention of a US invasion of the island. Your mission is to plant the missiles in Cuba, while keeping it a secret from the U.S. While the Soviet Union wishes to achieve the objectives without war, if they find out, unleash complete and utter nuclear disaster. Declare war.
Links For More Research


This is a good website for researching the Cuban Missile Crisis and getting an idea of the Soviet perspective of the whole ordeal.

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/cuban_missile_crisis_parallels_history

This website also gives a good deal of information of the Cuban Missile Crisis from a Russian perspective and should help you in your decision of keeping peace or declaring war.