



**Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
***“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”***

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**Topic Synopsis**

Historic Security Council, Cuban Missile Crisis

**I. Background of Topic**

(Height of the Cold War, 1962): The failed US invasion of communist Cuba at the Bay of Pigs under John F. Kennedy was considered a major public embarrassment. The USSR had fallen desperately behind in the arms race. After seeing US failed invasions and JFK's apparent "weakness", they began to covertly ship and assemble Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles within Cuba under the agreement of Fidel Castro. (Starting in July.) Around the end of August 1962, US suspicions had been aroused. CIA gathered intelligence reported numerous grounded Russian built bombers in several areas, while two U-2 spy planes sighted several Soviet brand land-to-air missiles in eight different locations. Later, on October 7<sup>th</sup>, a warning was issued from Cuba at the UN General Assembly: If they were attacked, they had the ability to respond accordingly. Soviet missile construction presumed without pause for another two weeks. October 22<sup>nd</sup>: JFK delivered a nationwide address to the citizens of the US announcing the discovery of missiles, as well as a naval blockade of Cuba and quarantining of "any ships found to be carrying offensive weapons". Since then, the state of affairs has only worsened. Yesterday, on October 25<sup>th</sup>, an emergency UN Security Council was convened. The US openly challenged USSR representatives to admit the existence of missiles. The USSR failed to give a straight answer, and the US has now raised their military readiness to DEFCON 2. (One step away from nuclear war.) With JFK and Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev locked in a political stare-down, it would seem that a crisis is imminent.

The US, USSR, and Cuba are all immediately concerned. Any delegation or discussion has only led to a deepening of a crisis.



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For several years, both the US and USSR have been gathering nuclear stockpiles, distributing them to multiple countries under their protection. This time, however, Soviet missiles have been placed within easy striking distance of the entire continental United States area. The US has obviously voiced and acted upon its discontent. Now, it seems the wrong move or word could ignite a deadly nuclear war between the two. Other countries will inevitably be drawn into the conflict, and the international results could be catastrophic-and irreparable. A solution must be acted upon; else a wide portion of human life will be at stake.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The development and escalation of this crisis has come about very quickly on an international level: First in a matter of weeks, and then in a matter of days. Several general assemblies have been held in early October. These have only led to a deepening of suspicions, with fault reassurances being issued from the USSR delegation. The UN is concerned with the stability and peace of the world. Therefore, it was the natural institution for such an immediate and unexpected international problem.

The UNSC has convened in an emergency assembly very recently. Unfortunately, this failed to alleviate or avert the problem. The US openly accused the USSR of offensive missile armament in Cuba, then opting to mobilize its Air force and Navy into DEFCON 2.

United Nations action: resolutions passed, committees set-up, organizations established, peacekeeping forces, etc.: This is a sudden and drastic problem spanning only over a matter of days. The UN has not had sufficient time to act accordingly, but is holding this meeting specifically to discuss and reach a solution before it is too late.



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### **III. Possible Solutions**

As it has been stated, crisis is near, but still avoidable. The USSR has offhandedly implied compromise. However, they are ardent for ample compensation, with Khrushchev remarking in one message: “You are disturbed by Cuba, yet you have placed missiles all around the Soviet Union, and would be able to completely destroy us.” In other words, neither side is truly willing to simply cease action, even in the face of nuclear war. Cuba must also be secondly considered. The nation is still there, acting as a staging point for the USSR’s missile construction. Any type of offensive military action upon Cuba at this point could prove fatal. Castro by no means intends to give up his position of power, yet he eagerly authorized the construction of missile bases within Cuba.

### **IV. Bloc Positions**

Positions each regional bloc would take. For example, Asian, Latin, European, African, Middle eastern: The western bloc is undoubtedly against missile installation, with the US going so far as to implement an unprecedented naval blockade and raise its military readiness to DEFCON 2. The Latin bloc has shown support for the US’s stance. Argentina feels that international peace is being threatened by the USSR and Cuba, and has lent several ships to the US naval blockade. The western European bloc has expressed its general support of the US’s position, with Germany being the most ardent supporter due to Berlin being within easy reach of the USSR. France has written in support of the American



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cause. The Eastern bloc is considered pro-soviet. The USSR has repeatedly claimed that these weapons were for “defensive purposes only”. Soviet delegates have refused to acknowledge the existence of “offensive missiles”, or “weapons specifically designed to be used upon America and surrounding nations”. The USSR feels that the loss of Cuba would be harmful to the communist cause, and will likely not back down without some form of compensation. China has shown support for the USSR, stating, “650,000,000 Chinese men and women stood by the Cuban people.” Several other blocs have yet to openly voice their opinion, yet will be considered just as equally due to the international nature of this crisis.

#### **V. Guiding Questions**

The most imperative objective is the aversion of a nuclear war. (Keep in mind that at such a close proximity, the USSR would be able to hit all of continental US.) How can this prevention be brought about peacefully?

Both the US and USSR have taken near irrevocable steps in this escalating crisis. What can be done about this, and what form of compensation should be given to either side?

Consider Cuba and Fidel Castro. Should there be further intervention, or should the nation be potentially left alone?

If negotiation does succeed, what steps can be taken to ensure that a situation such as this will never occur once more?

If disaster is averted, can anything be learned or used from this event? (Further peace negotiations, talks of disarmament, etc.)