

RESEARCH REPORT 1- CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

The question of preventing nuclear war through disarmament

The historical event that became known as the Cuban Missile Crisis took place in October 1962. It was, essentially, a tense, 13-day political and military standoff over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet Missiles in Cuba (“Cuban Missile”). Upon the commencement of the crisis, US President John Fitzgerald Kennedy quarantined Cuba, vowing to make use of military force if any threats to national security materialized. As a result, the international community actively feared nuclear Armageddon during this period, especially since tensions had run high between the two global superpowers for almost two decades, due to marked ideological differences between them. This conflict, fought indirectly (through espionage and other covert methods), but hostile all the same, was dubbed the Cold War. Fortunately, diplomacy prevailed, as Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev were able to compromise: the USSR removed its missiles from Cuba on the condition that the US would not invade the newfound communist nation.

For the purposes of this debate, the Cuban Missile Crisis is yet unresolved. It is important that delegates be made aware of the conflict’s actual denouement, so that they know to avoid it entirely in the debate- the affair must be treated as ongoing, a pressing, current issue. When discussing this specific question, delegates should bear in mind that it deals with a fairly broad topic, which is that of achieving peace, or a lack of nuclear war, through disarmament. Proposed solutions- meaning, of course, clauses and amendments- should therefore be focused largely on disarmament. The end goal, of preventing a nuclear apocalypse, must also be kept in mind. In keeping with the timeframe of the simulation, any event occurring after October 1962 will not be considered during debate. As such, all information must not only be relevant, but it must also

predate October 1962. Research must reflect this, i.e., the countries for which disarmament will be discussed, or nuclear powers, must be those of the time, not those of the present day.

While the topic can, and should, be addressed generally, from a holistic standpoint, much of the focus must indeed remain on the Cuban missile crisis. It is important to remember that this was the 'hot topic' of the day, dominating headlines and essentially being the world's chief concern. Also, of course, it is extremely relevant to that larger topic at hand. Delegates must do thorough and accurate research in order to obtain a complete understanding of the issue, as well as the historical context surrounding this particular incident. During debate, delegates must, at all times, solely express the viewpoints of the delegations which they are representing- these must, of course, be carefully researched, too- and never their personal stances.

Works Cited:

"Cuban Missile Crisis." *History*, 4 Jan. 2010, www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cuban-missile-crisis. Accessed 23 Aug. 2022.

"The Cuban Missile Crisis." *Office of the Historian*, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis. Accessed 23 Aug. 2022.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Cuban missile crisis". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 22 Aug. 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Cuban-missile-crisis>. Accessed 23 August 2022.