

RESEARCH REPORT 2- CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

The question of impending conflict between the United States of America and the USSR

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 quacuba, 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 must keep in mind that it refers to the Cold War in its entirety, for it is the theme of the debate as a whole. Note the wording: *impending conflict* between the US and the USSR. This means, conflict in all its forms, ergo, the other incidences of the Cold War can be mentioned insofar as they *precede* the Cuban crisis. Obviously, nothing after October 1962 can be mentioned, since that is the future in this simulation, but any relevant happening or fact of the Cold War predating October 1962 holds validity.

In brief, delegates should strive to find measures and means to ensure peace between the two countries, of bringing the Cold War to a halt. That is the ultimate goal, though when debating this issue, there should be, of course, a clear focus on the Cuban missile crisis. It would not be advisable to deviate excessively from it, since, again, that could lead to a loss of focus. Nevertheless, some supplementary evidence from the years (immediately) prior to the event can be brought to the table. Needless to say, delegates must, at all times, reflect not their personal opinions, but rather those of the delegation they are representing, which must obviously be adjusted to the timeframe of the simulation. Research in this regard needs to be thorough and accurate.

Works Cited:

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