

UNISMUNC XI Specialized Committee



Committee: United Nations Security Council (October 1962)

Topic: Cuban Missile Crisis

Committee Type:
Specialized

December 7, 2025



Courtesy of The Economist

Chair: Girum Allehone

Director: Emil Tuniewicz

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Conference Schedule

Registration 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Opening Ceremonies 9:00 am - 10:00 am

Committee Session I 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Lunch Break I 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm

Lunch Break II 1:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Committee Session II 2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Closing Ceremonies 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Conference Policies

UNISMUNC XI aims to foster debate, bringing students the opportunity to explore a range of topics and encourage collaboration and teamwork between delegates. Be that as it may, UNIS stresses the importance of respectful language as UNISMUNC XI will see delegates debating topics that, at times, may be heated or passionate. MUNEX encourages you to remember to stay respectful and mindful of the other students around you. We are so excited about this conference and trust that no issues will arise. The following expectations and policies are designed so that every delegate gets the most out of UNISMUNC.

Attire:

The Dress Code for UNISMUNC is formal Western business attire, and all delegates are expected to comply with this. Exceptions can be made for character purposes in crisis committees at the discretion of the chair. If you have an idea for an outfit for a crisis committee that does not fall into the parameters of traditional Western business attire, please ask your chair for permission before wearing the outfit.

Committee Assignments:

Committee assignments will be made on a first-come-first-served basis based on preference as communicated by the delegation's advisors (or individual delegates in the case of independent delegates), in order of receipt of preference. Before being assigned to a committee, payment must be received. If payment is not submitted in a timely manner, delegations face the risk of not receiving committee assignments of their choice.

Expectations in Committee:

As you engage in debates, we ask that delegates maintain politeness and respect at all times. While we recognize that you are representing your country's views, it is essential to express these perspectives without crossing the line into disrespectful or confrontational behavior.

Please respect one another when delegates are giving speeches. Only one delegate may speak at a time during moderated caucuses. To speak during a moderated caucus, you must raise your placard and wait to be recognized by the chair. During speeches, no ad hominem attacks will be allowed, should they occur, the subject will have the right to reply. Remember to be cognizant of your words and actions, and to listen to everyone's views and positions.

The Committee Chairs and Secretariat members are responsible for determining disruptive behavior.

Examples of disrespectful behavior may include but are not limited to:

- Speaking without being recognized,
- Use of cell phones,
- Note-passing unrelated to the committee,
- Use of technology when not allowed,
- Verbal, physical, or sexual harassment of other delegates.

The pre-writing of any resolution/directive clauses, crisis notes, or speeches is strictly forbidden and will be penalized. This does not include opening remarks. This does not include any writing during the lunch break, as UNISMUNC committees standardly operate with 'working lunches'.

UNISMUNC has a zero-tolerance policy for any plagiarism. This includes position papers, speeches, and resolutions. Improper citation of quotes and references may result in disqualification from awards or further disciplinary action at the discretion of the chairs.

Pricing:

Please see the registration section for more information. Details on committee assignments are below.

Spectators:

Please be aware that UNISMUNC XI does not allow unregistered spectators. Student spectators are strictly prohibited. All advisors and delegates must be registered and pay the required fee(s). Non-compliance with this policy will result in exclusion from future invitations. We expect all

participating delegations to respect this policy. The Secretariat reserves the right to have any unregistered spectators removed from committee chambers and escorted off of the premises if necessary, as they see fit.

Technology:

All crisis committees are strictly no-tech. Neither laptops nor cell phones will be permitted during committee sessions in crisis committees.

General Assembly (GA) committees allow technology exclusively for the purpose of resolution writing. Delegates will be permitted to use their laptops to work on resolutions during unmoderated caucuses and outside of the committee chamber when allowed by the chair. It is, however, not permitted to use technology when a fellow delegate is speaking or during committee chambers during moderated caucuses. This includes your own speeches, so please write any notes by hand or have your opening remarks printed before the conference.

Awards Criteria:

UNISMUNC Chairs, Diases, and, in the case of crisis committees, Crisis Directors will work together to holistically evaluate delegates based on their performance throughout the entire day of debate. This includes:

- speeches given during moderated caucuses,
- performance during unmoderated caucuses (not only making one's voice heard but also including everyone in the discussion),
- writing/presenting resolutions/directions, especially those that pass,
- in crisis committees, as well as the detail and sophistication of crisis arcs.

Letter From Chair & Director

Delegates,

Welcome to UNISMUNC XI! We're excited to get going with this specialized crisis committee—a classic historical crisis focused on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. I'm looking forward to seeing how you, as the UN Security Council, can go back and re-navigate one of the most intense confrontations of the last few decades.

My name is Girum, and I'll be your chair for this committee. I'm a senior at UNIS, and I've been involved in Model UN since 9th grade. I started competing when I lived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and grew a passion for MUN that I brought to New York. Following my move to UNIS in 11th grade, I am now an Assistant Secretary General here at UNIS's Model UN Club. I do various extracurriculars, and am also a tennis player. I've been a delegate at various conferences and was a dias at last year's UNISMUNC, and have experience in three intense crisis committees. I find that crisis committees are a great way to practice quick decision-making and creativity, while also being opportunities to delve into global, historical, and fictional issues in a fun and engaging way. With a topic as pivotal as the Cuban Missile Crisis, I hope this committee also helps you explore and appreciate these aspects of Model UN. Outside of school, I'm a tennis player, go the gym, and also love listening to music. I hope you have a great conference!

My name is Emil, and I'll be your crisis director. I am 18 years old and attending my senior year at UNIS. My first official experience with MUN was a few years ago when I lived in Stockholm, Sweden. Now it is my 3rd year involved in the MUN club at UNIS. Outside of school, I enjoy working out at the gym, coaching gymnastics, listening to music, and going out on random sidequests with friends during the weekends. This will be my first time chairing a committee, so I hope I can still make your experience at the Cuban Missile Crisis worth your while. I wish y'all a fun and learning enriching time here at UNIS.

A Brief Overview of the Committee

It's October 14, 1962, and the United States Air Force has discovered the presence of Soviet ballistic missiles in Cuba, only 90 miles off the coast of Florida. After being briefed on this threat, President Kennedy adopts an aggressive stance that will become characteristic of the following intense confrontation over the next 13 days.

Following Soviet denials, US announcements of a naval blockade, and global panic, the UN Security Council is now convening for an emergency session of the UN Security Council on October 25. With Cuba in attendance with a special invitation, this session will be pivotal in forging alliances, avoiding imminent catastrophe, and maintaining national interests.

Committee Procedure

Moderated Caucuses are structured discussions where delegates sign themselves up to give short, regulated speeches. The speaking time and topic of discussion are set when the motion is proposed, and delegates take turns to speak.

Unmoderated Caucuses are divided between a regular unmoderated caucus and a gentleman's unmoderated caucus where everybody remains seated. A regular unmod entails a period free of structured, regulated debate, where delegates can mill about the committee and work with their blocs.

Some actions that are carried over from the usual committee procedure:

- Point of Order
- Point of Information
- Appeal to the Chair
- Suspension of Debate
- Adjournment of Debate
- Closure of Debate
- Roll Call Vote
- Set the Speaker's Time
- Call a guest speaker

For most of this committee, the crisis will debate and pass **directives**. Directives are actions or communications undertaken by the entire committee as a group and are passed by a simple majority. Unlike resolutions, which may only be entertained at the end of a session, directives should be created and debated on as much as possible. The different types of papers used in crisis committees are explained in detail in the next section.

The Committee may call for external speakers to address the body. To do so, a committee member must move to invite the guest; that motion requires a majority vote to pass.

The goal of the crisis committee has two aspects-- firstly to work as a group to solve or influence the crisis in the interest of the group, and secondly to act in your country's best interests. In this committee, many of the countries are charged by different motives and have their individual goals; for instance, the United States will have vastly different goals from the Soviet Union.

Near the end of this committee, the committee will transition away from being a crisis committee and draft and debate **resolutions**. Crisis notes and updates will pause at the current situation at that time, and delegates must decide how to address the situation, like a real Security Council session would, resulting in a UNSC resolution on the matter.

Written Papers

Crisis Notes: Crisis notes are notes used in order to take personal action from a delegate, without the need for committee approval. Crisis notes are therefore bound by a character's individual portfolio power. There are a myriad of ways to write Crisis notes, but be sure to sign your character's name at the end and address it to CRISIS on the front of your folded note.

Directives: A directive is a formal written instruction or order given by a delegate or a group of delegates to the chair or to other delegates. Directives are used to propose specific actions or solutions to address the crisis at hand. They can range from proposing specific policies or strategies to calling for specific actions by other delegates or bodies within the simulation. Directives are passed frequently throughout debate, and are a lot shorter than most resolutions. They are not restrained by a specific format, and while they do need signatories and sponsors, they do not require a distinction between preambulatory and operative clauses.

Resolutions: A piece of writing that outlines possible solutions to a problem and allows the committee to take action. Hopefully, towards the end of the committee blocs will work together to write a resolution that can be debated and possibly passed. In this committee, resolutions will only be written when the crisis is paused near the end of the committee.

Communiqués: Communiqués are committee documents used to communicate with people outside of the committee. For example, Communiqués could be used when surrender terms or ultimatums are sent to the opponent or when the committee requests aid, advice or arms from their allies. Similar to Directives, they will require a minimum of four people on the document, with two sponsors and two signatories.

Press Releases: As the name says, press releases are committee documents addressed to the public. They can be used to inform or even misinform the public according to the desires of the committee. Similar to Directives and Communiqués, Press Releases will require a minimum of three people on the document, with one sponsor and two signatories.

Topic Background

Origins of the Cold War

The Cold War, which started in 1947 and ended in 1991, marked a historical level of geopolitical rivalry and tension. Its origins and causes began in World War II, where the US and the USSR fought as allies against Nazi Germany. Although both these nations were a part of the Allied Powers, they were never particularly friendly. Representing stark ideological differences, the United States, a Western democracy, had always been wary of the USSR's communist rule. Additionally, the Soviets saw their role in the global order as limited due to the United States, and also held resentment over the US's delayed entry into the Second World War. Later, the US became increasingly fearful of communist expansionism within Europe, while the USSR grew distasteful to US foreign policy as a global power. All these factors led to a heightened level of mutual distrust and animosity, with open hostility being the eventual result. Since this hostility never resulted in actual warfare, and thus stayed cold, it became known as the "Cold War".

Nuclear Proliferation

A large part of the enmity that arose during the Cold War was projected by the US through a historic foreign policy idea: containment. As Soviet expansionism became increasingly worrisome to the US, preventing that expansionism became its top foreign policy objective. Diplomat George Kennan famously introduced this idea to the world through his "Long Telegram" in 1946. He explained that to "contain" the Soviet Union, a long-term strategy should be to essentially promote a stringent anticommunist dynamic in Europe, primarily through backing anticommunist, democratic states. With the lack of direct conflict during the Cold War, this strategy often manifested in military and economic aid to these states, as well as the establishment of programs promoting democracy. The famous 1948 Marshall Plan was one of these initiatives.

However, the containment strategy also reached beyond the economic support of European countries. Under President Truman, a major element of the US's effort to combat Soviet expansionism became to bolster US military strength and capabilities. As the US drastically increased defense spending, it also warmed up to expanding the development of atomic weapons. In response, the Soviets also stepped up military rhetoric and began developing nuclear weapons themselves. What follows is known as the "arms race", with nuclear weapons undergoing rapid proliferation and testing from both the US and the USSR. The advancement of nuclear capabilities between these two major powers led to a famously consequential phenomenon: mutually assured destruction. Under the theory of mutually assured destruction, both nations had developed enough nuclear weaponry to annihilate the other nation. Consequently, if one country decided to launch an attack on the other, it would ensure its own destruction in response. The result of this is the deterrence of either country from launching an attack at all. However, this rationale didn't prevent the unprecedented level of fear that nuclear proliferation caused globally. In the US, bomb shelters, school drills, and references to nuclear danger in pop culture became commonalities. The possibility of nuclear annihilation rose to the forefront of the minds of citizens, governments, and systems all around the world.

Events Leading Up to the Cuban Missile Crisis

Although several factors could have led up to the Cuban Missile Crisis, and competing theories exist on the matter, some events are undisputably relevant. One of these events is the 1961 Berlin Crisis, a hallmark symbol of US containment strategy at the time. After WWII, the Allied Powers split Berlin up into East Berlin (controlled by the Soviet Union), and West Berlin (controlled by France, the US, and the UK). After several years, West Berlin had become a symbol of Western democracy, American containment policy, and anticommunism. Under Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviets began trying to limit Western control of West Berlin. In 1961, Khrushchev proposed that President Kennedy allow West Berlin to be incorporated into East Germany and become a "free city." As the US stood its ground and refused Soviet demands, Khrushchev ordered for the construction of the Berlin Wall, separating East and West Berlin. The wall represented a geopolitical loss for the USSR, speculated by many to be a reason Khrushchev then looked for ways to get leverage against the US.

Around the same time, in 1961, the US deployed medium range nuclear Jupiter missiles to NATO allies Turkey and Italy, significantly close to Soviet borders. These deployments were another element of the US's strategy to deter the USSR, although it was obviously an aggressive move that was seen as just that. Khrushchev saw it as an unacceptable strategic imbalance and another example of the American foreign policy that the Soviets had become so wary of. This event, paired with the USSR's embarrassment in West Berlin, possibly constituted the motive for the missiles that the USSR would later deploy in Cuba. But why was Cuba the right opportunity?

Communism in Cuba

In 1959, Fidel Castro led a revolutionary campaign to overthrow the Cuban government through a coup. As Castro led a shift towards the nationalization of key industries and moves to strengthen ties with communist regimes worldwide, Castro officially declared himself a Marxist-Leninist in December 1961. Immediately after, he sought to strengthen ties with the Soviet Union, making it clear to Khrushchev that if the USSR wouldn't sponsor communist expansionism in Latin America, then he would look towards China for support instead. Khrushchev went along with Castro's wishes, increasing the USSR's military exports and shipments to Cuba. Part of these shipments included nuclear missile components that would lead to the Cuban Missile Crisis. The USSR not only moved these missiles to Cuba as a form of communist solidarity and expansionism, but also to assert what was known as the "missile gap", a false impression that Khrushchev tried to give of the USSR having increased nuclear capabilities compared to the US.

This was an extremely significant move, as the missiles were placed only 90 miles away from the coast of Florida, an extremely close striking distance away from the US. This short distance essentially undermined the logic of Mutually Assured Destruction, due to the fact that if the Soviets did decide to launch an attack from Cuba, the US wouldn't have time to launch an attack in response, due to the physical proximity of Cuba to the US.

US Discovery of Russian Nuclear Arms

On October 14, 1962, ongoing American aerial reconnaissance, being conducted by U-2 US Air Force planes, took satellite images of Soviet nuclear infrastructure being built in Cuba. Specifically, the US was able to discover medium-range and intermediate-range ballistic missile sites being constructed. This intelligence was shortly confirmed by CIA intelligence confirmed that the continental United States was at risk of being struck by nuclear weaponry. The photos and CIA analysis concluded that there were 2 missile types: R-12 (SS-4) missiles and R-14 (SS-5) missiles. On October 16, 1962, President Kennedy was briefed on the situation and initiated the Executive Committee of the National Security Council (ExComm). This is when the Cuban Missile Crisis began.

Current Situation

It is now October 25th, 1962. On October 16, after President Kennedy was briefed on the situation, the President spent six consecutive days meeting with national security advisers and military personnel, including members from the National Security Council. The options that were laid out at the beginning of the crisis were as follows: resolving the crisis through diplomatic efforts, instilling a naval blockade of the area, and engaging in an invasion of Cuba. President Kennedy has now addressed the nation for the first time about the crisis following an announcement on the evening of October 22nd, the same day that ExComm was established. The President has also announced that he has chosen the option of a naval blockade, intercepting Soviet ships headed towards Cuba. However, the US has chosen to call it a naval “quarantine”, conveying that the decision is not an act of war, which a formal blockade would be. This distinction also means that the US is currently allowing goods to pass into Cuba if they are not war material.

Yesterday, on October 24th, US Ambassador to the UN Adlai Stevenson called for an emergency UN Security Council meeting. The US wants to present evidence of Soviet missile installations to the council gathered through intelligence and national security reconnaissance. The USSR is resisting the call for a meeting, emphasizing that the US’s decision of a naval quarantine is provocative and unwarranted. Despite this, the council has decided to convene, as it is any UNSC member’s right to call an emergency meeting when international peace and security are at risk. Following President Kennedy’s announcement, the world is in fear, anxiously awaiting imminent nuclear danger. Also, Cuba is uncertain, preparing itself for a potential invasion...will the US find it necessary? As the council prepares to convene, however, the spectacle that the world sees isn’t all that is there...secret negotiations have been occurring, but can they be leveraged to the best interests of all involved?

Countries & Country Positions

United States



The United States has initiated the UNSC meeting. The US wishes to present evidence that the USSR has deployed ballistic missiles in Cuba and views this act as an extreme threat to its national security. It stands by its naval quarantine and views it as a suitable solution for now while other avenues are explored. The US has not written off the possibility of a Cuban invasion, although it is eager to explore diplomatic options to alleviate the conflict. More than anything, it hopes to gain international support and appeal for the removal of the Soviet missiles from Cuba.

Soviet Union



The Soviet Union must decide how to navigate the American accusations of the missiles, and how to anticipate the presentation of the evidence that the US claims it is going to bring. It definitely stands against the naval quarantine and views it as an unwarranted sign of American aggression.

United Kingdom



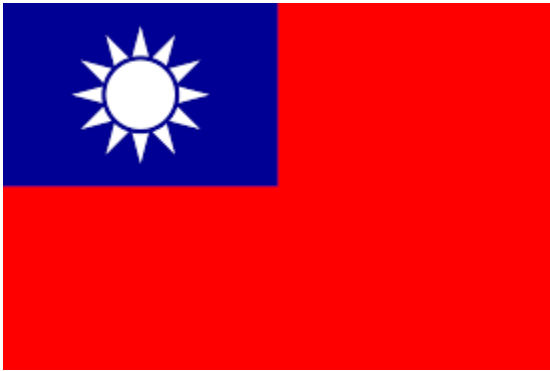
The United Kingdom stands by the US call to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba and must try to find a way to help the US alleviate the crisis. It also supports the naval quarantine and hopes to maintain pressure on the USSR to remove the missiles.

France



France is closely aligned with the US and the UK, also viewing the missile deployment as a direct threat to international and US security. France supports the naval quarantine diplomatically, although it emphasizes the need for de-escalation. France maintains a high emphasis on resolving the crisis in adherence with diplomacy and international law.

Republic of China (Taiwan)



The Republic of China supports the US claims of the missiles and views the naval quarantine as a necessary and justified measure to contain the imminent nuclear threat. ROC largely stands with the US due to its anti-communist stance and ideological opposition to the People's Republic of China (PRC).

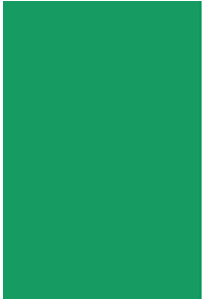
Chile



Chile aligns itself with US concerns and condemns Soviet missile deployment. Chile also views the naval quarantine as a legitimate and feasible way to prevent military escalation and contain the crisis. As a Latin American country, Chile also has regional concerns, seeing Cuba as a close and worrisome Soviet foothold.

Ireland

Ireland is prioritizing its concern over global escalation and is calling for a peaceful resolution. Ireland is maintaining a position of relative neutrality during the Cold War, and



has a cautious view of the naval quarantine, although it is willing to accept it as a necessary defensive measure.

Romania



Romania aligns itself with the Soviet Union and largely agrees that US actions are provocative and illegal. However, Romania has a strong belief in national sovereignty, complicating its view of what is an appropriate response to national security threats.

United Arab Republic (Egypt & Syria)



The UAR supports the USSR and labels the US as imperialist while condemning its actions. Its stance is largely based on anti-imperialist and anti-American ideology, rather than connected to specific nuclear strategy.

Venezuela



Venezuela aligns with the US and condemns the Soviet deployment of missiles. Similar to Chile, it maintains concern over regional proximity and prioritizes the deterrence of Soviet expansionism within Latin America

Ghana

Ghana is avoiding being heavily aligned with



either bloc, but is leaning towards the USSR ideologically due to imperialist rhetorical concerns. Ghana emphasizes a diplomatic solution and is skeptical of the role that the naval quarantine can play in alleviating the situation.

Cuba



Cuba is not a member of the UNSC, but is attending the meeting on a special invitation, as the matter directly affects it. Thus, Cuba does not have voting rights but can confer and debate all matters. Cuba, like the USSR, must decide how to respond to the US claims of the missiles, and is heavily opposed to the naval quarantine, seeing it as illegal and provocative. Cuba is taking a radically anti-American stance, continuing to seek Soviet support that it has been hoping to garner during the Cold War.

Brazil



As the largest Latin American country, Brazil has a particular interest in maintaining peace and stability in the most effective way possible. Brazil hopes to keep good

diplomatic relations with both the US and the USSR, and emphasizes keeping a mediating role. However, Brazil also emphasizes the high importance of sovereignty, and typically focuses on these issues of sovereignty and non-intervention when addressing issues.

Mexico



Mexico is avoiding holding a stringent stance on the issue, taking somewhat of an ambiguous attitude. However, as a key actor in the surrounding region, it also considers escalation to be an imminent threat.. Mexico is generally active in efforts of nuclear nonproliferation, and

could view the missiles as a danger, but has historically been wary of US intervention.

India



India is an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War, approaching crises such as this with priorities of negotiation, international law, and precaution around major power blocs.

Poland

Poland is a founding member of the Warsaw Pact, maintaining a strong alliance with the USSR and



other Warsaw Pact members. It consistently denounces US aggression, disagreement, and containment strategies. It embodies the Soviet distaste and wariness for US power during the Cold War. However, Poland remains wary of mass-scale USSR actions and decisions that are made without consulting Poland and other Warsaw Pact countries.

Questions to Consider

- How can the council collectively prevent imminent nuclear escalation?
- How credible are the US's claims of nuclear missiles being in Cuba, and how can this be verified?
- Will the USSR deny the presence of the missiles, and does it have a basis to do so?
- Is the US naval quarantine warranted, and what should be done to address it?
- How can individual member states protect their national interests and preserve alliances while avoiding rapid escalation?

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