

BACKGROUND GUIDE:

UNSC

AGENDA:

1962 CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

Table of Contents:

01. Letter from the Executive Board

02. Introduction to the Committee

03. Introduction to the Agenda

04. Essential Treaties

05. Timeline

06. Keywords and Definitions

07. Stances of Major Countries

08. What is crisis paperwork

Letter from the Executive Board

The Executive Board of the United Nations Security Council welcomes each and every one of you to GCMUN 2024. This conference may serve as your initial introduction to the esteemed Model United Nations

(MUN) experience. To ensure a thorough understanding of the committee's designated topic, we strongly encourage a comprehensive review of the provided study guide.

However, your intellectual exploration should not be confined to this resource. Independent research is paramount. Compile potential points of discussion, formulate insightful questions, and develop well-reasoned responses to anticipated viewpoints. Prepare to be invigorated by the dynamic exchange of ideas that will transpire within the committee room.

Effective participation in MUN extends beyond the ability to deliver eloquent speeches. Good listening skills are essential. Empathetically consider the perspectives of your fellow delegates, and help foster a collaborative learning environment both inviting and invigorating. The United Nations Security Council promises to be a rigorous forum, demanding intellectual fortitude, strategic thinking, and the ability to address complex issues with measured compassion and exactitude. Striking a balance between forceful advocacy and diplomatic respect is crucial to success.

The Executive Board extends a sincere invitation to all delegates, irrespective of prior experience, to actively engage in the committee's deliberations. The agenda centers on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, where historical context, multilateral treaties and agreements, and intricate international relations play a pivotal role. Sharpening your knowledge of foreign policy will prove invaluable in navigating these discussions.

To excel in committee discussions, delegates are strongly encouraged to undertake comprehensive research on the following critical areas, which extend beyond the scope of the provided study guide, including but not limited to:

- The historical background and events leading up to the Cuban Missile Crisis • Key figures and nations involved in the crisis
- The implications and aftermath of the crisis on global politics
- Significant treaties and agreements related to nuclear arms control

Understanding these topics in detail will equip delegates with invaluable knowledge for formulating compelling arguments and engaging effectively in debate.

Reliable sources are paramount. It is imperative that delegates prioritize official and reputable sources for their research, including but not limited to:

- The official documents and communications from the United Nations during the crisis • Government websites and archives of the countries involved in the crisis
- Reputable historical accounts and analyses of the Cuban Missile Crisis

Once again, the Executive Board ensures a thrilling experience and wishes all our enthusiastic delegates the very best!

Regards,

The Executive Board.

Introduction to the Committee

According to the UN Charter, an international treaty, all member states are obligated to settle their disputes in an appropriate and peaceful way that does not endanger international peace and stability as well as security and justice. This UN Charter gives the Security Council the

crucial responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council convenes from time to time, when the need arises, sorts through global issues on a case-by-case basis, and takes a number of factors into account before authorizing any peace operation, such as:

1. Whether the parties involved have agreed to a ceasefire and are committed to working together to find a peaceful solution to the problem.
2. Whether a proper political goal is reflected in the mandate.
3. Whether or not a specific mandate can be devised for a UN operation
4. Whether the safety of UN personnel can be ensured, including if a reasonable guarantee can be obtained from the major parties involved.

Unlike the regular United Nations General Assembly decisions that are voluntarily carried out, the United Nations Security Council member states are obligated to carry out any resolutions adopted in their Security Council meetings, as per Article 25 of the UN Charter, which states:

“The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.” This article clause makes every decision made in the Security Council legally binding, and while the Non-Member States can make recommendations, the Security Council Member States have the final say.

The “Permanent Five” Members

The United Nations Security Council has a total of fifteen (15) members, five of which are permanent members, which include:

1. The United States of America
2. The Russian Federation ,
3. The People’s Republic of China
4. The French Republic
5. The United Kingdom

Unlike their fellow Member States, these permanent five members have the “Veto Power”, which gives them the power to cancel any resolution that they do not agree with. By just voting no to a resolution, a Permanent Five member can stop a resolution from being adopted. Unlike normal procedural voting, which is determined by the simple majority, Permanent Five-member voting **NO** in a Security Council voting process will firmly prevent any actions from being taken regarding the issue at hand.

Introduction to the Agenda

Largely considered as the Cold War’s highest-tension timespan, the Cuban Missile Crisis was a conflict between the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States of America, that threatened nuclear war. It began after the Soviet Union deployed ballistic medium-range and intermediate-range missiles into

Cuba. Despite President John F. Kennedy's previously issued warnings against the deploying of ballistic missiles in Cuba, images validating the certainty of these missiles were reported to president John F. Kennedy on October 16, which is regarded as the start of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Interestingly, the Cuban Missile Crisis' events and decision making primarily unfolded in the Moscow Kremlin and the White House, considering the extreme levels of secrecy that resulted in hidden information even from high-ranking government officials. It was arranged for a group of members from the National Security Council to form the Executive Committee. The committee, beginning its plans from scratch as U.S. intelligence had previously reassured them that the Soviet Union would never use Cuba as a harbor for ballistic missiles, secretly debated the United States' course of action. While some advisers encouraged the U.S. President to begin striking the missiles and then launch a full-scale invasion against Fidel Castro, other advisers urged him to remain peaceful, issuing only severe warnings to Cuba and the Soviet Union. After much discussion, the committee agreed to launch a naval "quarantine" on October 22, cutting off Cuba's supply of additional missiles and announcing that the Soviet Union must collect its weapons from Cuba and halt their supply.

Italy and Turkey's harboring of the United States' Jupiter ballistic missiles starting in 1956 is seen as the preambulatory spark to the conflict. As the Second World War ended and gave way to the Cold War, the United States was increasingly wary of communism. This wariness manifested in the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, which failed, and in addition to the United States' handling of the Berlin Crisis, left the Soviet Union enraged. Meanwhile, the United States continued its covert operations, including Operation Mongoose, which were aimed at overthrowing the Cuban government. At the start of 1962, following the arrival of Soviet missile construction experts in Cuba, Castro requested placing missiles on the island's borders. After a meeting between Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev discussing the near-certainty of a U.S. invasion, construction on missile launch facilities began in the summer of 1962. The operation maintained utmost secrecy, with even those involved in it being told lies by the higher-ups regarding what they were actually doing. The Cuban missiles, ones that could reach the majority of the Continental U.S., were heavily visible to the Cuban citizens upon their arrival, resulting in hundreds of reports being sent to Miami and U.S. agencies who either denied them as untrue or chalked them up to be describing defensive missiles. The White House, busy with elections, denied the presence of the missiles that were reportedly just 140 km from Florida. There was a lack of aerial photos to confirm or deny the 'alleged' offensive missiles, as the United States had just recently apologized for its Air Command flying over the Soviet Far East on accident and restricted all U-2s from flying in Cuban airspace. However, photos of the medium and intermediate-range missile facilities were later provided by an Air Force spy plane and analyzed with the help of a CIA double agent who had also been working for the UK.

Latin America was supposed to be under American influence as stated by the Monroe Doctrine, which would explain the tensions between the United States and Cuba when Fidel Castro, a communist leader, assumed power as Prime Minister in 1959 amid Cold War tensions. This tension became a global issue given that the United States was leading with 27,000 nuclear warheads against the Soviet Union's 3,600, and was in a position to initiate nuclear war. However, the Soviet Union had much at stake in this conflict as well. Firstly, it would be of great advantage to the Soviet Union if they were to gain control of West Berlin. They believed that whether the United States tried to bargain the removal of the Cuban missiles or not, they could gain control of West Berlin either by using the nuclear weapons as leverage or maintaining that their end of the bargain included the trade of the control of West Berlin for their control of Cuba. Nuclear missiles in Latin America would irritate the United States, which is another advantage to the Soviet Union, as it advanced the freedom of socialists and provided protection

against American naval nuclear weapons, especially considering Cuba's wariness of another invasion. A U.S. invasion of Cuba would result in great blows to communism, which could be seen as the Soviet Union's loss of the Cold War. However, the U.S. had been making efforts to avoid conflict, including its apologies for flying military aircraft in Soviet airspace and its refusal to call its naval quarantine a "blockade" as a signal that it did not intend war. Furthermore, if it had been referred to or intended as a blockade, it would not have received the support of the Organization of American States, which would have resulted in conflicts between the U.S. and the American States in the Western Hemisphere. Given the aforementioned, it was unclear whether the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies would assume an offensive or defensive stance in this unfolding crisis.

"Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty":

"Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty", formally "Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons Tests In the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water", was a treaty signed in Moscow on August 5th, 1963, by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom, that banned all tests of nuclear weapons except those conducted underground. The origins of the treaty lay in worldwide public concern over the danger posed by atmospheric radioactive fallout produced by the above ground testing of nuclear weapons. While the treaty was signed in 1963, the Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962) vividly illustrated the dangers of nuclear confrontation and of a possible nuclear war. For this reason, negotiations between the two great nuclear powers were speeded up and compromise was found with the "Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty". Within a few months of signing by the three original parties in August 1963, the treaty was signed by more than 100 other governments, notable exceptions being France and China.

Kennedy's and Khrushchev's Secret Agreement:

In order to end the Nuclear Crisis, the two leaders came to a personal secret agreement at the end of October 1962. Both parties agreed to work together and pull the world back from the "abyss of destruction":

- The U.S.S.R. would publicly remove their Nuclear Warheads from Cuba, that could possibly have been used to strike a heavy blow on the United States and would not again export nuclear weapons to the Caribbean Nation in the future.
- The U.S.A. would remove (not publicly) their "Jupiter" Ballistic Missiles From Turkey and Southern Italy (top secret at the time), that could have possibly been used to strike the Soviet Union, as well as make a public statement in front of the U.N. Security Council and the International Community, that they would guarantee the independence of Cuba and would not plan a future invasion of the island without a direct provocation.

“Washington–Moscow Direct Communications Link” Agreement:

After the Cuban Missile Crisis strictly highlighted that the leaderships of the United States and the Soviet Union should have the ability to directly contact each other, a “hotline” was established between the two world powers. The Agreement for the establishment of the “Moscow–Washington hotline” was signed by the USA and the USSR on June 20th, 1963, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Timeline of Events:

Date	Event Description	Involved Parties
7th July	Soviet Operation "Anadyr" Commences (47,000 troops)	USSR-Cuba
30th August	U-2 Spy plane violates Soviet Airspace	USSR-USA
10th September	U-2 Flights over Cuba are restricted, due to previous incidents	USA-Cuba
10th September-14th October	Soviets take advantage of the lack of surveillance, proceed to build 9 launch sites	USSR-USA-Cuba
14th October	U-2 Flights over Cuba are resumed	USA-Cuba
14th-15th October	Missiles spotted, JFK notified	USA
16th October	JFK Meets with members of the EXCOMM	USA
17th October	Khrushchev denies the existence of weapons in Cuba USA - USSR	USA-USSR-Cuba
19th October	4 Additional launch sites are discovered	USA-USSR-Cuba
22nd October	The US forms a blockade around Cuba	USA-USSR-Cuba
23rd October	Nuclear armed Soviet subs are moved to the Caribbean	USA-USSR
25th October	Freight ship "Bucharest" steams through the blockade, tensions rise	USA-USSR

26th October	USAF Nuclear bombers are put on high alert. Castro demands a nuclear strike from Khrushchev, who denies.	USA-USSR-Cuba
27th October(morning)	A U-2 is shot down over Cuba, without the Soviets ordering so	USA-Cuba
27th October(evening)	B-59 Submarine Incident occurs. Tensions reach a peak. The world is saved by a Soviet commander	USA-USSR
28th October	Khrushchev and JFK realize the gravity of the situation and start negotiating	USA-USSR
28th October	An agreement is reached: The US withdraws their missiles from Italy and Turkey and the Soviets leave Cuba along with their equipment.	USA-USSR-Cuba - Turkey-Italy

Important Terms and Definitions:

Missile: weapon that is forcibly thrown or projected at a target.

Ballistic Missile: a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.

Nuclear Warhead: an explosive device that derives its destructive force from nuclear reactions.

“Quarantine”: a blockade/embargo set by the USA, to prevent the Soviet missile shipment to Cuba.

“Lockheed U-2”: American single jet engine, high altitude, reconnaissance aircraft.

John F. Kennedy: The 35th US President (1961-1963).

Fidel Castro: former President of Cuba (1959-2008).

Nikita Khrushchev: former Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union (1953-1964).

Cuba: the largest island in the Caribbean.

Warsaw Pact: a collective defense treaty established by the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania (Albania withdrew in 1968).

NATO: an intergovernmental military alliance established by the USA, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, United Kingdom, Greece, Turkey, West Germany.

Executive Committee of the National Security Council (EXCOMM): a group of experts who advised President Kennedy during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Major Nations and Stances

United States

The United States' primary objective during the Cuban Missile Crisis was to prevent the Soviet

Union from installing ballistic missiles in Cuba. To achieve this goal, the US implemented a naval blockade (referred to as a "quarantine") around Cuba to halt further Soviet missile shipments. Additionally, U-2 reconnaissance flights were conducted over Cuba to gather intelligence, while diplomatic negotiations were pursued alongside military readiness measures. The US firmly opposed the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba due to the direct threat they posed to national security. Throughout the crisis, the US advocated for the removal of missiles through diplomatic pressure and maintained preparedness for military action if necessary.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union's primary objective was to bolster its strategic position by placing nuclear missiles in Cuba. This move was aimed at countering the perceived threat posed by US missiles in Turkey and Italy, while also supporting its ally, Cuba. The Soviets secretly transported and installed nuclear missiles in Cuba, initially denying their existence when confronted by the US. Diplomatic negotiations were undertaken with the United States to manage the escalating crisis. The Soviet stance aimed to enhance strategic deterrence and geopolitical influence in the Western Hemisphere, positioning Cuba as a bastion against US dominance in the region.

Cuba

Cuba's primary objective was to strengthen its national security and deter potential US invasions or attacks. In alignment with Soviet interests, Cuba allowed the deployment of Soviet nuclear missiles on its territory. Throughout the crisis, Cuba remained a staunch ally of the Soviet Union and welcomed the missiles as a means of deterring US aggression. The Cuban government viewed the presence of Soviet missiles as essential for safeguarding its socialist regime against external threats, asserting its sovereignty amidst heightened Cold War tensions.

Turkey

Turkey's primary objective was to uphold its commitment as a NATO member and maintain strategic cooperation with the United States. As part of NATO's collective defense strategy, Turkey hosted US Jupiter missiles aimed at countering Soviet military capabilities. Although indirectly involved in the resolution of the crisis, Turkey's role became significant when it agreed to the removal of its own missiles in exchange for the Soviet withdrawal from Cuba. Initially unaware of the direct connection between its missile installations and the Cuban Missile Crisis, Turkey supported US efforts to resolve the situation peacefully.

Italy

Italy's primary objective was to maintain its national security and fulfill its obligations as a NATO ally. Similar to Turkey, Italy hosted US Jupiter missiles as part of NATO's defense posture against potential Soviet aggression. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, Italy supported NATO's collective defense strategy and contributed to the resolution by agreeing to the removal of its missiles. While Italy had limited direct involvement in the negotiations, its alignment with NATO

objectives underscored its commitment to regional stability and alliance solidarity.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's primary objective was to support its NATO ally, the United States, and ensure the security of Europe amidst Cold War tensions. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, the UK provided diplomatic support to the US and maintained close communication with American leadership. The British stance was firmly aligned with the US position against the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The UK played a crucial role in advocating for a peaceful resolution to the crisis through diplomatic means, emphasizing the importance of avoiding military escalation in the region.

China

China's primary objective during the Cuban Missile Crisis was to advance its own strategic interests and challenge the influence of both the United States and the Soviet Union. While not directly involved in the crisis, China maintained a critical view of the actions taken by the superpowers. China expressed skepticism towards Soviet intentions and was critical of what it perceived as US imperialism. As a prominent member of the global communist movement, China advocated for a more independent and assertive stance, promoting its vision of global socialism amidst the Cold War rivalry.

France

France's primary objective was to support its NATO allies while maintaining an independent foreign policy stance. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, France provided diplomatic backing to the United States and supported efforts to peacefully resolve the situation. French leaders emphasized the importance of diplomatic negotiations to avoid military conflict and nuclear escalation in the region. While aligned with US interests, France also asserted its autonomy in foreign affairs, seeking to uphold alliance commitments while pursuing its own strategic objectives.

Germany (West Germany)

West Germany's primary objective was to strengthen its security within the NATO alliance framework and counter the Soviet threat during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Supporting US actions, West Germany provided diplomatic backing and remained a key NATO member during the crisis. The West German stance was aligned with efforts to remove Soviet missiles from Cuba and prevent further escalation of Cold War tensions. West Germany's commitment to NATO's collective defense strategy underscored its role in maintaining stability and security in Europe amidst heightened geopolitical rivalries.

These detailed descriptions highlight how each major country involved in the Cuban Missile Crisis pursued its objectives and contributed to the eventual resolution of the crisis through diplomatic negotiations and strategic maneuvering.

Crisis Documentation:

Directives

These are the documents that are used most regularly in crisis committees. Unlike General Assemblies, there are no resolutions in crisis, and directives take their place. The primary purpose of directives is to *take action*, to respond to the crisis at hand and (hopefully) solve the problem. One important distinction is that directives are executing an action, rather than recommending an action, like in GA. For example, a directive could directly send troops into a contested region, rather than suggesting that UN peacekeepers be brought in. Another important note is that directives are much more informal than resolutions, they are usually shorter, and are written much more frequently. They don't include preambulatory clauses, and instead jump straight in with operative clauses. In a crisis, time is of the essence! While there are significant differences between GA resolutions and crisis directives, your directives do need sponsors and signatories, and they need the majority of the committee's vote to pass.

Directive Example

Directive: Take Action

1. Immediately send 500 of the kingdom's spies eastward through Donetsk towards the contested region of Ukraine at once.
2. These operatives will travel only at night, disguised as weary travelers in groups of 4 or less, so as not to attract unwanted attention.
3. Each operative will be provided with one cyanide pill, to be used if they find themselves in a compromising position.
4. Any and all information these royal operatives discover will be brought back to the royal advisor's committee immediately and shared with all royal advisors. 3. Regardless of what is discovered, all operatives will be called back to the kingdom in exactly three weeks' time to begin training for the next mission.

Press Releases

These are used less frequently than directives, but can still be very effective, if utilized properly. Instead of taking action like a directive, a press release releases information to the public. These can be helpful in trying to get the public on your side, which is always beneficial. For instance, if there were rumors spreading about government corruption, your committee could issue a press release clarifying the rumors and reiterating that it is there to serve the people, not its own interests. These documents also need sponsors and signatories, as well as the majority of the committee's support.

Press Release Example

Headline: Keep Calm and Carry On

Information to release: Our beloved citizens, it appears that we, your upstanding government, are under attack. Vicious rumors have been spreading rapidly about our supposed wrongdoings, and we will not stand idly by while we are slandered. Citizens, rest easy knowing that your government, your public servants, are working tirelessly to keep you safe. We work only with your best interests in mind, and never to further our own agendas. Stay safe, and send any tip-offs of further rumors to yourgovernment@gov.org.

Source: Your Loyal Government

Communiqués

These documents are used even less frequently than press releases, but are super fun to utilize, if you work them into your strategy! Communiqués are used for official communication on behalf of the entire committee. For example, a communiqué could be passed by a Sons of Liberty crisis committee for the purpose of sending a message to King George III, letting him know that they will soon be writing the Declaration of Independence, and giving him one last chance for reconciliation. They can be sent to heads of state, other government organizations,

prominent individuals, corporations, and presidential cabinets, among others.

Communiqué Example

Addressee: King George III

Message: Dearest King George III,

Our patience has worn thin over the past few years, and the colonies will not cooperate with your tyrannical reign much longer. The many injustices you've inflicted upon us and our brothers have not gone unnoticed, and the time for action has arrived. We issue this message as a warning: we will soon be taking action to further our own interests, and this action will have major repercussions for you and your country. We're offering you one last chance to meet our demands. Be warned that if you do not take this option, you will surely regret it.

Sincerely,
The Sons of Liberty