



Research Report



Park Lane International School Model United Nations
2019

Forum: Historical Security Council

Issue: The Cuban Missile Crisis

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Introductions:

Committee:

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It has the primary control over maintaining international peace and security following the principles of the UN. It is commissioned with the ability to answer threats to international security and safety through political, economic, and military means. The Security Council includes ten elected member nations which are changed every two years, and five permanent members; the council is expected to stand firm and make effective decisions regarding the maintenance of international cooperation and amity.

The Historical Security Council will simulate debates that took place at a specific time period in history, where delegates are only permitted to use information provided during that time period, making ingenuity and strategic thinking key elements of the committee.

Chair:

Hello, I'm Mikolaj (or Miky) Juszczynski. I have been a student at Park Lane for 2 years. I was born in Poland and have lived there for 11 years of my life. I have also lived in the Netherlands for two years.

My MUN experience revolves around being a delegate twice, as well as organising a couple of MUNs. That being said, I am also a part of the Monetary Team in PLISMUN'19. This is my first time being a Chair, however I truly believe that along with



my Co-chair, Otto, we'll make this council truly enjoyable. I'm really looking forward to working with all the delegates in our council and solving the issue.

Co-Chair:

Hello, my name is Otto Burcher. I have been a student at Park Lane (the hosting school) for 2 years now and previously lived in the UK. I have experienced and been involved in the MUN club, and MUNs, at this school for 2 years now. I have been a Co-Chair before at a previous in-house debate and have been a delegate at 2 conferences. I am an avid history fan and enjoy reading and learning more about significant historical events, which is why I chose to Co-Chair this council. I am also the head of the Research Department at PLISMUN'19. I am looking forward to meeting all the delegates and will ensure that this council runs smoothly.

Issue:

The year is 1962. The Premier of the Soviet Union has shipped multiple short range nuclear missiles to the state of Cuba, which became a communist state during a bloody revolution that ended in 1959. Cuba is located just miles off the coast of Florida, causing the Soviet missiles to be extremely close to the US territory.

This leads to extremely high tensions between NATO, the Warsaw pact and those caught in between, with president Kennedy raising the situation to DEFCON 2. Despite almost all of Kennedy's advisors advising an immediate invasion of Cuba, the president decides to turn to negotiations and attempt to resolve the issue instead.

This issue in itself is a direct consequence of the record high tensions between NATO and communist bloc states that had existed since the end of the Second World War. These tensions led to a nuclear arms race between the two sides, as they have differing ideologies that come into conflict with each other and both want to have the most influence internationally. These tensions almost reach a boiling point during the Soviet Premier's reaction to the American placement of nuclear arms in Turkey. This is the situation this issue is based around.

In this scenario it is vital for the United Nations to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the crisis in order to prevent the cold war from becoming hot, and possibly resulting in the northern hemisphere being annihilated in nuclear war.

Nations Present:

- Chile
- China
- Cuba (present as an observer state)
- France
- Ireland
- Ghana
- Romania
- USSR
- United Arab Republic
- UK
- USA
- Venezuela

Key Terms and People:

- COMECON: a soviet economic organisation that gave Russia control over other Soviet economies.
- NATO: the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation formed in 1949, with notable members being: the UK, west Germany, the US and France.
- The Warsaw Pact: the Communist response to NATO, with notable members being: Russia, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
- ICBM: stands for Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile.
- Fidel Castro: the Communist leader of Cuba at the time.
- Nikita Khrushchev: the Premier of the Soviet Union.
- John F Kennedy: the President of the United States.

General Overview:

Throughout the 50s and 60s, during the Cold War, the tensions between the ideologically opposed Soviet Union, led by Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and the United States, under the presidency of John F. Kennedy, are steadily rising. In 1962 these tensions reach a peak when Nikita Khrushchev makes a decision and orders for 24 MRBM and 16 IRBMs nuclear missile launchers (this is the number of missile launchers identified by American forces) and multiple missiles to be shipped to the state of Cuba which had only become a communist state in 1959 after a long and bloody revolution (the Cuban Revolution, 1953-1959). The missiles are sent to Cuba in response to the American decision to send missiles to Turkey (the American missiles were put there due to NATO's war plan: the Nuclear Operations Plan). This leads to the American Government going into DEFCON 2 and demanding the missiles to be removed. This is the most tense part of the Cold War which if handled poorly could lead to the two biggest empires fighting, therefore resulting in global nuclear war.

Nuclear Operations Plan:

NATO's war plan consisting of three parts:

1. Destroying the Soviet's nuclear forces - this was more important to European NATO members as the Soviets could use most of their weapons against European countries, not necessarily the USA.
2. Wiping out at least half of the Soviet industry in order to prevent the enemies from rebuilding their economy too quickly.
3. Destroying Soviet conventional forces that the USSR could use to invade and occupy European countries. This part of the plan was also very important to the European NATO members.



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Major Parties Involved:

- Cuba: a small group of islands of the coast of Florida that has officially been a communist state since 1959. The Soviet missiles are situated in Cuba.
- USA: one of the most powerful nations in the world directly threatened by the placement of nuclear weapons in Cuba by the Soviet Union
- USSR: another powerful nation on the opposite side of the political spectrum to the US which lead to strong tensions between the two throughout most of the 20th century.
- Turkey: a large country in Europe where the USA has put its missiles.

Timeline of events:

- January 1959: Fidel Castro takes power in Cuba
- September/October 1960: Cuba and Soviet union become allies, raising tensions between America and Cuba
- January 1961: Cuba breaks diplomatic ties with the US after they failed the Bay of Pigs invasion. This leads to even higher tensions between the countries.
- April 1962: The United States deploy nuclear missiles in Turkey further raising Cold War tensions between the East and the West.
- August 1962: The American senate receives rumors of soviet missile bases being constructed in Cuba.
- October 1962: The American senate receives visual confirmation of the missile bases from a U2 spy plane.
- October 1962: President Kennedy calls an 'ExComm' meeting to be informed by his advisers on how to react during the crisis. Most advise for the immediate invasion of Cuba.
- October 1962: Despite warnings from Kennedy, Krushchev refuses to back down.



Previous attempts to solve the conflict:

The two resolutions attempted at the time were the ones wanted by the US and Russia and were very different. Russia claimed the positioning of the missiles was only to even the grounds between the East and West and attempted to open up peace talks to end the cold war. The US was against the deployment of weapons in Cuba and took a strong stance about it which resulted in the Russian resolution not succeeding.

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