

No Retaliation

Any military action that we take would most certainly mean another war. We just survived World War II less than 20 years ago, and are still recovering from losses there. So many good American families lost husbands and fathers. So many businesses lost strong workers. Are we really prepared for the cost of entering into another war? Over 60 million people around the world died in World War II and over 400,000 people from America alone. How many more people would die in another world war in which we have such more deadly weapons than before, such as the atomic bomb, which can destroy entire cities in seconds? No longer is our country the only country to have nuclear capabilities. The Soviets have nuclear weapons as well, and would surely not be afraid to use them if we enter in to any sort of military action. There is no middle ground here. A naval blockade of Cuba will still be viewed as an act of war by the Soviets, as would any type of airstrike or invasion. There are alternatives to war. Why not try to negotiate with the leaders of the Soviet Union through the United Nations or some other international agency? They will want to avoid war just as much as we do. Negotiating is not a sign of cowardice. You have to ask yourselves what the main reason is that we would enter into a military action with Cuba and the Soviet Union. Is it to show our rivals that we are powerful and not afraid of a fight? Are we merely trying to show them that we are not weak? Because if that is really the reason, we must also ask ourselves if appearing strong is worth the cost of thousands of American lives.

What are the positives of this action?

What could be the drawbacks of this action?

Why should the President choose this action? (Create your speech)

Invasion of Cuba

The Soviets, by putting missiles in Cuba, are challenging us. We have already failed to take out their leader Fidel Castro once with the Bay of Pigs invasion fiasco, and now they are testing us to see what our next move will be. We must not let the Soviets infiltrate Cuba with nuclear missiles. It is an island only 90 miles away from the southern U.S. states. If there are missiles in Cuba, they will surely be targeting U.S. cities soon. We must think of the safety of every American citizen. We must also show the Soviets the strength of the U.S., that we are not going to back down from a necessary fight. They made us look foolish once at the Bay of Pigs invasion, and we must not let them do it again. There is no other alternative but an all out invasion by land and sea of Cuba. We have the strongest military force in the world, and we must use it in order to spread democracy and ensure worldwide peace. We must continue practicing containment so that no Communist plague ever enters our homes, our schools, and our communities. The only way to end the Soviet disease in the Western Hemisphere is to go right to the top. We must take over their government and eliminate the Communist dictator, Fidel Castro. Neither an airstrike nor a blockade will achieve all out victory. We must conquer the country and in the Communist reign once and for all. Yes, lives would be lost, but they would die for a good cause. They would die protecting America from the evils of Communism. We saw what an all out invasion did at D-Day in World War Two, when we stormed the beaches of Normandy and went on to defeat Germany. That same United States courage is still alive, and must be called upon again to ensure the safety and peace of every American citizen.

What are the positives of this action?

What could be the drawbacks of this action?

Why should the President choose this action? (Create your speech)

Airstrike on Cuban Missile Bases

As long as the Soviets keep missiles in Cuba, we must look at Cuba as a very real threat. These nuclear missiles have the capability of destroying many important U.S. cities, and ending the lives of millions. There is no alternative but to get rid of these missiles entirely. This can not be done through political negotiations. Even if the Soviets tell us that they will get rid of the missiles, how can we trust them? Communists have done nothing but lie to us, from Karl Marx to Joseph Stalin. The Communists will never remove their missiles because they know that it gives them power over America. We must not let the Soviets have this power. The only way to ensure that the Cubans don't have the missiles is to use the U.S. Air Force to destroy them by an airstrike on the missile bases. We have great aviation technology that allows planes to be virtually undetectable. We have already pinpointed where the missiles are, now we just have to fly in and destroy them before the Soviets are able to counter with an attack of their own. This is the best option we have because not only does it ensure complete destruction of the missiles, but it saves thousands of lives. This will not lead to war like an all-out invasion would, but will only eliminate the missiles. It will cause the Soviet Union to recognize the military strength of the U.S., and they would not venture to put any additional missiles in Cuba afterwards. The financial expense that they will be losing from the destruction of the missiles will cripple their military power. Also, we do not have to kill innocent Cubans in this way either. We will only be targeting the missile bases, not civilians. The Soviet Union is the enemy, who has spread its Communist lies to Cuba. An airstrike will not only destroy all of the missiles, but it will also prevent World War III, and it will save the lives of both Americans and Cubans.

What are the positives of this action?

What could be the drawbacks of this action?

Why should the President choose this action? (Create your speech)

Naval Blockade

We, as a country, must not allow the Soviets to put any more missiles into Cuba. This is America's practice of containment, and we must not let Communism spread so close to our country. The most effective way to deal with this problem is by issuing a naval blockade. It is the perfect middle ground between war and peace. There is no way that we can choose to do nothing, because we must stay strong and battle the evils of Communism. On the other side, an all-out invasion of Cuba would mean World War III, which, in this day in age, would mean nuclear war, and should only happen as a last resort. By issuing a naval blockade, we prevent the Soviets from placing more missiles in Cuba, then we order them to remove the missiles already there, and then they can make the next move. The Soviets will back down and remove the missiles to avoid war with the U.S. Since World War II, we are now the strongest naval power in the world. We used our destroyers to win the war in the Pacific, why not once again use our navy supremacy to protect American democracy? The Soviets are only testing us to see what we will do. If they want war, so be it, but they will be the aggressor, not us, and all the world will see. If we blockade the country, and do not let the Soviet ships carrying the missiles to enter, the Soviets will simply turn around. When they reach our blockade line, they will not dare to fire on our navy vessels. For one, our navy ships outgun them, and also, the Soviets know that any act of aggression towards our navy will be considered an act of war, and will lead to a hot war between the two powers. And they know and fear the consequences of all-out nuclear war just like we do. They will then be forced to remove the missiles or face an all out war with the U.S. It is an ultimatum with consequences. We will be ensuring peace and protecting American lives. The Soviets are nothing more than a bully, and if we don't stand up to them with a naval blockade, who will?

What are the positives of this action?

What could be the drawbacks of this action?

Why should the President choose this action? (Create your speech)

Information for the President and Advisors

In 1959, Fidel Castro came to power in an armed revolt that overthrew Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista. The U.S. government distrusted Castro and was wary of his relationship with Nikita Khrushchev, the leader of the Soviet Union. Before his inauguration, John F. Kennedy was briefed on a plan by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) developed during the Eisenhower administration to train Cuban exiles for an invasion of their homeland. The plan anticipated that the Cuban people and elements of the Cuban military would support the invasion. The ultimate goal was the overthrow of Castro and the establishment of a non-communist government friendly to the United States.

Most of the American planes were shot down by the Cubans, and the invasion was crushed later that day. Some exiles escaped to the sea, while the rest were killed or rounded up and imprisoned by Castro's forces. Almost 1,200 members of Brigade 2056 surrendered, and more than 100 were killed.

The brigade prisoners remained in captivity for 20 months, as the United States negotiated a deal with Fidel Castro. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy made personal pleas for contributions from pharmaceutical companies and baby food manufacturers, and Castro eventually settled on \$53 million worth of baby food and medicine in exchange for the prisoners. The disaster at the Bay of Pigs had a lasting impact on the Kennedy administration. Determined to make up for the failed invasion, the administration initiated Operation Mongoose—a plan to sabotage and destabilize the Cuban government and economy. The plan included the possibility of assassinating Castro.

Three Questions for the Groups (*These questions are going to be asked by you after the groups present in order to clarify their option or ask them how their option would be better than the others)

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The White House

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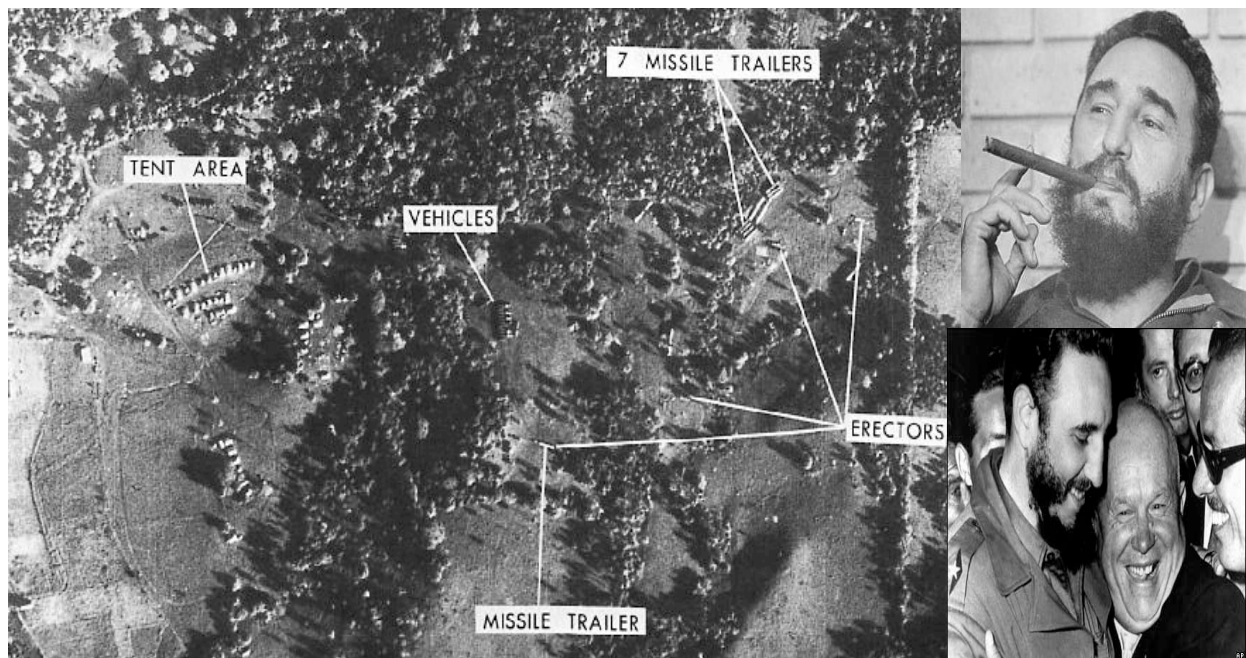


10/16/1962

Dear Mr. President,

Upon a recent aerial surveillance of Cuba, we have spotted several medium-range nuclear missiles.

Here are some important photographs.



As a reminder, Cuba is only approximately 90 miles off the coast of Cuba. If these missiles are launched, they can reach approximately 50% of the United States and cause extreme casualties. These nuclear weapons have obviously been placed here by the Soviets because of the alliance between Cuba's Fidel Castro and the Soviet Union's Nikita Khrushchev.

We must act quickly on what to do about this immediate threat to our south.

Name: _____

Date: _____

As each group presents, write down the strengths and weaknesses of each option. You will be assessed on your note taking ability for the day. Make sure to write down the important facts and parts to each option. One random member from each group will be asked to turn their note sheet in for a grade for the group.

What is the option?	Strengths of that option	Drawbacks of that option