



## Historical: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Chairs: Altea Thompson '21 & Allie Ehlinger '22

Dear delegates,

Welcome to CAMUN 2021! My name is Allie Ehlinger, and I will be chairing this committee with Altea Thompson. I am a junior at Concord Academy from Dover, MA, and Altea is a senior from Lexington, MA.

We are so excited to welcome you all to this specialized committee on the Cuban Missile Crisis. Each of you will be assigned to a position representing a historical figure from either the United States or the USSR. You will be tasked with collaborating with the opposing nations to ease tensions and hopefully come to a consensus without engaging in nuclear warfare. Your character will have their own values, perspectives, and concerns to bring to committee, and it is your duty to represent them as accurately as possible.

We hope to see you challenge yourself in committee, even if this is your very first Model UN conference. We should note that despite its infamous name, *this committee will not be structured as a crisis committee*. We will utilize standard UNA-USA parliamentary procedure to debate, draft working papers, debate some more, and hopefully pass resolutions that will guide opposing nations to compromise.

In order to help the debate be as productive and engaging as possible, all delegates should email us a researched position paper no longer than two pages double-spaced prior to the conference if they want to be considered for awards. If you would like feedback on yours, please submit it by Friday, April 2, 2021. This guide should provide you with a general background on the topic and your position, but please feel free to look into our sources posted at the bottom of this guide for further research. We hope you come to our committee session informed and ready to debate!

We can't wait to meet all of you, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns that may arise. Have fun researching, and see you soon!

Altea Thompson '21, [altea.thompson@concordacademy.org](mailto:altea.thompson@concordacademy.org)

Allie Ehlinger '22, [alexandra.ehlinger@concordacademy.org](mailto:alexandra.ehlinger@concordacademy.org)

## **Background**

The United States and the Soviet Union have historically competed for global leadership since the end of World War I. With stark differences in their political and socioeconomic ideologies, the Cold War was a period of high tension between the two former allies. The U.S., having witnessed the Soviets establish their communist systems on Eastern Europe after World War II, perceived the Soviets to be expansionist. They feared the proliferation of Soviet-style communism all over the globe. The U.S. sought to halt the spread of international communism, and perceived the Soviet Union to be an intense threat to capitalism and democracy.

As a result of these tensions, the two nations ended up engaged in an intense arms race. As both sides developed increasingly powerful arsenals of nuclear missiles, the threat of nuclear warfare became imminent. This arms race expanded globally; foreign territories in Latin America and the Caribbean became hotly contested battlegrounds between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Cuba was a particularly important location that both nations sought to gain control over, but after Fidel Castro staged the 1959 Cuban Revolution and overthrew longtime American ally President Batista, Castro's Cuba aligned itself with Soviet interests. By the time Kennedy entered office, the Soviet-Cuba relationship was strong enough that JFK perceived Cuba as a nearby communist threat that needed to be stopped.

Soon after taking office in 1961, JFK decided to launch an operation to overthrow Castro's regime by using the CIA to train a group of Cuban exiles to spark an anti-Castro revolution. This became known as the Bay of Pigs invasion, and it was a massive embarrassment and U.S. national security failure. Kennedy decided to withdraw U.S. military support right before the invasion, and as a result, the Cuban military captured the Cuban rebels. Additionally, very few Cubans actually rose up against Castro, and the invasion was seen by the Cuban regime as proof of aggressive anti-communist intentions. This drew Cuba's allegiance even closer to the Soviet Union, as Castro remained in power.

The U.S. continued to closely monitor Cuba's activities and eventually grew suspicious that Soviet missiles were being shipped and stored in Cuba in massive quantities. Castro claimed that the Soviet Union was greatly invested in Cuba's defensive capabilities and pronounced that the communist regime would take any U.S. attack on Cuba as an act of war. As the U.S. grew increasingly concerned about its relationship with Cuba, CIA director John McCone expressed concern about Soviet missiles deployed in Cuba.

## **Current Situation**

With U.S. suspicions still unconfirmed, the nation must be careful in how it manages this crisis. Especially if the U.S. finds McCone's intelligence to be accurate, the number one priority must be to avoid nuclear war and annihilation. Tensions are high, but stakes are even higher; you must exercise immense caution as you walk the line between national security and global collaboration, because the threat of total nuclear destruction has never been more imminent.

## Questions to Consider

1. How can the U.S. investigate the threat without inciting a violent response from Cuba and the Soviet Union?
2. Which is more important: the spread of your nation's political and socioeconomic ideologies, or restoring a diplomatic relationship with your adversaries?
3. What are you willing to sacrifice to get your way? How much of your nation's stance will you give up?
4. Who can you ally with on the other side? If executive governments will not agree, would it be possible for military, intelligence, or diplomatic officials to come to a consensus?

## Committee Positions

### USA

**John F. Kennedy:** As the President of the United States and Commander in Chief of all US military operations, you take a strong stance against the USSR and international communism. You support fortification of the US military and nuclear arsenal, and you are wary of the USSR's growing collection of ballistic missiles.

**Lyndon B. Johnson:** You are the Vice President of the United States and backed a containment policy that encourages the US to block international communist expansion. While you seek to ease tensions between the US and other nations, your containment approach often involves foreign military intervention.

**Dean Rusk:** You are the United States Secretary of State, and you tend to be inflexible in your dealing with foreign nations. You encourage the State Department to diminish its role in national policy making, and you back JFK's fairly aggressive approach of military intervention.

**Allen Dulles:** As the Director of Central Intelligence, you head the CIA and report to President Kennedy. You were originally appointed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower after serving in various posts of foreign diplomacy, and you oversaw the CIA during its earliest period of major growth after its establishment.

**J. Edgar Hoover:** During your time as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, you turned the FBI from a relatively weak part of the executive branch to a highly effective investigative agency. Your lifelong obsession is the fight against communism, and you take a very aggressive stance to target groups and individuals that might threaten you.

**Robert McNamara:** You are the United States Secretary of Defense, which means you head the Department of Defense and command the US Military with authority second to only

Kennedy. You are in close contact with other military heads and have connections with leaders of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

**Adlai Stevenson II:** You are an American lawyer, politician, and diplomat from the Democratic Party. You served on the committee that created the United Nations, and you became one of the first United States Ambassadors to the UN.

**Robert Kennedy:** You are the US Attorney General under the Kennedy administration and JFK's brother and trusted advisor. You have close connections to the CIA, and you encourage the US Department of Defense to stay ahead of the USSR. You will take it upon yourself to investigate and find out information about the USSR's potential plans, and you are willing to do the dirty work that JFK cannot as president.

## USSR

**Nikita Khrushchev:** You are both the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. As such, you wield broad power and influence, which you seek to use to modernize and unify the Soviet Union.

**Alexei Kosygin:** As the First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers, you are the second-in-command of the government of the USSR. You are Khrushchev's right hand man, and you manage much of the USSR's domestic affairs. You have a military background and connections to both domestic and international military officials.

**Vladimir Semichastny:** You are a Soviet politician and the Chairman of the Committee for State Security (KGB), the USSR's main security and intelligence agency. You seek to expand the KGB's role to international affairs, and you have eyes and ears reporting back to you all over the world.

**Rodion Malinovsky:** After making your career as a military man, you rose to the positions of Marshal of the Soviet Union and the Minister of Defense. You control the USSR's large military forces, and you have executive control over nearly all military operations.

**Andrei Gromyko:** As the Minister of Foreign Affairs, you manage diplomatic relations with foreign nations through a wide network of embassies and diplomats. You are a vocal communist, and you are responsible for spreading messages about the USSR's goals and intentions. You also are in charge of many of the Soviet Union's foreign policy decisions, and you strongly believe in peace over war.

**Valerian Zorin:** You are the USSR's Ambassador to the United Nations, which means you represent the Soviet Union on a global scale. In a time of rapidly escalating worldwide tensions,

you must balance the interests of your own nation with those of the global community by connecting with other ambassadors and officials in charge of foreign connections.

**Anatoly Dobrynin:** You are the Soviet Ambassador to the United States, as well as a Soviet statesman, diplomat, and politician. You aim to normalize Soviet-American relations and ease tensions between the USSR and the United States, hopefully steering the Cold War to a course of peace.

### Sources for Further Research

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2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency\\_of\\_Lyndon\\_B.\\_Johnson#Cold\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Presidency_of_Lyndon_B._Johnson#Cold_War)
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