



IYC 2023 Group of Eight

STUDY GUIDE

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Letter From the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Group of 8, IYC's very own historical committee. On behalf of our entire executive board, we extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to each one of you. We are thrilled to have you on board with us for this committee.

G8 presents you with the opportunity to not only change the course of history but also reflect and evaluate on how the past shapes the present. Agendas in this committee include pivotal historical moments that have impacted multiple states and have influenced generations all over the world.

This year, the committee will take you through a critical yet often overlooked part of world history, the Cuban Missile Crisis. Our primary goal for the conference is to find a solution that will bring about the well being of all the countries involved in the impending crisis. It is your responsibility, as representatives of your country, to conscientiously portray your countries' objectives.

We are honoured to watch as you navigate the workings of the UN, develop your oral and written communication skills, enhance research abilities and form fresh perspectives on global issues. This experience is bound to be unforgettable, and we are excited to be a part of your journey.

Finally, while this study guide is a helpful starting point- it is just that, a guide and should not be your sole resource for the upcoming debate. Do your own research to delve deeper into the intricacies of this enthralling issue and your stakeholder. As always, we are available and more than eager to assist you with any questions you may have.

We look forward to meeting you soon and make this edition of the G8 a resounding success!

Regards,

Aarohi Godha, Chair of G8.

Aarya Mehta, Vice Chair of G8.

Introduction

Historical Background

Cuba is a large island and has always been an American ally. Americans owned most of the businesses on the island and they also had a huge naval base there. The United States' desire to acquire Cuba had emerged well before 1898. After the Ten Years War, American investors in the sugar industry acquired extensive land holdings in Cuba. Growing sentiment for war was brewing in the United States. By this time the US had significant investments in Cuba, with over \$50 million invested and a thriving trade, mainly in sugar.

In September 1933, Fulgencio Batista led the 'sergeants' revolt in Cuba, which overthrew the government of Carlos Manuel de Céspedes. As a result of the revolt, Batista gained immense power and became the unofficial leader of Cuba. He was elected president in 1940 and his term ended in 1944 however he returned to power through a coup in 1952. Upon his return, Batista established a harsh dictatorship in Cuba. He seized control over the university, press, and Congress, while also engaging in large-scale embezzlement from the rapidly growing economy. His rule was corrupt and unpopular. The Americans provided Batista with economic and military support nonetheless primarily because he was as opposed to communism as they were. There was a lot of opposition to Batista and in 1959, after a three year long campaign Fidel Castro overthrew Batista. Castro was a clever propagandist and had a vision for a better Cuba that won over most Cubans.

However relations between the USA and Cuba soon went downhill. Castro took land from some American owned businesses and distributed it to his supporters among Cuba's farmer population. Many Cuban exiles who had fled from Castro's rule formed strong pressure groups in America and demanded action against him. In June 1960 the US president authorised the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to investigate ways of overthrowing

Castro. It also investigated ways of disrupting the Cuban economy. Castro responded to American hostility by allying with the Soviet Union. Castro began receiving arms from the USSR and \$100 million in economic aid. In January 1961 USA's new president broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba. However instead of invading directly he supplied arms, equipment and transport for anti-Castro exiles to invade Cuba with the intention to overthrow Castro. The exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs in April but the invasion failed disastrously. This happened because of a number of reasons, including inadequate preparation and execution by the CIA, which coordinated the operation. The CIA miscalculated the military might of Cuba and the degree of public support for Fidel Castro's regime. The failure pushed Cuba closer to the Soviet Union and further severed the ties between USA and Cuba. This fiasco made Castro and Soviet leader Khrushchev suspicious and vigilant of US policy. Soviet arms now flooded into Cuba and by 1962 Cuba had the best equipped army in Latin America. On 14th October 1962 an American spy plane took amazingly detailed photographs of nuclear missile sites in Cuba. The USA felt threatened and was no longer prepared to tolerate Soviet nuclear missiles in the USA's 'sphere of influence'. **As G8 delegates, this is where committee begins for you.**

Context to the Cuban Missile Crisis

World War II and the Separation of Germany

As World War II transformed both the United States and the USSR, turning the nations into formidable world powers, competition between the two increased. Following the defeat of the Axis powers, an ideological and political rivalry between the United States and the USSR gave way to the start of the Cold War. After the Potsdam conference, Germany was divided into four occupied zones: Great Britain in the northwest, France in the southwest, the United States in the south and the Soviet Union in the east. Berlin, the capital city situated in Soviet territory, was also divided into four occupied zones. Germany also lost territory east of the Oder and

Neisse rivers, which fell under Polish control.

Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman pledged that the United States would help any nation resist communism in order to prevent its spread. His policy of containment is known as the Truman Doctrine. The Truman Doctrine demonstrated that the United States would not return to isolationism after World War II, but rather take an active role in world affairs. To help rebuild after the war, the United States pledged \$13 billion of aid to Europe in the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan, in combination with the Truman Doctrine, aimed to promote economic and political stability in Europe while preventing the spread of communism. By helping Western European nations recover and rebuild, the plan contributed to a more prosperous and stable Europe. This stability was crucial during the Cuban Missile Crisis as it allowed the US to focus more of its attention and resources on the situation in Cuba without being overly concerned about potential Soviet actions in Europe.

Korean War and McCarthyism in the USA

In the Korean War, the USSR and USA were on opposing sides - with the former supporting North Korea and the latter supporting South Korea. With the USA supplying troops to South Korea, the ties between the two countries severed. This heavily impacted the Cuban Missile Crisis and was the reason why the USSR were adamant about their missiles not being removed from Cuba. It deepened the mistrust and suspicion between the two superpowers, which continued to be a defining characteristic of the Cold War. The lingering animosity and distrust from the Korean War era may have influenced the way both sides approached the Cuban Missile Crisis, as they were already in a state of heightened alert and preparedness for potential conflict.

Timeline

Monday, October 15

A U-2 reconnaissance aircraft reveals several SS-4 nuclear missiles in Cuba.

Tuesday, October 16

Crisis begins: President Kennedy convenes his Executive Committee to consider America's options.

Wednesday, October 17

An SS-5 IRBM site, the first of three to be identified, is detected in Cuba.

Thursday, October 18

President Kennedy meets with the Soviet Foreign Minister and advises him that America will not tolerate Soviet missiles in Cuba. Gromyko denies the presence of any Soviet weaponry in Cuba.

Friday, October 19

President Kennedy meets with the Secretary of Defense, and the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to discuss military matters

Saturday, October 20

President Kennedy returns to Washington to discuss the discovery of additional Soviet missiles in Cuba.

Sunday, October 21

President Kennedy decides on a naval blockade of Cuba.

Monday, October 22

President Kennedy addresses the American public and announces his plan to implement a naval blockade of Cuba. U.S. military alert is set at DEFCON 3 and Castro mobilises all of Cuba's military forces.

Tuesday, October 23

The OAS supports the decision to quarantine Cuba. Reconnaissance photos reveal that Soviet missiles are ready for launch. McNamara, Kennedy review and discuss options of confrontation. Discussion of diplomatic efforts at the UN and the vote by the Organization of American States.

Wednesday, October 24

Soviet ships reach the quarantine line, but receive radio orders from Moscow to hold their positions. Consideration of civil defence options and planning for possible Soviet responses in Berlin. President Kennedy concludes that if the USA invades in the next ten days, the missile base crews in Cuba will likely fire at least some of the missiles at US targets. McNamara talks of a very dangerous situation since ships approaching the quarantine line are being shadowed by a Soviet submarine.

Thursday, October 25

U.S. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson confronts the Soviets at the U.N. but they refuse to

answer. Review of the movement of ships toward the quarantine line and potential US responses.

Friday, October 26

EX-COMM receives word from Khrushchev stating that the Soviets would remove their missiles if President Kennedy publicly guarantees the U.S. will not invade Cuba. The CIA reports that the construction of the missile sites is continuing and accelerating. Robert F. Kennedy meets with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin and agrees after a phone call to the president that the removal of US missiles from Turkey is negotiable as part of a comprehensive settlement. Khrushchev receives a cable from Castro urging a nuclear first strike against the US in the event of an invasion of Cuba.

Saturday, October 27

While one U-2 spy plane accidentally flies into Russia, another is shot down over Cuba. EX-COMM received a second letter from Khrushchev stating that, in addition to a public promise not to invade Cuba, the U.S. removed its missiles from Turkey.

Sunday, October 28

The crisis is over. In a speech aired on Radio Moscow, Khrushchev announces the dismantling of Soviet missiles in Cuba and does not insist on his demands concerning the removal of U.S. missiles from Turkey.

Monday, October 29

President Kennedy orders US ships to remain on the quarantine line and authorises continuation of low-level reconnaissance flights.

Wednesday, November 21

Just over a month after the crisis began, President Kennedy terminated the quarantine when Khrushchev agreed after several weeks of tense negotiations at the UN to withdraw Soviet IL-28 nuclear bombers from Cuba.

Countries involved and their Stance**United States of America**

All American leaders agreed that Communism had to be contained however after the Korean war they realised that sending American troops to fight proxy wars was expensive and didn't always work. Instead American policy focused on another method of containment, developing powerful weapons. This shift marked the beginning of the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union. When Cuba allied with the USSR, the USA felt threatened by the presence of a Soviet satellite in their 'sphere of influence'. The situation escalated when the Soviets deployed nuclear missiles in Cuba, intensifying the perceived threat. In response, President Kennedy decided to implement a blockade of Cuba.

The Soviet Union

The USSR's primary policy was the spread of communism. Hence it had allied with Cuba after the regime experienced American hostility. It began supplying arms and economic aid to Cuba. Following the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion, in July 1962 an agreement was reached between Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, resulting in the placement of Soviet nuclear missiles in Cuba as a deterrent against any future invasion attempts. After Kennedy announced a blockade on 22nd October he received a letter from Khrushchev saying that Soviet ships will not adhere to the blockade. Khrushchev did not admit

the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba until 26th October whilst claiming that the missiles were only defensive.

Cuba

After Fidel Castro seized power in Cuba, there was a swift shift in alliances. Despite Cuba's previous alignment with the United States during the Batista regime, Castro quickly established close ties with the Soviet Union after American hostility. The failed invasion of the Bay of Pigs strengthened Castro's position in Cuba and by October 1962 the alliance between USA and Cuba was long gone. The USSR supported Cuba with arms, economic aid and even nuclear missiles. Castro saw the missiles as a means of defending further U.S. aggression and protecting Cuba's sovereignty.

Turkey

Turkey was a part of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and was an ally of the United States. Turkey had previously agreed to host American ballistic missiles, which were seen as a deterrent against Soviet aggression. During the crisis, Turkey maintained its support for the USA. Turkey was an important strategic ally for the US in the region, and its cooperation and solidarity with the U.S. were crucial during this tense period.

Eastern Europe

Eastern Europe was largely governed by the Soviet Union and its satellite nations during this time, together known as the Eastern Bloc. Politically and philosophically, the nations of Eastern Europe were allied with the Soviet Union. Because they were influenced by Soviet leadership and a part of the Warsaw Pact, a military alliance headed by the Soviet Union, the governments of Eastern Europe at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis usually supported the Soviet Union's activities.

Greece

The Greek government, under Prime Minister Karamanlis, showed its support for the American administration in denouncing the Soviet Union for stationing nuclear missiles in Cuba. Karamanlis strongly supported the American response and the establishment of the naval blockade around Cuba to stop further missile deliveries. Greece's decision to support the United States during the Cuban Missile Crisis was consistent with the country's then-prevailing foreign policy, which placed a premium on its close ties to NATO partners and Western democracies. It is important to note that, despite the regime's backing for the American position, Greek popular opinion may have differed because the subject was so delicate and may have had effects on the stability and security of the entire world.

Possible Actions available

Diplomatic Negotiations: Engaging in direct diplomatic negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union to find a peaceful resolution. Back-channel communications or utilising trusted intermediaries could facilitate talks.

Establishing Hotlines: Establishing a direct communication hotline between the White House and the Kremlin to ensure immediate and reliable communication between the two superpowers, reducing the risk of miscommunication and miscalculation.

Implementing a Naval Blockade: The US could continue its naval blockade of Cuba to prevent further shipments of missiles and materials while leaving open the possibility for diplomatic resolution.

Secretly Removing Missiles from Turkey: The US could consider secretly removing American Jupiter missiles from Turkey, which were seen as a direct threat to the Soviet Union.

This action could be part of a secret negotiation deal to defuse the crisis.

Conclusion

On October 28, Khrushchev said publicly that Cuban Soviet missiles would be decommissioned and withdrawn the next morning. The naval quarantine persisted after the crisis was resolved but before the Soviet Union decided to withdraw its IL-28 bombers from Cuba and the United States lifted the quarantine on November 20, 1962. In April 1963, American Jupiter missiles were evacuated from Turkey. The Cuban Missile Crisis is seen as a unique Cold War incident that improved Kennedy's reputation both home and abroad. Additionally, it could have lessened unfavourable public perception of the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion.

Two more significant outcomes of the crisis took odd forms. First, Kennedy and Khrushchev, as well as their advisors, struggled throughout the crisis to clearly understand each other's true intentions as the world teetered on the verge of potential nuclear war. This was true despite the flurry of direct and indirect communications between the White House and the Kremlin—or perhaps because of it. The "Hotline," a direct phone line between the White House and the Kremlin, was created to try to stop this from happening again. Second, as a nuclear battle loomed, both countries started to rethink their nuclear weapons races and made the first moves towards signing a nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Suggested Moderated Caucus Topics

1. The indirect contribution of the crisis on the humanitarian crisis in Cuba

The severed ties between Cuba and USA leading to the trade embargo placed on Cuba which in turn lead to economic and political difficulties

2. Implications for Latin America

Regional security issues arose in Latin America during the Cuban Missile Crisis due to the nuclear destruction posed.

3. Measures taken for De - escalation

Possible measures to be taken to avoid the nuclear fallout that could ensue, causing destruction on a global scale.

4. Turkey

The demands of the Soviet Union to America to remove the missiles present in Turkey
Possible measures taken to guarantee the safety of Turkey and other NATO allies without undermining the negotiations

Questions a Resolution must answer

1. How can the committee be certain that the mechanisms for preventing and resolving conflicts are developed?
2. How can the committee ensure that humanitarian law is adhered to and carried out by every party involved?
3. How can the committee ensure that all parties involved in this conflict be held accountable and impose proper penalties for war crimes and the infringement of human rights ?

Refer to the mentioned guiding questions and be prepared to answer these in committee as well:

- What was your country's primary ideology at the time?
- Was your country part of any pre-existing treaty, be it trade or military?

- Are there any internal conflicts within your country?
- Has your country undertaken any action which directly breaches the UN Charter? ● What was your country's foreign policy (AT THAT TIME)?
- With which countries does your country hold diplomatic or informal alliances with?
- Did your country have any explicit interests with respect to territories, arms, etc in mind?

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