



# **Historical Security Council**

**The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962:**

**Chairs:** Salma Aacha & Sofia Moustaghfir

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**Introduction:**

Fellow TMUN delegates,

Welcome to the *Historical Security Council* committee for the 2023 TMUN conference. We, Salma Aacha and Sofia Moustaghfir ([salma.aacha@asm.ma](mailto:salma.aacha@asm.ma) and [so.moustaghfir@asi.aui.ma](mailto:so.moustaghfir@asi.aui.ma)), are your chairs for this year's conference. Our goal is to ensure organized debate sessions where each delegate has a voice and the procedures are adhered to. This year's conference will focus on the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Introduction to the Committee:**

The *Historical Security Council* is a subcommittee of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The HSC was established to maintain global peace and security. The UNSC is in charge of creating resolutions, adopting them, and they can be given to certain nations. The *Historical Security Council* is in charge of taking care of historical conflicts and aims to discuss them in a manner that promotes peace between all nations. Our committee will be addressing the Cuban Missile Crisis that took place in 1962 and played a big role in history and international relations.

**Topic Introduction (The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962):**

The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis is arguably the most crucial event during the Cold War, a period of intense ideological and political rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is often considered as the closest the world has come to nuclear war. The crisis unfolded over 13 tension-filled days in October 1962, bringing the world to the brink of catastrophe and essentially reshaping the dynamics of global politics.

The Cold War started in 1947 where tensions continuously rose between the USA and USSR. The Cuban Missile Crisis stems from the web of Cold War politics and the ideological struggle between capitalism and communism. In 1959, Fidel Castro established a communist regime in Cuba which posed a significant threat to the United States because of the close distance between the two nations. Before the Cuban Missile Crisis, in 1961, the U.S. had attempted to overthrow Castro's government in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion which led to increased hostility between the nations.

An American U-2 spy plane discovered and photographed Soviet nuclear missile installations in Cuba in October 1962. This raised immediate alarm for the U.S. government as these missiles would be able to reach the United States. In response, President Kennedy made the decision to employ the U.S. Navy to create a blockade of the island to prevent the Soviets from sending military equipment to Cuba. Additionally, Kennedy sent a letter to Khrushchev stating that the United States would not allow weapons to be sent to Cuba, demanding the Soviets to dismantle the weapons and send them back to the Soviet Union. Replying to Kennedy's message, Khrushchev explained that all Soviet ships would be ordered to proceed, describing the blockade as an "act of aggression."

Through various forms of communications, negotiations, and diplomacy, the superpowers were able to come to a conclusion in order to defuse the crisis. Over the course of days, Kennedy and Khrushchev came to a conclusion that would benefit both parties. The Soviets agreed to remove their weapons from Cuba if the United States agreed to remove their secret weapons from Turkey. Both parties were aware that a nuclear war would have been a catastrophe and caused a vast amount of consequences for humanity. Although the crisis lasted just under two weeks, it was the most dangerous 13 days for the world.

**Questions to consider:**

1. What does your delegation want the outcome of the Cuban Missile Crisis to be?
2. What were the first changes that happened in the main countries involved soon after the crisis started?
3. How does your delegation hope your aims in negotiation will be perceived?
4. What were the key events that led to your country's involvement in the Cuban Missile Crisis?
5. What were the main challenges your country had to overcome during the Cuban Missile Crisis?

**Key Words:**

- **Cold War:** period of time when geopolitical tensions were present between the US and USSR
- **Bay of Pigs:** failed US attempt to overthrow Castro's regime in Cuba
- **Nuclear weapons:** destructive explosive that uses nuclear reactions
- **Cuba:** country in the Caribbean
- **United States of America:** Country in North America
- **Soviet Union:** communist country that existed from 1922 to 1991
- **John F. Kennedy:** 35th U.S. President
- **Nikita Khrushchev:** Former Soviet Union Premier
- **Fidel Castro:** Former President of Cuba

**Requirements:**

- a. Must be well-informed concerning the topics.
- b. Single paged position paper on the topic (must not exceed 1 page and one minute speaking time).
- c. Single paged resolution paper to solve the issue (must not exceed 1 page maximum).
- d. **All information used by the delegates should not be after 1962. Only use information that was provided before 1962.**

**Resources:**

- [How to write a position paper \(source 1\)](#)
- [How to write a position paper \(source 2\)](#)
- [How to write a winning position paper](#)
- [How to write a resolution paper](#)

**Note:**

Delegates, your position papers are due on Wednesday November 22, 2023 so we advise you to start working on them promptly. Make sure to follow the requirements we have mentioned when writing your position papers. Additionally, it is crucial that each delegate clearly emphasizes the position and background of their country concerning the topic. If you have any concerns, feel free to contact us at [salma.aacha@asm.ma](mailto:salma.aacha@asm.ma) and [so.moustaghfir@asi.aui.ma](mailto:so.moustaghfir@asi.aui.ma). We look forward to meeting you all.

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