

21b

DESCRIBE THE EVENTS THAT LED TO THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS IN 1962. EXPLAIN THE EVENTS IMPACT UPON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES. WHAT IMPACT DID IT HAVE UPON JFK AND KRUSHCHEV?

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the culmination of cold war events of the 50's and 60's. It brought the Soviet Union and the United States to the brink of nuclear conflagration as both superpowers stood toe to toe over the island nation of Cuba.

1950's Cuban government in the hands of corrupt politician/dictator Batista who had the support of the U.S. He had turned Havana into the Las Vegas of the Caribbean. Corruption/human rights violations.

Leftist revolutionaries led by Fidel Castro seized power, denounced by the U.S., Castro found friends in Moscow and Eisenhower severed relations including an embargo. Soviet Union only to glad to establish relations and listening posts a mere 90 miles south of Florida

1961 Bay of Pigs President Kennedy supports a CIA attempt to oust Castro which fails, a serious fiasco. (Bay of Pigs) The United States underestimated Castro's home support. Castro is forced to seek military help. The Soviets begin building a missile base and installing short range nuclear capable missiles with a range of 1500 miles. (the Soviets felt justified as the U.S. had recently placed missiles in Turkey.) This was unknown to the American people

1962 In October a U.S. spy plane photographs the missile sites under construction. Kennedy decides upon a naval blockade of Cuba to halt the shipment of missiles which were then nearing Cuba. The Russian denied the existence of the base until photographs were produced. Russian mobilized her fleet and sent nuclear submarines to Cuban waters.

For a tense week both superpowers remained eyeball to eyeball as the ships approached the U.S. blockade. * One mistake could have sent the world crashing into nuclear holocaust. At the last moment Khrushchev blinked and recalled the missiles.

Outcome/Effects:

Soviet Union

removed missiles
dismantled base
serious public embarrassment
built thousands of ICBM's next 10 yrs.

United States

removed missiles in Turkey*
agreed to recognize Cuba
enhanced U.S. prestige
added to its own nuclear arsenal

Khrushchev

forced to resign within 2 years
accused of being weak

Kennedy

made a national hero

Disneyland Issue: citing security concerns the U.S. denied Khrushchev the opportunity to go to the Magic Kingdom.

Hotline Installed: placed in operation between the two nations so as avoid this situation in the future.

Sabre rattling between the two powers was toned down by both gov'ts from this time forward but, both militaries stepped up surveillance of each others movements

Future Soviet Premiers toned down the sabre rattling and began an policy of peaceful yet watchful coexistence with the U.S.

*20 years later the Freedom of Information Act revealed that Unknown to the American people, the U.S. removed missiles in Turkey as our part of the bargain.