COMMITTEE: Historical

Topic: Cuban Missile Crisis

Chairs: Matthew Deutsch and Lyon Teesdale

The Cuban Missile Crisis was an important moment in international politics and one that can be learned from to prevent a future crisis. It is arguably the closest the world has ever come to a full-scale nuclear conflict, and of course, we managed to avoid it. Therefore, we should be debating this and considering how we managed to avoid a large-scale conflict in this situation. A strong understanding of what prevented conflict here could help us to avoid a potential nuclear conflict in the future.

As mentioned, the Cuban Missile Crisis was the closest we have ever come to a nuclear war, and it happened when Soviet missiles were discovered in Cuba by US intelligence. When the US failed to overthrow the Castro regime in Cuba, Castro reached an agreement with Soviet premier Nikita Khrushchev to have Soviet nuclear weapons in the country to prevent any future invasion. But, during routine US surveillance flights, this build-up of arms was discovered, and the US issued a warning against having nuclear weapons in Cuba. However, further surveillance revealed that the weapons build up continued, and that there were Soviet Intermediate Range Ballistic Missiles (IRBMs) in the country.

We know that nuclear conflict was avoided in the Cuban Missile crisis, but the threat of nuclear war is still looming in today’s world. There are nations that constantly threaten nuclear warfare, such as North Korea, who uses this threat as a bargaining chip quite often to prove its legitimacy to the international community. In a way, the threat is larger than during the Cuban Missile Crisis, because many nations now possess Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs), capable of reaching a target almost anywhere in the world. So, it is up to us to figure out how to prevent such conflict, and the Cuban Missile Crisis was a successful attempt at preventing a global nuclear conflict, and thus there is much to learn from it.

For more background information about the crisis, check out this website: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis>

Esteemed delegates, we are honored to have the opportunity to moderate a conference on such a pertinent issue for the world today. Some might say there is no greater threat that faces the world than global nuclear conflict, and today it is our goal to prevent one. Some questions to consider when talking about this conflict may be: Why did the Soviet Union place weapons in Cuba in the first place? What concessions might the US make to get the weapons removed? If there are any further questions you have you can email me at [mattdeutsch17@gmail.com](mailto:mattdeutsch17@gmail.com)

**Listed below are the respective countries that delegates can choose from upon registration:**

United States

Soviet Union

Cuba

United Kingdom

France

West Germany

Canada

Belgium

Denmark

Italy

The Netherlands

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Portugal

Norway