

The Cuban Missile Crisis



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Who?

Sides

- United States - John F. Kennedy
- Russia - Premier Nikita Khrushchev
- Cuba - Fidel Castro



When? October 14, 1962- October 28, 1962

- October 14- U-2 flying over Cuba discovers missile site
- October 16- Kennedy calls a group meeting of the EX-COMM
 - discussed possible courses of action
- October 22- US goes into DEFCON 3

When? (continued)

- October 24- US goes into DEFCON 2
- October 25- EXCOMM purposes the removal of missiles in Turkey for Cuban missile removal
- October 28- Khrushchev agrees to remove Cuban missiles

Why?

Causes of the War

- Berlin Wall
- Cuban fear of invasion by the U.S.A.
- Soviet placement of missiles in Cuba
 - Deployment of missiles would double Soviet Firepower

The Naval Quarantine

- The U.S. surrounded Cuba forming a blockade
 - Didn't allow ships to go in and out of Cuba
- Two letters sent from Khrushchev to Kennedy
 - Remove missiles from Turkey
 - Answered publicly - Accepted
 - End Cuban Quarantine, and the missiles in Cuba would be removed
 - Privately answered - Negotiation was met

Solution

Limited Test Ban Treaty

- Banned nuclear testing above ground
 - eliminated radioactive fall-out that threatened to contaminate human, animal, and plant life.
 - Treaty permitted underground nuclear testing

Solution_(continued)

- US and Soviet Union continued to build bigger bombs

"An important first step toward peace, a step toward reason, a step away from war." -Kennedy



Vocabulary

- Castro - Leader of Cuba
- Kennedy - President of the United States
- Khrushchev - Premier of Russia
- Berlin Wall - a wall dividing East and West Germany
- EXCOMM - Group that advise the President during the Crisis
- DEFCON - A government alert posture ranging from 1 to 5
- Quarantine - Separating from a country or group