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CASILDA PORT

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**Joint Crisis Cabinet
Cuban Missile Crisis**

Study Guide

6 MISSILE TRANSPORTERS

1850

JCC: Cuban Missile Crisis

*“First, my hair caught fire.
 Into my eyes, the flames blew.
 I became a handful of ash,
 Into the air my ashes flew.”*

These words would be used to great effect in order to describe what happened on the 6th and 9th of August, 1945 in Japan. They were written in 1956, some 11 years after Hiroshima and Nagasaki were nuked by the US military. In 1945, there was a single country on Earth which was barely capable of producing a couple crude bombs. In 1956, there were 3 with possibly dozens of atomic devices

between them and almost half a dozen countries waiting in the endless queues of history to join them as well.

The United States of America built a nuclear bomb. Actually, they built two. The Soviets followed suit and built their own. Then the Soviets sent a satellite to orbit the Earth. So did the Americans. The Soviets went to the Moon and back – even though it was a simple robot that made the return trip – and the Americans one-upped them to send 3 people, land 2 on the surface and return them all. When the Soviets decided to rig elections in their favour, the Western powers resorted to dirtier election tactics; when they faced rightfully-elected leaders, they instituted coups d'état. So did the Soviets. And for almost half a century, the entire world was a giant ping-pong table with a live grenade waiting to explode and kill everyone with the simplest mistake standing in for the ball.

In Cuba, 1962, we see the same story: NATO, led by the US, decided to secretly arm Italy and Turkey with medium-range nuclear missiles. The USSR obliged and in the end each side had nuclear missiles 150 kilometers away from the other's home territory. Any escalation at that moment, any single mistaken push of a button could have resulted in a nuclear strike. And seeing as how communication between Moscow and Washington DC took 12 hours to transmit, translate and respond to; such a strike could end up causing another and another until the fallout of the whole incident wasn't measured in terms of international scandals but rather mushroom clouds seen in the horizon. The Missile Crisis in our past was not possibly the tensest moment of the entire Cold War because it had the most heavy armaments or the most stubborn leaders of any similar crisis. It was tense and about to break because all sides were essentially going in blind to the whole thing.

This guide is here to get you all ready for the situation you will be facing and to make sure you don't delve into it blindly like actual 20th century leaders had to. In the end, we might still get blown to pieces and the entire human race could still be exterminated. But until then, just relax and enjoy the view!

The Cuban Revolution

We will carry on

as we followed you then

and with Fidel we say to you:

“Until forever, Commander!”

-Farewell Letter to Che Guevara

Cuba, being the largest and – currently – the second most populous island in the Caribbean, has long been a focal point for European colonization of the region. Being a Spanish colony until the end of the 19th century, Latin influences on the island are widespread and far-reaching. But the era immediately following Cuba’s independence from Spain has also helped shaped the country’s identity in profound ways. Being an American protectorate for a couple of decade does have benefits as well as certain downsides after all. For Cuba, the benefits were general development and a boost to the economy: Cuba in 1952 was arguably the best-fed and most technologically advanced country in the entire Latin America on a per-capita basis. As for the downsides, due to rampant income inequality, around a third of the population never actually got to enjoy all the automobiles, telephones, radios and good food that was consumed. Poverty, inequality and lack of representation would pave the way for armed revolution when combined with the increasingly dictatorial alignment of the Batista administration.

And so the revolution came: led by brothers Fidel & Raul Castro, Commandante Che Guevara and many other Cubans and supported in secret by the International Left. Beginning with an attack on a relatively important military barracks and ending 6 years later with the overthrow and exile of Batista, Cuba was seemingly liberated and the new government inspired hope across Latin America and Africa; even intervening in conflicts like those in the Congo or Bolivia – where Che Guevara himself got killed. And this wave of supposed revolutionary fervour was not because Fidel Castro had declared Cuba to be a **communist state** but rather *despite* no such declaration being made. Between 1959 when the revolution succeeded, and December 1961, when Castro officially declared himself to be a Marxist-Leninist, Cuba was as neutral as any country that was being invaded by US-backed Counter-Revolutionary forces could be at the time.

Speaking of US-backed Counter-Revolutionaries, they were a pretty common sight in Cuba in those days. While tensions had been rising since the very beginning of the revolution

between the revolutionaries and the strongly pro-Batista US government, the events which led to the outright invasion in the place known as “the Bay of Pigs” were essentially a huge, entangled mess of positive-feedback loops: the US put pressure on the new Cuban government, which led to the government taking a hostile stance against the US and nationalizing US assets in the country which led to the US putting even more pressure and so on... until one day the pressure just wasn't enough and soon after, 1500 Cubans-in-exile invaded their former homeland with direct help from the US Airforce and the CIA.

As for the results... It was a major diplomatic failure for the United States. However, it was an even bigger failure for the Cuban counter-revolutionaries since most of them were either killed or captured and either imprisoned or executed outright. And the Cuban people showed that they were firmly behind Castro's new regime, giving him even more justification and political capital to move closer to the USSR. And so were the missiles deployed and the rest happens to be history...

The Story of How and Why we don't Drink Nuka-Cola These Days

Having recently survived a full-scale invasion and with a greater amount of public support than ever, Fidel Castro was now looking at ways to consolidate the Revolution's hold on the country as a whole and to provide a sufficient deterrent which would make the US think twice before attempting a second Bay of Pigs. The solution was ironically provided by the Americans themselves.

During the late 1950s and the early 1960s, neither the USA nor the USSR had any significant Intercontinental striking capacity which could sufficiently cripple the other great power of the time. In fact, it is now believed that just before the Cuban Missile Crisis, the USSR had a grand total of 4(four) ICBM's or **Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles**. However, what was even more troubling than their shortcomings was the fact that both sides also severely over-estimated the other as well – or at least appeared to do so with President Kennedy especially using the supposed threat of the Soviet ICBM arsenal to gather public support.

Yet while ICBM's were at short supply back then, slightly more humble medium-range missiles were plentiful. NATO deployed multitudes of these in their frontlines against the Soviets: most notably in Italy, where there was still a significant socialist threat (Seeing as how Italy is the birthplace of Bella Ciao...) as well as at Incirlik Airbase in Turkey. The United Kingdom was also host to a respectable amount of Thor-series Medium Ranged Missiles. While these weapons were relatively inaccurate, using enough of them in high

concentration could still prove deadly. The problem with using such weapons on the Soviet end wasn't really their production or accuracy though, it was the fact that while almost all of Europe and most of Alaska was well within the range of these missiles, the Americans didn't care about almost all of Europe – and let's face it, most of Alaska – and the 48 continental states of the USA were well outside the striking distance of Soviet bases at the time. For these reasons, the opening up of Cuba to a potential missile installation was simply an unimaginable opportunity for the USSR. Not only would they be able to continue with the symbolism of a Glorious Worker's Revolution overthrowing a decadent dictatorship, but they would also be able to nuke the entire US Eastern Seaboard with the push of a button.

Thus began the Soviet operations for arming the island. However, seeing the uniqueness of this opportunity and the high stakes, Soviet High Command took every possible measure for deception that they could before and during the operation. Soldiers heading to Cuba were issued winter equipment and told that they were carrying defensive weapons and other miscellaneous items. Khrushchev personally ensured Kennedy time and again that installing surface-to-surface missiles in Cuba was out of question. In reality, 9 different missile launch sites were being built with effective ranges of up to 4500 km.

Meanwhile, the USA was having some problems in terms of intelligence gathering. Not only had the spectacular failure of the Bay of Pigs made any involvement in and around Cuba a risky prospect, several U-2 Spy Planes had been shot around the globe as well, some of them causing minor diplomatic incidents. Using them for reconnaissance purposes was also out of question for some while. Satellite imagery was tried, but also failed due to weather conditions. In the end however, US Navy Intelligence finally managed to spot what appeared to be Medium Jet Bomber Fuselages and surface-to-air missiles which indicated that not only were the Soviets sending heavy armaments to Cuba, they were also trying to cover their bases against aerial attacks, which would've been very important for missile silos. And after seeing the way these were arranged, certain American analysts started to get really suspicious.

Finally, on October 15, CIA analysts managed to identify what almost certainly appeared to be medium-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying thermonuclear warheads. The President was notified. All bets were now off and the World once again stood at the brink of war...

Timeline of Major Events

August 1945: Nuclear Bombs Fall on Japan, USSR Hastens its Own Nuclear Program

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August 1949: First USSR Nuclear Test Succeeds, USSR is Now a Nuclear Power

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October 1949: East Germany Founded, Tensions Rise in Europe

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1950: The Korean War Starts, Lasting Until 1950

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March-December 1953: Stalin Dies, Khrushchev Succeeds Him, Beria is Executed

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26 July 1953: The Cuban Revolution Begins

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May 14 1955: The Warsaw Pact is Founded, the “Iron Curtain” Is Practically Formed

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October 4 1957: Sputnik 1 Launched, First Satellite in Orbit

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November 15 1957: Khrushchev Claims the USSR has Missile Superiority over the US

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August 1958: Missiles Deployed Within Strike Range of Moscow, in the UK

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January 1 1959: The Cuban Revolution Succeeds, Castro Does not Publicly Declare Communism

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April 1960: Missiles Deployed in Italy, Also Within Strike Range of the USSR

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April 12 1961: Yuri Gagarin Becomes the First Human to Orbit the Earth

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April 17 1961: Bay of Pigs Invasion Begins, Ends in Complete Failure 2 Days Later

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June 1961: Medium-Range Missiles Deployed in Turkey

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December 2 1961: Fidel Castro Comes Out As Marxist-Leninist

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April 1962: More Missiles Deployed in Turkey

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July 1962: Secret Agreement Reached Between Castro and Khrushchev on Deploying Missiles to Cuba

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September 11 1962: Soviet Union Warns the US that Any Attack on Cuba or Soviet Shipments to Cuba would Mean WAR

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September 8-16 1962: First Shipment of Missiles to Cuba Arrives

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October 14 1962: First Photographic Evidence of Missiles Obtained by the US

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October 15 1962: Missiles Identified in Cuba, the President is Alerted

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And the rest is up to you!

Profiles:**Anastas Mikoyan**

Being an Old Bolshevik, your membership in the Communist Party goes back to before the Revolution of 1917, and yet you have managed to survive through Lenin, Stalin AND Khrushchev and seen 2 world wars. Now, you've been sent to the lovely little island nation of Cuba, where you can see the USA's southern shores on a clear day as the USSR's top diplomat in the region. Even though you were originally sceptical to the idea of arming the Cubans with missiles, what is done is done and now you must do all that you can to resolve the crisis and convince Castro to back down even if a little. And if not? *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*

Rodion Malinovsky

You are a Marshal and the Defence Minister of the Soviet Union and have fought long and hard to see it defeat the Fascist menace in Stalingrad and Budapest both. While you are a personal friend of Premier Khrushchev, you are certainly not afraid of disagreeing with him on key issues. The future of combat lies in missile warfare and rapid modernization, that much you both agree upon. But how that modernization will be achieved and how exactly the missiles will be used to complement a standing army is up to you for the most part. And if the Honourable Premier goes a little too far in search of a *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*, there are always discontent elements within the Soviet Army waiting to be contacted...

Issa Pliyev

Despite coming from a cavalry officer background, you have been steadfast and effective in adapting to new military advancements and even pioneered the mechanization of the Soviet Army in certain cases. Now, being the commander of the Soviet forces stationed in Cuba, not only are you required to coordinate efforts between the different branches of the Red Army stationed in the island but you must also prepare for the worse (that is, a *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*) while working to achieve the best for your Motherland as well as the human race as a whole. How will it all end? Time will tell...

Giorgi Abashvili

Oddly enough for a naval officer, you are against the usage of huge cannons loaded with a few firkins of metal for solving any and every problem you encounter. And again, oddly for a naval officer, you are going through a hell of a blockade half a world away from your homeland. Coordinating with your superiors as well as fellow commanders and foreign representatives in the area will be key to your survival during the blockade. But the real question isn't if you are ready to survive the blockade: it is whether or not you are prepared to breach it and use force - even if such usage of force could ensure a third world war and the *NUCLEAR FALLOUT* that follows.

Raul Castro

As if fighting the repressive dictator Batista and then repulsing a full-blown invasion of his cronies wasn't enough, you are now required to prepare for a possible defence of Mother Russ... I mean, Cuba of course. Thankfully, your memories of the good old days fighting alongside your brother Fidel and Commandante Che Guevara are still fresh and you are not one to shy away from a fight. Though the prospect of mutually assured destruction and *NUCLEAR FALLOUT* might cause more than a few sleepless nights for you, your belief in the goodness of man and a brighter future will surely persist.

Che Guevara

Commandante! You are perhaps the most iconic revolutionary this world has ever seen! Certainly young comrades in the future shall find joy from stories of your heroism and fraternity and wear shirts inscribed with your image! And surely, you shall also persevere and defeat the American invaders just as you have done countless times before. And *NUCLEAR FALLOUT* or not, we are fully supportive of your views that bringing those Soviet missiles to Cuba was a necessity for self-defence. Hasta Siempre, Commandante!

Amintore Fanfani

You are one of the founders of the Italian centre-left and were a part of the more socially progressive left-wing of the Christian Democratic Party. Your philosophy can be summarized as "trying to balance capitalism and christianity". Your goal was to reduce the less charitable aspects of capitalism and to infuse it with a more socially conscious spirit while making sure to include as little *NUCLEAR FALLOUT* as possible.

The Italians proved themselves "the easier sell" in contrast to Turkey and you weren't "overly disturbed" by the U.S.'s proposal to dismantle the Jupiters and replace the MGM-Corporals in Italy (nuclear-armed tactical ground to ground missiles) with Sergeants (short-range, solid fuel, surface to surface missiles; which is a promotion of sorts). The U.S initiative which reiterated the substitution later annoyed Italian political leaders, and you of course, as they worried Italy would lose the elevated status it enjoyed over nonnuclear members of NATO and felt that the U.S. hadn't considered the domestic political problems withdrawal would cause for them. Despite all this, no Italian leader seriously considered objecting to the withdrawal.

Ilhami Sancar

You will serve as the minister of national defense of Turkey in its 26th, 27th, 28th, 36th and 38th cabinets alongside Inonu, Talu and Irmak.

You and Cemal Erkin performed a good cop-bad cop routine in response to the US's proposal to withdraw the Jupiters (medium range ballistic missiles with nuclear tips) from Turkey. You expressed concern over the possible effects of the removal on Turkish morale and confidence in NATO, and wasn't favorable of the removal of the MRBMs before, throughout or after the missile crisis. Which received rather mixed reactions due to these

devices' potential for causing obscene amounts of *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*.

If you make it out alive, you will be one of the founding members of CGP (Republican Trust Party), which is a party founded as a result of the ruction within CHP (Republican People's Party) caused by Bulent Ecevit and Ismet Inönü's endorsement of centre-left politics.

Feridun Cemal Erkin

You will serve as the foreign minister of Turkey in its 26th, 27th and 28th cabinets.

You were notorious for your unconditional support to the United States and followed a policy against the USSR in the years before and during your time in the cabinet.

You expressed that you were not against the U.S.'s proposal to withdraw the Jupiters from Turkey as long as the United States provided alternative means of demonstrating its commitment to Turkish security. Aside from Turkish security, not being "shown up by Italy" was also one of your top priorities, so was avoiding - or in some cases advocating - *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*.

Robert McNamara

As the longest-serving Secretary of Defense in US History with a tenure of 7 years ((Which is apparently *really* long for Secretaries of Defense. Wonder why...)) you will forever be known as the ingenious mind who commissioned a book on what to do in case of *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*. That being said, you have also done your best to keep all those trigger-happy cowboys [JFK's words, not mine!] in the EXCOMM from launching any missiles and advocated a war of attrition and containment through the implementation of a blockade, as any sensible human being would. And seeing as how being a sensible human being isn't a popular quality amongst the armed forces, you do have your fair share of arguments with some relatively more warlike colleagues of yours. Could these instances of sheer disagreement spell out the end of your career and possibly life, or are they simply a bargaining tactic used to make others see eye-to-eye with you? That's up to you to decide.

Maxwell D. Taylor

Commended by both Kennedy's as a man of unquestionable integrity, sincerity, intelligence, and diplomacy, you have always been there when the President needed the backing of a hardy military man. However, being a hardy military man who unconditionally backs the president he has sworn to and being a member of the joint chiefs of staff whose duties are to provide accurate, unbiased and truthful information and to facilitate communications between the military and civilian leadership are not always compatible. And while you do enjoy a good *NUCLEAR FALLOUT* or two as much as the next general in line, you also believe that conventional forces need to play a continued role in the country's defence. And if there is one thing that is certain about you, that is the fact that your loyalties to the president and the country and the military and your ideas on doctrine will get tested during this crucial ordeal.

Robert F. Kennedy

Being the confidant and perhaps the closest advisor of your brother, president John F. Kennedy was no easy task. And neither was breaking an international policy or two in order to contact Soviet officials even at the most heated moments of the crisis so that communications did not get completely shut off between the two powers. And then again, it's probably your own brother who summarised your contribution to the crisis the best by saying "Thank God for Bobby." with the implication being that "Thank God for Bobby, since he has managed to prevent total *NUCLEAR FALLOUT*" While you are a master negotiator and a trustable source for pretty much everything JFK himself knows, there are still some factions who could be holding grudges towards you over your conviction towards preserving the peace - as tenuous as that peace might be. Oh and, make sure to be careful around enraged 24-year-old Palestinian activists. Just a piece of friendly advice, nothing more.