



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



Cuban Missile Crisis

I. Background

The Cuban Missile Crisis is considered to be the closest the United States and the Soviet Union came to nuclear war during the Cold War. In October of 1962 President John F. Kennedy was informed of a U2 spy plane's discovery of nuclear-tipped missiles in Cuba, over the next 13 days the Soviet Union and the United States entered into a period of mutually promised nuclear destruction – had war been declared over 100 million Russians and 100 million American's would have been killed. An ultimatum was set that if the missiles were not removed the U.S. would bomb Cuba within 24 hours; however, if the missiles were removed then the U.S. would remove missiles from Turkey. The ultimatum would be accepted at the last minute by Khrushchev.

This committee will take place on October 20th, 1962 – three days after the missiles were discovered by the United States and on the third day of tense discussions with the Soviet Union. Mediation efforts have begun, but neither agreements nor suspensions made. The United Nations has not yet sent any requests for suspensions or peace talks to either the United States or the Soviet Union.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations was a crucial mediator in the Cuban Missile Crisis. On October 24th the United Nations appealed for a Soviet suspension of arms shipments and a U.S. suspension of quarantine. It was believed that through these suspensions a more neutral environment would be created allowing for peaceful mediation. Both sides denied this, but President Kennedy asked for the U.N. to request that the Soviet Union stop arms shipments for a few days in order to arrange preliminary talks. A second appeal would be sent on October 25th and eventually the suspensions were made. As time passed Khrushchev would eventually accept the ultimatum set by the United States and the missiles would be removed from Cuba and the United States.

III. Possible Solutions

As a nation you can take the action of your country in 1962, but now you have the opportunity to completely change the path you set forward in the Cuban Missile Crisis. The United States will once more have the opportunity to set forward an ultimatum, or can take a more aggressive course of action when dealing with the Soviet Union. Changes to the ultimatum



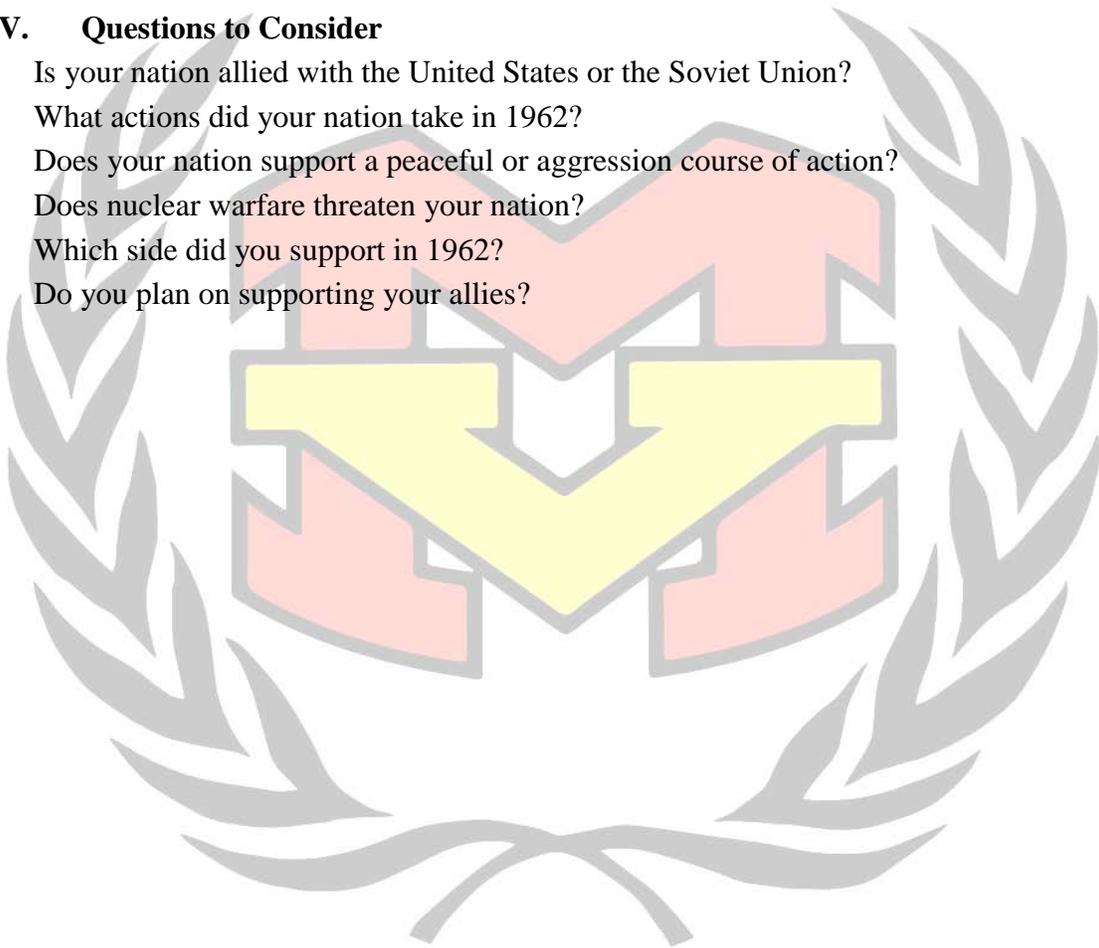
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may be presented and nations will have the opportunity to remain with their allies in this issue, or show support for a different course of action. The goal is to avoid another war and new considerations toward nuclear weapons must be made – as seen with Hiroshima and Nagasaki, nuclear weapons have a devastating effect.

IV. Questions to Consider

- Is your nation allied with the United States or the Soviet Union?
- What actions did your nation take in 1962?
- Does your nation support a peaceful or aggression course of action?
- Does nuclear warfare threaten your nation?
- Which side did you support in 1962?
- Do you plan on supporting your allies?





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