**Conference**: TEA MUN
**Committee**: SECURITY COUNCIL
**Topic**: The Cuban Missile Crisis
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## Introduction to Committee:

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main bodies of the United Nations and is in charge of international peace and security. Set up in 1945, the body is made up of 15 member states; of which five are permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), each having the right to veto, while ten others serve for two years at a time. This body tackles international security concerns, such as any type of international conflict through diplomatic talks, and military intervention/sanctions where necessary. Unlike other organizations within the UN, the UNSC has the mandate to pass binding resolutions. Veto power refers to the ability granted to the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to reject a resolution proposed in the Security Council by voting against it irrespective of its popularity among other member states.

## Abstract:

One of the most perilous crises during the Cold War era was that of the Cuban Missile Crisis which occurred in the month of October 1962. The installation of Soviet nuclear missiles on the island of Cuba created tension between the United States and the Soviet Union and posed a threat to peace and security internationally. To counter this problem, the United States implemented naval quarantine in Cuba, whereas the Soviet Union justified their military presence on the island. Diplomatic tensions reached such a level that the United Nations Security Council served as an important forum for negotiations and discussion to avoid any possible nuclear warfare.The UN expects delegates to discuss and find compromises to end the conflict.

## Definition of Key Terms:

- **Cold War:** This refers to a period of geopolitical tensions and ideological conflict that existed between the United States and the Soviet Union and lasted from around 1947 to 1991.
- **Eastern Bloc:** The term Eastern Bloc refers to a number of communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe, which were allied to the Soviet Union during the Cold War era.

- **Western Bloc:** It is used to refer to a number of mainly capitalist and democratic countries that were allies to the United States during the Cold War era.
- **Capitalism:** Capitalism is an economic system in which individuals own businesses and other sources of production with the objective of making profits.
- **Communism:** Communism is a political-economic ideology whereby all means of production are owned collectively and whose ultimate goal is the creation of a classless society.
- **Nuclear Deterrence:** Military tactic intended to deter any attacks on an enemy through the threat of massive nuclear retaliation.
- **Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD):** Concept within nuclear deterrence according to which both enemies have enough nuclear weapons to destroy each other, deterring either party from launching any kind of nuclear strike.
- **Brinkmanship:** Diplomatic policy consisting of bringing tensions to the edge of war in order to force an adversary to make compromises.
- **Naval Quarantine:** A military tactic of restricting the movement of some goods in a specific zone; for instance, the United States set up a naval quarantine during the Cuban Missile Crisis in order to stop sending further military equipment to Cuba.
- **Ballistic Missile:** Missile with a predetermined trajectory after its active part of flight that could be equipped with conventional or nuclear warhead.
- Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM): Ballistic missile able to hit a target located 3,000–5,500 kilometers from it; it is possible that such missiles are nuclear warheads.
- **Sovereignty:** The right of the state to rule itself and exert power over its domain free of any foreign interference.
- **Espionage:** The art of collecting classified military, political, or strategic information about another country through secret means.
- **Diplomatic Negotiations:** Dialogue held between officials of two states with the intent of solving their disputes and avoiding conflict.
- **Escalation:** The process by which the parties to a conflict step up their activities and take more aggressive actions against each other.
- **Proxy War:** A war between rival states which have the backing of other, more powerful countries who themselves do not fight each other.

- **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM):** A set of countries that tried to remain neutral in regard to the U.S.-led Western and Soviet-led Eastern blocs during the Cold War period.

## Historical Background:

### Date of crisis: 16–28 October 1962

### Location: Cuba, the Caribbean Sea, and the United States

The Cuban Missile Crisis took place in October 1962, during the Cold War, when tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union reached a point where nuclear war seemed like a real possibility. The conflict had been building for years, ever since the end of the Second World War. The two countries had very different political and economic systems. The United States supported capitalism, while the Soviet Union promoted communism. Both wanted to expand their influence around the world, and neither trusted the other. This led to years of political disagreements and an arms race, with both countries constantly trying to strengthen their military power.

Things became more complicated after Fidel Castro led the Cuban Revolution in January 1959, overthrowing the government of Fulgencio Batista, which had close ties to the United States. Once in power, Castro introduced socialist policies and nationalised several American-owned businesses. He also began building stronger relations with the Soviet Union. The American government was unhappy with these changes, especially because Cuba was so close to its territory. Relations became even worse in April 1961, when the United States supported an invasion by Cuban exiles in an attempt to remove Castro from power. The operation, known as the Bay of Pigs Invasion, failed. Instead of weakening Castro's government, it pushed Cuba closer to the Soviet Union and increased fears of another American attempt to invade the island.

After the Bay of Pigs invasion, Cuba began receiving more military and economic support from the Soviet Union. In 1962, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev approved a secret operation known as Operation Anadyr, which involved sending Soviet troops, military equipment, and nuclear missiles to Cuba. Khrushchev wanted to protect Cuba from another possible American invasion. He also saw the deployment as a way to respond to the American nuclear missiles stationed in Turkey, which were within range of Soviet territory. The operation was carried out in secret because the Soviet Union wanted to complete the deployment before the United States discovered what was happening.

On 14 October 1962, an American U-2 spy plane photographed Soviet missile sites being constructed in Cuba. President John F. Kennedy was informed of the discovery two days later. He immediately began meeting with his advisers to discuss how the United States should respond. Some officials supported launching airstrikes against the missile sites, while others believed this could lead to a much larger war. Kennedy eventually announced on 22 October that the United States would impose a naval quarantine around Cuba to stop further Soviet military shipments from reaching the island. He also demanded that the Soviet Union remove the missiles already there. The announcement caused serious concern internationally, especially as Soviet ships continued approaching the American naval forces. For several days, the possibility of a direct confrontation between the two countries remained very real.

On 25 October, the crisis was brought before the United Nations Security Council, where the United States presented photographs of the Soviet missile installations. During the meeting, American Ambassador Adlai Stevenson directly confronted Soviet representative Valerian Zorin, demanding that he confirm or deny the existence of the missiles. The exchange attracted international attention and put further pressure on the Soviet Union. Behind the scenes, both governments were trying to find a way out of the situation. On 26 October, Khrushchev sent Kennedy a message offering to remove the Soviet missiles if the United States promised not to invade Cuba. However, on 27 October, another message was sent demanding that American Jupiter missiles also be removed from Turkey. That same day, an American U-2 aircraft was shot down over Cuba, making an already dangerous situation even more difficult to control.

On 28 October 1962, Khrushchev announced that the Soviet Union would remove its nuclear missiles from Cuba, bringing the immediate crisis to an end. The agreement included a public American promise not to invade Cuba and a separate, confidential agreement to remove American Jupiter missiles from Turkey. Although Fidel Castro was not directly involved in the final negotiations between Kennedy and Khrushchev, the decision had a major impact on Cuba and its future relationship with both superpowers. The crisis exposed just how close the world had come to nuclear war and showed the risks of allowing political tensions to escalate without communication. It also led to improved communication between Washington and Moscow, including the establishment of a direct communication link between the two governments in 1963.

## Possible Solutions

- Caribbean Nuclear-Free Zone: Prohibit the deployment and storage of nuclear weapons throughout designated areas of the Caribbean.

- **Neutral UN Inspection Commission:** Establish an independent team of neutral countries to oversee the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba.

- **Cuban Sovereignty Guarantee:** Secure an international agreement guaranteeing that the United States will not invade Cuba, while preventing the deployment of offensive nuclear weapons on the island.

- **Reciprocal Missile Withdrawal:** Negotiate the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba and American Jupiter missiles from Turkey.

- **Emergency Superpower Hotline:** Establish a direct communication line between Washington and Moscow to prevent misunderstandings during military emergencies.

- **Caribbean Maritime Monitoring:** Introduce neutral UN observers to monitor military shipments entering and leaving Cuba.

- **Three-Party Security Conference:** Organise negotiations involving Cuba, the United States, and the Soviet Union, ensuring Cuba has an equal voice in decisions concerning its territory.

- **Nuclear Deployment Notification Treaty:** Require nuclear-armed states to notify the UN before deploying nuclear weapons outside their territories.

- **Temporary Military De-escalation Zone:** Restrict additional military deployments around Cuba until a diplomatic agreement is reached.

- **UN-Guaranteed Non-Aggression Pact:** Establish an agreement prohibiting military aggression against Cuba, supported by international guarantees

## UN CHARTER ARTICLES TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Article 1 Establishes the UN's responsibility to maintain international peace and security.
- Article 2(1) Establishes the principle of sovereign equality among any of theMember States.
- Article 2(3) Requires Member States to settle international disputes through peaceful means.
- Article 2(4) Prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.
- Article 33 Encourages peaceful dispute settlement through negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and other methods.
- Article 39 Authorises the Security Council to determine the existence of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression.

- Article 51 Recognises the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs.

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