

The Cuban Missile Crisis

America had developed own ICBM's
Also... Polaris missiles (that could be fired from submarines)
Had placed missiles in Europe + Turkey.

Cuba allied with USSR - made trade agreement.

April - Bay of Pigs - Kennedy supplied arms, equipment and transport to Cuban exiles to invade Cuba.

July - Cuba had best equipped army in Latin America.

14th Oct - American Spy Plane - spots missile sites in Cuba.

20th Oct - Kennedy decides on a blockade of Cuba.

23rd Oct - Kennedy receives a letter from Khrushchev saying that Soviet ships will not observe the blockade. He does not admit to the presence of missiles (nuclear) on Cuba.

25th Oct - Aerial photography reveals that work on the missile bases is proceeding rapidly.
Oct 27th - Khrushchev sends a 2nd letter - changes conditions - USA must remove missiles from Turkey. An American plane is shot down - Kennedy is advised to attack.

He decides to delay this attack - decides to ignore the 2nd letter but accepts the conditions of the 1st publicly but accepts conditions of 2nd in secret.

1956

1957 USSR tested first ICBM's - encouraged idea of missile gap.

1958

1959 Cuban Revolution -
Fidel Castro Vs Batista
(Communist) (Dictator supported by Americans)

1960

1961 New president - John F Kennedy.

1962

May - USSR makes public announcement that it was supplying Cuba with arms.

11th Sept - Kennedy warned USSR it would prevent Cuba from becoming a missile base.

16th Oct - Kennedy is informed of missile buildup.

22nd Oct - Kennedy announces the blockade and calls on the USSR to withdraw its missiles.

24th Oct - The blockade begins. The 20 Soviet ships which are closest to the zone, stop or turn around.

26th Oct - Kennedy receives a personal letter from Khrushchev - claims the missiles on Cuba are purely defensive. Gives conditions for the removal of the missile.

Oct 28th - Khrushchev replies - agrees to dismantle arms on Cuba.