

## “Good Evening, My Fellow Citizens”

*Following is the speech delivered by President John F. Kennedy on October 22, 1962, informing the American public and the international community of the missile crisis in Cuba. This crisis brought the world very close to nuclear war. Read the speech and then answer the questions that follow. You can use the notebooking page to answer the questions if you wish.*

Good evening my fellow citizens:

This Government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet Military buildup on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the Western Hemisphere.

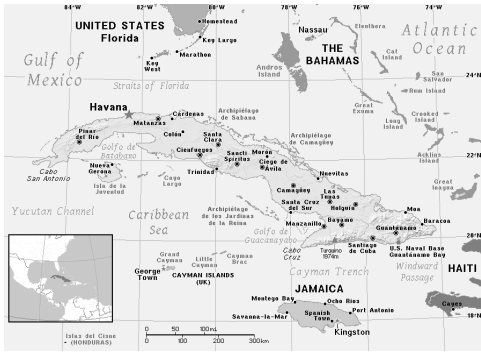
Upon receiving the first preliminary hard information of this nature last Tuesday morning at 9 a.m., I directed that our surveillance be stepped up. And having now confirmed and completed our evaluation of the evidence and our decision on a course of action, this Government feels obliged to report this new crisis to you in fullest detail.

The characteristics of these new missile sites indicate two distinct types of installations. Several of them include medium range ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead for a distance of more than 1,000 nautical miles. Each of these missiles, in short, is capable of striking Washington, D.C., the Panama Canal, Cape Canaveral, Mexico City, or any other city in the southeastern part of the United States, in Central America, or in the Caribbean area.

Additional sites not yet completed appear to be designed for intermediate range ballistic missiles—capable of traveling more than twice as far—and thus capable of striking most of the major cities in the Western Hemisphere, ranging as far north as Hudson Bay, Canada, and as far south as Lima, Peru. In addition, jet bombers, capable of carrying nuclear weapons, are now being uncrated and assembled in Cuba, while the necessary air bases are being prepared.

This urgent transformation of Cuba into an important strategic base—by the presence of these large, long range, and clearly offensive weapons of sudden mass destruction—constitutes an explicit threat to the peace and security of all the Americas, in flagrant and deliberate defiance of the Rio Pact of 1947, the traditions of this Nation and hemisphere, the joint resolution of the 87th Congress, the Charter of the United Nations, and my own public warnings to the Soviets on September 4 and 13. This action also contradicts the repeated assurances of Soviet spokesmen, both publicly and privately delivered, that the arms buildup in Cuba would retain its original defensive character, and that the Soviet Union had no need or desire to station strategic missiles on the territory of any other nation.

The size of this undertaking makes clear that it has been planned for some months. Yet only last month, after I had made clear the distinction between any introduction of ground-to-ground missiles and the existence of defensive anti-aircraft missiles, the Soviet Government publicly stated on



8. The United States and the Soviet Union Ambassadors debated publically in the halls of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- United Nations                      Congress                      White House
9. Fidel Castro urged Nikita Khrushchev to begin a \_\_\_\_\_ first strike if the United States invaded Cuba.
- naval                      nuclear                      military
10. An American \_\_\_\_\_ plane flying over Cuba was shot down, and the pilot was killed.
- U-4                      U-2                      U-6
11. President Kennedy resisted advice to bring immediate military action against the Soviet Union and instead pushed for \_\_\_\_\_.
- doing nothing                      action against Cuba                      negotiations
12. Air Force \_\_\_\_\_ carrier squadrons were brought to active duty in case they were needed.
- troop                      helicopter                      jet
13. An understanding was reached in which the Soviet Union would remove the missiles from Cuba, with the \_\_\_\_\_ supervising the action, and the United States would agree not to invade Cuba.
- Air Force                      United Nations                      Navy
14. Additionally, it was secretly agreed that the United States would eventually remove their \_\_\_\_\_ missiles from Turkey.
- Saturn                      Apollo                      Jupiter
15. The \_\_\_\_\_ publicly announced it had accepted the solution and the missiles would be removed from Cuba in exchange for a pledge from the United States not to invade Cuba.
- Cuban government                      Soviet Union                      United Nations

To enforce this order, the Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate measures to prevent the delivery of prohibited materiel to Cuba, employing the land, sea and air forces of the United States in \_\_\_\_\_ with any forces that may be made available by other American States.

The Secretary of Defense may make such \_\_\_\_\_ and issue such directives as he deems necessary to ensure the \_\_\_\_\_ of this order, including the designation, within a reasonable distance of Cuba, of prohibited or \_\_\_\_\_ zones and of prescribed routes.

Any vessel or craft which may be \_\_\_\_\_ toward Cuba may be \_\_\_\_\_ and may be directed to identify itself, its cargo, equipment and stores and its \_\_\_\_\_ of call, to stop, to lie to, to submit to visit and \_\_\_\_\_, or to proceed as directed. Any vessel or craft which fails or refuses to respond to or comply with directions shall be subject to being taken into \_\_\_\_\_. Any vessel or craft which it is believed is en route to Cuba and may be carrying \_\_\_\_\_ materiel or may itself constitute such materiel shall, wherever possible, be directed to proceed to another \_\_\_\_\_ of its own choice and shall be taken into custody if it fails or refuses to obey such directions. All vessels or craft taken into custody shall be sent into a port of the United States for appropriate \_\_\_\_\_.

In carrying out this order, force shall not be used except in case of failure or refusal to comply with directions, or with regulations or directives of the Secretary of Defense issued hereunder, after \_\_\_\_\_ efforts have been made to communicate them to the vessel or craft, or in case of self-defense. In any case, force shall be used only to the \_\_\_\_\_ necessary.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States of America to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Done in the City of Washington this twenty-third day of October in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and eighty-seventh.

subversive	search	restricted	threaten	regulations	affixed	interdict
disposition	accordance	Marxist	ports	cooperation	endangered	Consultation
warheads	Sino-Soviet	security	custody	offensive	effectiveness	intercepted
proceeding	prohibited	reasonable	proclaim	extent	conferred	regime
ballistic	bomber	effectuating	hemisphere	armed	rockets	destination