



EXCOMM

: THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

Jewoo Han and
Sarah Moon

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear GECMUN II participants,

Hello! I am Jewoo Han (it's my Korean name, no one gets it right the first time, don't be afraid to ask how to pronounce it), and I will be the director of this crisis committee. I have various MUN experiences at the domestic and international level. I was the director at GECMUN I for the Communist Party of Yugoslavia crisis committee. At GECMUN II, I will be serving as your Director at the EXCOMM committee.

Crisis style can be very different from the traditional MUN UNA-USA or THIMUN style, and preparation is very different in order to succeed. To be successful in crisis style committees, which are often high pressure and high intensity, I would recommend that you make sure to research what type of specific powers your delegation possesses. Having information that another delegate may not could provide you with the upper-hand in committee, this could be the difference between a successful and unsuccessful crisis experience. Other than logistics, I think it's really cool to be in this committee considering when someone asks you which conference you are in, you can simply say 'Executive', fix your blazer, then walk away leaving them to the clicking sound of your dress shoes.

For any other information about GECMUN, this committee specifically, or just questions for me, please revert to: jwhan18@kis.ac (preferred) or jewoo.han525@gmail.com

Sincerely,
Jewoo Han

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the Global Education City Model United Nations 2015! This is Sarah (Sueshin) Moon, a junior attending Branksome Hall Asia. First of all, it is an utmost honor for me to serve as the chair of the EXCOMM in the second GECMUN conference. Since this is my second year of chairing at GECMUN, I promise you the best quality of MUN conference and from the bottom of my heart welcome you all. In GECMUN, I aim to provide as much opportunity as possible to all students around the Global Education City. Hence, I sincerely wish for the participants to enjoy the conference as much as they can.

I have a wide-range of MUN experiences not only in Korea but also in other countries, such as in the US. With my passion and experiences, I will do my best to reach out to each and every delegate to help you guys prepare for the conference. Do not hesitate to contact me or the director via email, ssmoon17@kis.ac, as I know how challenging it is and how nervous one can get participating in an crisis committee, especially if it is your first experience. Last but not least, I believe that GECMUN will not only provide a rich Model UN experiences but also have unforgettable memories for all the participants.

I wish you the best luck in your preparation and look forward to meeting you in February.

Sincerely,
Sarah Moon

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What is EXCOMM?

EXCOMM, stands for Executive Committee, a panel of advisors established by president John F. Kennedy in 1962. The president during this time required a group of specialists in various parts of the government body to come together to deal with the rising threat of communism growing in the East. Primarily the committee was really brought together when soviet ballistic missiles were placed in Cuba after negotiations between the presidents of Cuba (Fidel Castro) and the leader of the USSR (Nikita Khrushchev).

Delegation Information

Delegates please be informed that big roles such as John F. Kennedy, Fidel Castro, Nikita Khrushchev, etc, will be represented by the director.

Dean Rusk (Secretary of State)

Robert Mcnamara (Secretary of Defense)

Dean Acheson (Former Secretary of State and advisor)

Adlai E. Stevenson (US delegate/representative at the UN)

Theodore Sorenson (Special Council representative)

J. Edgar Hoover (Director of Federal Bureau of Investigation)

Bundy McGeorge (Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs)

Paul Nitze (Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs)

George Ball (Under Secretary of State)

Douglas Dillon (Secretary of Treasury)

Maxwell Taylor (Chairman of Joint Chief of Staff)

Llewellyn Thompson (Ambassador At-Large)

John McCone (Director of Central Intelligence Agency)

Roswell Gilpatric (Deputy Secretary of Defense)

EVENTS THAT LEAD UP TO THE COLD WAR



The end of World War II marked the start of a giant game of pick-a-side on an international level, between The Allied forces, and the Soviet Union. The Yalta conference in 1945 was the catalyst for events that would lead up to the Cold War. Following the conference, Great Britain, lead by Winston Churchill established their leadership position in Europe along with various territories. President Roosevelt not about to take on another major conflict, and Stalin not really holding up to his promises really just kept expanding communist controlled satellite states. Europe being a prime example of this conflict, the 'Iron Curtain' which was a border established from the Soviet dominated Council of Mutual Economic Assistance with the Warsaw Pact, and the other side being the US lead North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Besides the physical border this represents the first major split following World War II. With the Nazi's gone, the British pulling out of the conflict it only left eastern Europe to be consumed by Soviet Communism as the West would side with the capitalistic United States. The primary reason (besides the fact that mutual destruction is not a great option for both sides) that the Cold War was so 'cold' is because there were always the eyes of the international committee glaring at them, waiting for one to step over the line. The UN, even if it was a US established organization is still the unbiased middle ground and its actions are only based around justifiable causes such as; funding, UN peacekeeping forces, and UN political influences. Britain during this time was simply sitting down, assisting the UN whenever called upon, which was seldom. Great Britain wished to stay away from conflict, as the rest of the world shared this sentiment. However, as time progressed, one by one, nations were forced to choose sides in this so-called "Cold War".

Slowly but surely these situations arose leading to a very obvious and apparent conflict, both sides pushed to the brink of another war breaking out. So, how did the two states show their own dominance? By splitting more territories up and fighting indirectly against each other so it's not a technical 'war' but rather a feud between the two states, and the two ideologies. These were also known as "proxy wars", a prime example being the Korean and Vietnam Wars during the 1950s and 60s.

The roots of the Korean War begin as early as 1910, when Korea was still under Japanese colonization. Following the nuclear bomb incidents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan surrendered in 1950, the Axis powers were destroyed, and additionally Korea was liberated. However, following the end of World War II under common agreement, Soviet Russia occupied the north side of the 38th parallel and US-UN forces supporting the South.

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During the effort of repelling the Japanese two government bodies emerged from both sides in Korea claiming to be the rightful governing party with neither side yielding any territory beyond the 38th parallel. The North being backed up by Soviet Russia and China invaded the South in June of 1950, The UN Security council, being unbiased recognize this as an act of invasion against conduct and would order a ceasefire from both sides. But that failing, the Security council would pass Resolution S/RES/83 which would accept the south's 'Complaint of aggression against The Republic of Korea, and dispatch a UN force consisting of 22 different contributing states personnel in the defending of South Korea. 88% of the UN forces were consisted of Americans, making it virtually an "American" force. Similar to the European proxy war aftermath in Berlin, this lead to the eventual DMZ (De-Militarized Zone). Another prime example of a Cold War era proxy war is the Vietnam War. A similar situation to Korea arose and another rift in the government happened after Vietnam's liberation.



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The North being supported by Russia, China, and other communist allies. The South supported by the US, Philippines, and other anti-communist states. The Cold War was becoming a realization among the entire world, and through all these proxy wars tensions only rose further. Not only was it conventional proxy warfare that indirectly contributed to the growth of tension but also industrial warfare. After the military industrial revolution and the introduction into the Atomic age, considering the development of military technology such as more advanced weapons and of course nuclear missiles really makes it impossible to wage war. And so proxy warfare as mentioned above was the solution to solving these disputes of power, but one more type of competition remained; The Space Race.

After Nazi Germany was defeated, the confiscated missile technology was then developed by both nations at first to be used in warfare; however, as matters got serious and again as mentioned above there were many eyes watching what the two sides were doing. Considering that neither of the sides wanted to be disfavoured by other nations, both sides would semi-secretly develop the technology under the guise of using it for space exploration and related operations. In 1957, the USSR was able to launch the first satellite (Sputnik 1), and in the same year was able to send the first person into space (Yuri Gagarin). The US, not wanting to be beaten landed the first man on the moon in 1969. Fortunately through the Space Race there was a huge improvement in communications internationally, and literally a great leap in human technological development. Although it was often featured as a “race, it went far beyond a simple rivalry, and its end results benefited all of mankind. However, the race also helped improve the missile technology on both sides, only heightening the already existing the tension.



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Now, after all these fragile truces, all these proxy wars fought, we come to the actual catalyst for the Cuban Missile Crisis, The Bay of Pigs operation in Cuba. 1952 to 1959, the Cuban Revolution was evolved, consequently overthrowing the current leader Fulgencio Batista. Batista was uniquely very on par with the US, fitting in with US diplomacy and influences, his overthrow was what rekindled US's interested in Cuba. Following Batista's exile was his successor, Fidel Castro. Castro after taking initial rule would sever most ties with the US including its important assets established through Cuba or in relation with it, additionally Castro began to form closer diplomatic relations with the USSR during the Cold War. This of course caught the attention of current US president Dwight D. Eisenhower who issued funding to the CIA for an operation that could solve this problem. The problem being for the US was that Castro was not willing to be a puppet, nor was Castro going to let Cuba be a satellite state for the US again, so the one way solution was to eliminate him, take him out of the picture. The CIA through the funding and its resources was able to establish Brigade 2506, a rebel group made up of anti-Castro exiled Cubans. This operation was approved at a very fragile time in the US government considering the election for the next president was underway. This operation was almost fully confidential, not even the candidates were informed until after the election, most of the operation authorized, and led by the CIA with the current vice-president Richard Nixon's approval. Starting on April 17, 1961 the initial invasion was launched, and after the battle against the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces on April 19, the invaders surrendered and the operation was scrapped. This failed attempt of invasion was humiliating to the US and was viewed as a questionable action by the UN, but the more important factor is how this act of aggression pretty much sealed the deal for Cuban relations with the US and allowed Castro to have an even easier time with the public in his choice.

In 1962, negotiations between Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev were almost finalized. Cuba was armed and prepared with enough firepower to combat America. To fully comprehend the geo-politics in place, delegates must understand not only Castro's intentions, but Nikita Khrushchev's as well. There are three distinct reasons that Khrushchev most likely would have agreed to place ballistic missiles in Cuba.

The first being that there were American deployed PGM-19 Jupiter missiles in Italy, and Turkey that had accurate ranges capable of hitting Moscow. These missiles were one of the initial trump cards that America was willing to utilize if war was to break-out. These missiles were key in controlling the western European region and in holding it as leverage against the USSR. The second can be explained by referring back to proxy warfare that resulted after World War II. After the war Russia was not able to control the capitalist western part of Berlin controlled by the US, France, and Great Britain. Therefore, Russia decided to strategically place weapons in a location near the US (Cuba) for tactical purposes.

The missiles in Cuba would be enough pressure against the US during negotiations to let go of those territories. Lastly delegates must consider the 'missile gap' between the USSR and the US. In 1961 the USSR only had 4 R-7 Semyorka class Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBM's). It would not be until the following year (1962) that the USSR was actually capable of competing having mass produced much more. However, much of the USSR had at the time was unmatched by the US, the US had over almost 200 ICBM's and enough high-classed ballistic missile submarines to be able to deploy them. The 'missile gap' was the difference in amount of missiles that each country possessed. An important fact to note is that during this time was the fact that Russia had over 500 Medium range ballistic missiles (MRBM), these missiles were very capable to be used in rapid deployment and were accurate and devastating with a controllable destruction coefficient at a reliable in calculated precision strike from close proximity. In the the current situation for the USSR these missiles were good for assaulting near capitalist satellite states, but not having enough range nor powerful enough to target any US state from the Russian homeland. The few precious ready-produced ICBMs that the USSR possessed were not reliable in accuracy and if it were to not hit or not do optimal damage it would be a huge loss in resources, additionally there would be American ICBM's hitting Russia as well thus not really worth the risk. However the one efficient way of utilizing these intermediate range missiles would be the third reason of Khrushchev's agreement with the Cuban government, utilizing such states like Cuba that are closer to the US would be a very strategic choice. Not only does it benefit Cuba by giving it some power but also as a satellite state for soviet Russia would mean that Russia could get leverage, or at least be on even grounds with the current circumstances that the US has laid out. Now as EXCOMM the committee's duties is to respond to the inevitable action of missiles being placed in Cuba and attempt to diplomatically diffuse the problem, this is the Cuban Missiles Crisis.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

As a member of EXCOMM depending on delegation's authority and power, the delegate must be able to find a rational, realistic solution in solving the Cuban Missile Crisis. However, depending on the Crisis situation there may be ultimatums where the only solution may be unsavoury, but fit to the situation. An example of a possible solution would be to offer the Cuban government a financial incentive they could not refuse, and as a result covertly separate Cuba from the USSR; This example may be a gamble. Even if the current threat of Cuba is solved there is no knowing on how Soviet Russia will react to the USA funding Cuba, considering that Cuba's actions of allying with the USA could be looked upon as an act of betrayal. Another option delegates have is to utilize the United Nations and approach Russia diplomatically. Through approaching Russia diplomatically the US could gain a political upper hand by utilizing international pressure on Russia to withdraw from Central America. This is a very favourable outcome, but it will be very difficult to pull off considering it will require a lot of effort attempting to gain international favour. Russia currently has the upper hand, even if there would be even more pressure things will only get worse from here on. Another less savoury solution is doing absolutely nothing; this means keeping the public calm and uninformed, whilst at a unstable standoff with Russia, initially continuing the Cold War, waiting for one side to cross the line. Lastly another suggestible solution could be to utilize US army forces to forcefully launch another operation similar to the Bay of Pigs operation to sabotage all missile sites in Cuba; this solution is high risk, high reward. It will require many resources and a long time to plan and execute, if it fails, it has potential to set off the final alarm and all-out nuclear war may happen. These are only a couple of potential solutions that delegates could strive for, throughout the Crisis it is encouraged for delegates to develop unique, creative methods to solve the situation and end the Cold War, one way or another.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How would each side's actions affect the international front, will there be considerable repercussions from them?
2. What are the true motives of Khrushchev and Castro?
3. Is the US government willing to compromise certain assets to allow peace even if it means sacrificing its position as the most dominant country in the world?
4. How will each possible solution influence the future, i.e after the conflict has been ended.
5. How will the international, and national public react to each sides every action? Can it be neglected or is it important how much information gets out?
6. Could the Cold War be delayed any longer? Could the tensions get higher without an immediate end?
7. Depending on the current situation what seems like the most rational solution?
8. If there are multiple rational solutions, which compromises seem best fit for the US's interests?

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