

THE Road to Dealey Plaza (November 22, 1963), P. 8

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page

Let me be clear why I have tried to put the Cuban Missile Crisis in all of the above discussion.

The fact that JFK was confronted with the ultimate casus belli in October 1962 when the Soviet missiles were discovered and Kennedy was faced with this “provocation” and decided not to invade Cuba to remove them and overthrow the Castro government but to attempt to resolve the crisis through diplomacy rather than force of arms. . . . is to place oneself in the shoes of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the other hawks in the government and imagine their likely mindset in December 1962 after the Cuban Missile was resolved not by the use of force but by diplomatic settlement that left the Castro regime in place 90 miles from the USA instead of removing the only communist regime in the Western Hemisphere.

The JFK path to resolution was via diplomacy. . . .but it meant leaving the Castro regime intact and presenting a threat to the US and the Western Hemisphere. Did Kennedy’s diplomatic approach instead of invasion mark him down among the generals as being unfit to be President.

This rejection of JFK as head of state earned him the great disfavor of the hawks in his national security establishment and may have been the proximate cause for his assassination one year later in Dallas.