

#4
CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

Addendum Notes ✓

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Fog of War. President, as we would expect, receives the best intelligence possible in any emergency situation. (At least we hope so.) But there is always the factor of Fog of War. But he/she will not know everything and some of that "Unknown" can make all the difference in what measures the President takes in hopes of handling the crisis.

During the Cuban Missile Crisis (Oct. 1962)

For example: Soviets deployed **NUCLEAR** cruise missiles within 15 miles of the US Naval base at Guantanamo. US didn't know this. These missiles were equipped with Hiroshima sized warheads. REPEAT. Guantanamo would have been vaporized in 5 minutes.

Kennedy had no idea where the Soviets were housing these warheads. U-2s had pix of storage facilities at Bejucal and Managua but the CIA concluded they could not be housed there because of lack of Soviet security. But that's where they were.

Kennedy was also woefully unaware of the size of the Soviet forces on the island. Secretary of Defense McNamara informed him that the force was about 6,000 to 8,000 Soviet technicians on the island. In fact, there were 43,000 heavily armed Soviet troops equipped with tactical nuclear weapons.

Kennedy made the right decision to go to diplomacy rather than rush into any invasion of the Island. . . . But he did not know the half of it. . . .