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## Missile Crisis

October 26-27<sup>th</sup> height of the crisis

October 27<sup>th</sup> a U-2 US aircraft shot down by Soviet SAM missile. Major Anderson, the pilot, was killed.

JCS urged JFK to order a full-out strategic attack on the Soviet SAM sites in Cuba. (Killing of Soviet special forces).

That would have triggered events that would have led inexorably to nuclear war with the Russians.

It would have provided the excuse for putting into play the JCS preemptive strike that had been in the planning stage since 1961.

JFK asked LeMay what the Russians would do if we hit their SAM sites and killed countless Russian troops.

LeMay said the Russians would do nothing!!!!!!!!!!

Kennedy looked for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. (Note: I can't think of another politician of the period who would have taken this course).

Bobby's meeting with Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin. Appeal to K to join him in finding a way out of the mounting crisis. Bobby told Dobrynin that the President was deeply concerned and worried that the JCS might overthrow him and take over the government.

Provocations: At the height of the crisis

On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Air Force launched a missile from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California down range in the Pacific to Kwajalein Island in the Marshall Islands. Provocation. Rattle Soviet chains to get a response.

General Powers of SAC ordered U.S. B-52s to fly beyond "Fail Safe" toward the Soviet Union. If the Soviets sent up interceptors and there was combat SAC could launch its preemptive war.

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