

## Outline for Cuban Missile Crisis

### A. Nukes and Cuba on our minds

National Security Council Mtg (July 20, 1961)

JCS projected that by 1963 US Strategic Nuclear Arsenal will be so superior to the Russians that a preemptive nuclear strike on the Soviet Union will end in a US victory in the Cold War.

Bay of Pigs, April 1961

### B. Operation Northwoods

### C. Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962)

The most dangerous moment in human history

### D. JFK and the American University Speech (June 1963)

Ultimate goal was abolition of nuclear weapons

### E. Follow ups

- a. Nuclear test ban of weapons in outer space
- b. Hot line
- c. A rapprochement attempt with Castro
- d. End U.S. involvement in Vietnam. NSM 263—the first 1000 US troops out of Vietnam. JFK was determined to end US involvement in Vietnam by December 1965.

**Cuban Missile Crisis**  
**Re: Nuclear Bean Counting (circa 1962)**

**Structure of Nuclear Arsenals of US and USSR**

<b>USSR</b>	<b>USA (Triad)</b>
44 medium and short-ranged ICBMs (liquid fueled)	200 deployed ICBMs (solid state)
150 heavy bombers	2000 B 52s and B 47s (each carrying 4 one-megaton bombs)
10-20 ICBMS	44 Polaris submarine-launched missiles

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**Soviet Build Up in Cuba**

Khrushchev sent 40,000 Soviet ground troops to Cuba to serve as a trip-wire.

36 to 42 SS 4s (These were medium and intermediate range BMs (1,100 mile range and carried one-megaton warheads). The warheads were protected by special KGB forces that were loyal to Khrushchev).

The Soviet freighter *Indigika* delivered 45 one-megaton warheads for ballistic missiles, a dozen atomic bombs, and 48 tactical nukes.

“Fire control” authority of these Lunas was left in the hands of the local Soviet commander in Cuba to be used at his discretion in the event of a US invasion of the island.

Altogether the Soviets deployed more than 60% of its entire nuclear arsenal to Cuba in response to the crisis.

James Bamford, **Body of Secrets** (Chapter 3)

Harpers’ “The Truth is Out There,” Harpers’ (July 2001)

Mark White, **The Missile Crisis**

Alexander Fursenko & Tim Naftali, “**One Hell of a Gamble.**”

Evan Thomas, **Robert Kennedy: His Life**