

0. THE AFTERMATH - Story Preface

1. MISSILES IN CUBA

2. OPERATION ANADYR

3. OPERATION MONGOOSE

4. AMERICA'S FIRST WARNING

5. THE KENNEDY BROTHERS

6. KENNY O'DONNELL

7. THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

8. EX COMM and The Crisis

9. A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

10. THE CRISIS WORSENS

11. EYEBALL TO EYEBALL

12. BATTLE PLANS

13. CLOSE TO THE EDGE

14. AN AMERICAN DEATH

15. A SECRET DEAL

16. THE TRUTH on ENDING the CRISIS

17. A DIFFERENT VERSION

18. KHRUSHCHEV BLINKS

19. THE AFTERMATH



After Kennedy and Khrushchev mutually agreed on their missile-withdrawal terms, the Soviets began removing their materials from Cuba. This image, online via the National Security Archive at George Washington University, depicts the removal-process in action. The photo has this description: "November 6, 1962: Soviet personnel and six missile transporters loading onto ship transport at Casilda port. (Note shadow at lower right of RF-101 [American] reconnaissance jet taking the photograph.)" Click on the image for a better view.

The story of the Cuban Missile Crisis has always focused on the test of wills between the two superpowers. But the battle - had it been fought - would have started in Cuba. What did Cubans think about what they call the "October Crisis?" What did Castro think?

In 1968, Castro gave a 12-hour secret speech to his Central Committee. The section on the missile dispute has been released to the public. His comments on how the crisis ended are interesting:

We were profoundly incensed. (Quoted in *The Last Year of President Kennedy and The "Multiple Path" Policy Toward Cuba*, by Karlsson and Acosta, at [page 134](#) of the book's online version.)

Within days of Khrushchev's October 28 radio broadcast, Deputy Premier Mikoyan tried to calm the Cuban leader. Explaining there had been very little time to encrypt a message, and get it to Castro, Mikoyan did his best to minimize the situation.

Castro (whose sister was secretly helping the CIA) was unimpressed. On November 3, he told Mikoyan:

And suddenly came the report of the American agency UPI that "the Soviet premier has given orders to Soviet personnel to dismantle missile launchers and return them to the USSR." Our people could not believe that report. It caused deep confusion.

The next year, during a visit with Khrushchev, Castro learned the real terms of the deal. The Soviet leader let it slip that missiles in Cuba had been exchanged for missiles in Turkey.

Cuba's leader must have then realized a profound point (had he not suspected it earlier). The Soviet Union was not willing to put its own security and people at risk to protect a distant Caribbean island (no matter how closely aligned their political persuasions).

Within days after the Crisis had passed, American reconnaissance flights confirmed a major turn of events. The missiles were being dismantled. The launch sites were no longer under construction. By November 15, the San Julian airfield was no longer a place to assemble MiG 17s, 19s and IL-28s.

Castro endured one more humiliation. The United States convinced the Soviet Union to take back all its IL-28 bombers. Castro thought those planes were essential for his defense.

Soviet ships that had once secretly transported missiles to Cuba now freely displayed their cargo. Moscow had called the missiles home. Cuba was on her own.

On schedule, America removed the Jupiter missiles from Turkey. And, as planned, the Polaris missiles replaced the obsolete Jupiter technology. By mid-November, the quarantine was over ... but ... the embargo lingers on.

Historians say the Kennedy Administration had its most-shining moment during the Cuban Missile Crisis. One year later, it endured its most agonizing moment—the assassination of America's popular President.

Rumors still persist about a possible connection: Did JFK's death have something to do with Cuba? And ... decades after the Missile Crisis, people of good faith wonder: Will there ever come a day when the United States and Cuba restore diplomatic relations?

World events have a strange way of turning on themselves. The Cuban Missile Crisis is a good example.

Earlier in 1962 (on February 20), a top-secret Administration document discussed a plan called *Operation Mongoose*. The United States, referred to as "military help from nations outside," would work with Cuban dissidents, referred to as people "from within" to overthrow Castro. The plan

aims for a revolt which can take place in Cuba by October 1962.

- How curious that "military help from nations outside" came not from the United States but from the Soviet Union.
- How ironic that the help came not to Cuban dissidents but to the Cuban leader himself.
- And ... how interesting that it all happened in the very month predicted.

The Mongoose memo puts a different twist on an old adage: Be careful what you ask for. It just might happen in a way you don't expect.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-AFTERMATH-Cuban-Missile-Crisis>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-AFTERMATH-Cuban-Missile-Crisis>

Media Stream



San Julian Airfield

Image, described above, online courtesy the U.S. National Archives and the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

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IL-28 Bomber

Image online, courtesy the Federation of American Scientists [website](#).

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/IL-28-Bomber>



Soviet Ship

Image, described above, online courtesy the U.S. National Archives and the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

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Soviet Ship Poltava - En route to Cuba

Image, described above, online courtesy the U.S. National Archives and the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

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View of Missile Transporters Aboard Soviet Ship

Image, described above, online courtesy the U.S. National Archives and the National Security Archive at George Washington University.

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[http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-Missile Transporters-Aboard-Soviet-Ship](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-Missile-Transporters-Aboard-Soviet-Ship)



THE AFTERMATH

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Cold War - Cuban Missile Crisis, Part 1

From "Cold War," a 1998 TV series collaboratively created by the Turner Broadcasting System and the BBC, produced by Jeremy Isaacs. The series originally aired on CNN (in America) and on BBC Two (in the U.K.).

This clip, about the Cuban Missile Crisis, is from Episode 10, entitled "Cuba (1959-1962)."

Amazon.com [describes](#) "Cold War," as follows:

...This 8-volume, 24-episode series, narrated by Kenneth Branagh, is a comprehensive history that examines the key events of the arc of the Soviet Union, from its birth to its fall, and provides a thorough analysis of what was going on behind closed doors.

Informed by the stories of 500 eyewitnesses - from citizens and soldiers to historians and statesmen - and strengthened by painstaking reconstruction of archival historical film footage, CNN's Cold War is a heroic undertaking and a sweeping chronicle of the world's most fragile decades.

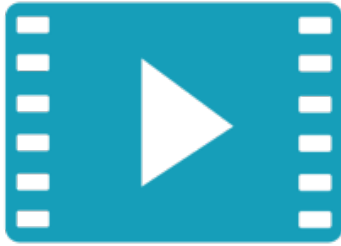
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Cold War: Cuban Missile Crisis, Part 3

From "Cold War," a 1998 TV series collaboratively created by the Turner Broadcasting System and the BBC, produced by Jeremy Isaacs. The series originally aired on CNN (in America) and on BBC Two (in the U.K.).



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Cold War: Cuban Missile Crisis, Part 4

From "Cold War," a 1998 TV series collaboratively created by the Turner Broadcasting System and the BBC, produced by Jeremy Isaacs. The series originally aired on CNN (in America) and on BBC Two (in the U.K.).



This clip, about the Cuban Missile Crisis, is from Episode 10, entitled "Cuba (1959-1962)."

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Cold War: Cuban Missile Crisis, Part 5

From "Cold War," a 1998 TV series collaboratively created by the Turner Broadcasting System and the BBC, produced by Jeremy Isaacs. The series originally aired on CNN (in America) and on BBC Two (in the U.K.).



This clip, about the Cuban Missile Crisis, is from Episode 10, entitled "Cuba (1959-1962)."

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