

**MEDIMUN XII**  
**2017**  
**Historical**  
**Security Council**  
**Research Booklet**

**10-12/02/17**



**Chairs:**

**Loucas Charidemou**

**Evgenia Chamilou**

**Topic 1: The Cuban Missile Crisis**

**Topic 2: The Sino-Indian War of 1962**

## Introduction to the Historical Security Council

The **Historical Security Council** is very much like the **Security Council**, but instead of discussing current day issues, we discuss about historical situations that have had a great impact on our world. In these session, these events will be the **Cuban Missile Crisis** and the **Sino-Indian War of 1962**. The Council is one of the primary organs of the United Nations, as it is tasked with preserving international peace and security. It is composed of 16 members, of which 5 have a permanent seat: China, France, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), and the Soviet Union (USSR). These 5 nations have a veto power, meaning that they can unilaterally block action by the council. Any decision requires an affirmative vote of at least  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the votes out of the 16 members.

The historical aspect of this committee means that any reference of events in the 'future' are not allowed. This may seem restrictive, however it offers you the freedom to re-write history, rather than re-enact it. We will set a historical starting point for the debate, and you as delegates have to adjust your own preparation accordingly.

## Historical Starting Point: 21st of October, 1962

### Table of Contents

Topic 1: The Cuban Missile Crisis.....	3
Topic 2: The Sino-Indian War of 1962.....	9

# Topic 1: The Cuban Missile Crisis

## Introduction

History is fundamental in understanding our past, which in turn allows us to comprehend our present and although often regarded as “repeating itself,” a study of the successes and failures of the past might allow us to learn from our mistakes and avoid repeating them in the future. The Historical Security Council (HSC) aims to highlight this importance by following the procedures of the Security Council (SC), but instead of discussing current day issues, one talks about historical situations that have influenced the world, such as the Cuban Missile crisis of 1962 in this case.

The Security Council is arguably one of the most important committees of the United Nations (UN) whose powers, such the use of force and binding decisions, resemble to no other committee. Nonetheless, during the Cold War (1947-1991), the Security Council was largely paralyzed due to the fight between the two superpowers and their allies, thus making decisions on anything except unrelated issues hard to be made, especially with the two superpowers – USA and the USSR – having the right to veto. Decisions were rarely made relating to the Cold War with the exception of the US-led coalition fighting North Korea. However, this was made because the USSR was absent. In important issues, such as the Vietnam War, but also the Cuban Missile Crisis, the SC would be ignored for direct negotiations. There were several attempts of the United States to



have the USSR dismantle and withdraw the Soviet missile bases on Cuba, but these were unsuccessful.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Cuban missile crisis:** a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1962 over the presence of missile sites in Cuba; one of the “hottest” periods of the Cold War.

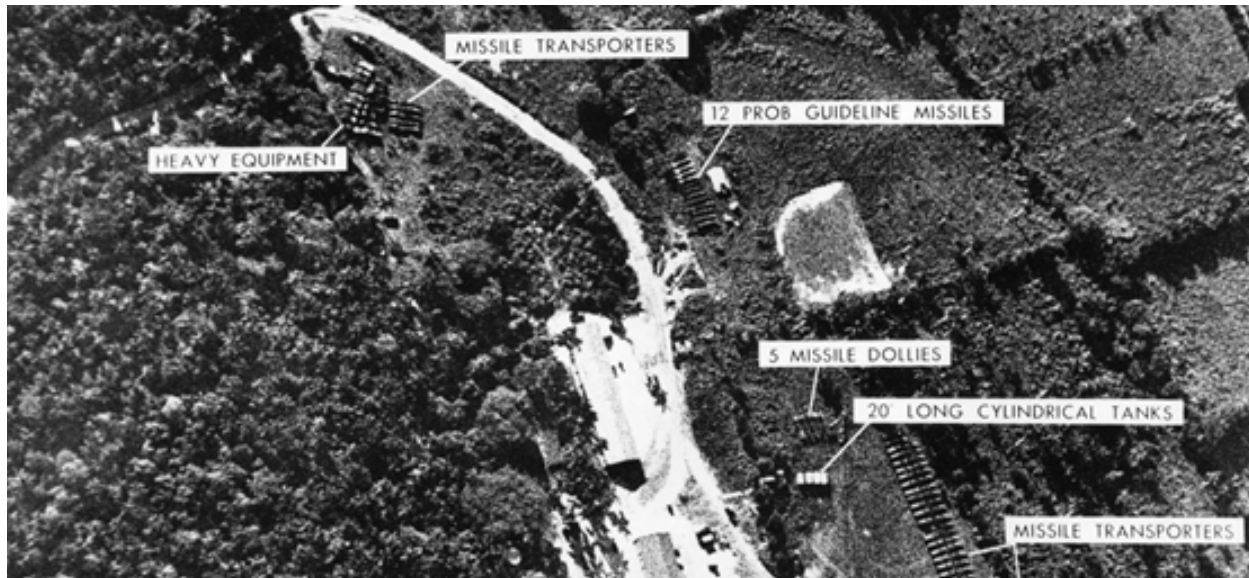
**Cold war:** the breakdown of wartime friendship in 1946 between the Allies leading to political and military tension between the capitalist United States and its allies (Western Bloc) and the communist or socialist Soviet Union or USSR and its satellites (Eastern Bloc). There was no direct fighting between the two superpowers, only proxy wars: allies of the superpowers fighting each other while the superpowers supported their respective ally. The Cold War ended with the fall of the USSR in 1991.

**Arms race:** a competition between two or more countries to have the most military power and accumulation of weapons. The source of an arms race is the security dilemma: when one country gets more military supplies to defend themselves, this is a threat to another country, which in turn gets more military supplies to defend itself, which causes it to be a bigger threat to the other country. In the case of the Cold War, where there was an arms race between the Soviet Union and the United States with nuclear weapons.

**MAD:** mutually assured destruction; the nuclear deterrents of one side could effectively cause total destruction of the other, so having nuclear weapons deterred the other side from attacking first.

**NATO:** the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation formed in 1949 at the height of the Berlin Blockade crisis, when war between the USA and the USSR seemed a real crisis, therefore the Western power met in Washington and signed an agreement to work together.

**Warsaw Pact:** a military alliance similar to NATO in which the members would defend each other if one was attacked. The Warsaw Pact included all the communist countries of eastern Europe except Yugoslavia, but it was dominated by the Soviet Union.



## General Overview

Undeniably, the Cuban missile crisis brought the world closer to nuclear war than at any other time in history, with a series of reasons which contributed to the web of causes which brought the crisis about. However, in order to have a complete understanding of the topic, one should look at the historical background.

Cuba is a large island just 160 km away from Florida in the southern USA which had long been an American ally. Without any doubt, America has had a great influence on the island as Americans provided the Cuban General and dictator, Fulgencio Batista, with economic and military support, primarily because he was just as opposed to Communism as they were.

However, in 1959, following a three-year guerrilla campaign, Fidel Castro managed to overthrow Batista's regime and win over the majority of Cubans. Although the USA initially decided to recognise Castro as the new Cuban leader, later the US-Cuban relations deteriorated, especially after the nationalisation of many American-owned businesses in Cuba and the Cuban exiles in the USA who had fled from Castro's rule.

In June 1960, Eisenhower, President of the USA at the time, authorised the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to investigate ways of overthrowing Castro and provided funds and support to Cuban exiles which also investigated ways to disrupt the Cuban economy, such as by damaging sugar plantations. Moreover, US companies working in Cuba refused to co-operate with any Cuban business importing goods from the USSR. Americans, outraged by the stories they heard from some of the exiles placed a trade embargo on Cuba. This greatly damaged Cuba's economy since one of their biggest money earners was the export of sugar to the United States. However, this trade embargo led to the two states (USA and USSR) working together, as the Soviet Union decided to buy Cuba's sugar.

Fidel Castro responded to US hostility with a mixed approach: on one hand he allowed the USA to keep its naval base in Cuba and on the other he had allied Cuba with the Soviet Union by summer 1960, signing a trade agreement of \$100 million economic aid with the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. As a result, in January 1961, the USA broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba as it was not prepared to tolerate a Soviet satellite in its 'sphere of influence.' Therefore, the plans to overthrow Castro which begun under Eisenhower were shaped under the new US President John F Kennedy.

Rather than invading Cuba directly, President Kennedy decided to supply arms, equipment and transport for 1,400 exiles which were against Castro with the goal of overthrowing him. Thus, in April 1961, the exiles landed at the Bay of Pigs but were met by 20,000 Cuban troops armed with tanks and modern weapons leading to a disastrous failure – also known as the 'Bay of Pigs fiasco.' Historians argue that the fiasco further strengthened Castro's position in Cuba, suggesting to the USSR that Kennedy was weak, while making Castro and Khrushchev suspicious of US policy. After the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Soviet arms flooded into Cuba when in May 1962, the Soviet Union announced publicly for the first time that it was supplying Cuba with arms. By July 1962, Cuba had the best-equipped army in Latin America and by September 1962, it had thousands of Soviet missiles, patrol boats tanks, radar vans, jet bombers and jet fighters along with 5,000 technicians to help maintain the weapons. Consequently, this alarmed the USA and on September 11, Kennedy warned the USSR that he would prevent "by whatever means might be necessary" Cuba's becoming an offensive military nuclear base. The same day, the USSR replied by assuring the USA that it had no intention to put nuclear missiles on Cuba. However, things turned to be different when on October 14, 1962 an American spy plane flew over Cuba and took

detailed photographs of missile sites in Cuba. US spy planes also reported that 20 Soviet ships were currently on the way to Cuba carrying missiles.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

On October 22nd 1962, a US representative requested an urgent meeting of the Security Council in order to “deal with the dangerous threat to the peace and security of the world caused by the secret establishment in Cuba by the USSR of launching bases and the installation of long-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying thermonuclear warheads to most of North and South America”. The letter stated that the USA had ‘incontrovertible evidence” that the USSR had been installing in Cuba a whole series of facilities for launching nuclear missiles and other offensive weapons and installing the weapons themselves.



In the light of this threat, the USA had appealed to the Organization of American States calling for a meeting of the Organ of Consultation invoking articles 6 and 8 of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance and had initiated a strict quarantine of Cuba to interdict the carriage of offensive weapons to that country. In accordance with its obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and the Council’s responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, the USA was bringing these facts to the attention of the Council in order that prompt and effective measures might be taken for the immediate dismantling and withdrawal of Soviet offensive weapons from Cuba under the supervision of UN observers. Upon fulfillment of these conditions, the quarantine would be lifted.

In Cuba’s letter the representative called for a meeting due to “the act of war unilaterally committed by the Government of the United States in ordering the naval blockade of Cuba,” also stating that the USA in disregard to the Security Council was placing an imminent danger of war. In the Soviet Union’s letter, it asked to examine the

question of “the violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the threat to peace” on the part of the United States. The Soviet government had also called to attention the serious danger to world peace created by the policy pursued by the United States to Cuba. The statement questioned the authority assumed by the United States as arbiter of the destinies of other territories and people.

## Major Parties Involved

**The United States of America:** A capitalist federal republic - was a superpower and leader of the Western bloc, including countries from the NATO such as, but not limited to: United Kingdom and its commonwealth (India, Australia, Canada), Austria, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany.

**USSR:** The so-called Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is the republic that used to be Russia, which was a communist republic, based on socialism and Marxism. USSR was one of the two superpowers in the Cold War and leader of the Eastern Bloc, that included countries from the Warsaw Pact: Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, East Germany, Poland, Romania and Yugoslavia, also known as its ‘satellite states.’

**Non-Alignment Movement (NAM):** This coalition of third world countries fought for independence of both super powers, as they usually were post-colonial countries whose goal was to end the Cold War and not be subjected by anyone, especially the US or USSR

**Other stakeholders:** These include the allies of the USA and USSR, such as Britain from the Western Bloc and Czechoslovakia from the Eastern Bloc, many of them who kept weapons of their leader on their land too, such as Turkey with USA’s weapons and Cuba with the Soviet Union’s weapons.

## Sources

<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/cuban-missile-crisis>

<http://www.nam.gov.za/background/history.htm>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis>

<http://warfarehistorynetwork.com/daily/military-history/the-cuban-missile-crisis-on-the-brink-of-nuclear-war/>



## Topic 2: The Sino-Indian War of 1962



### Introduction

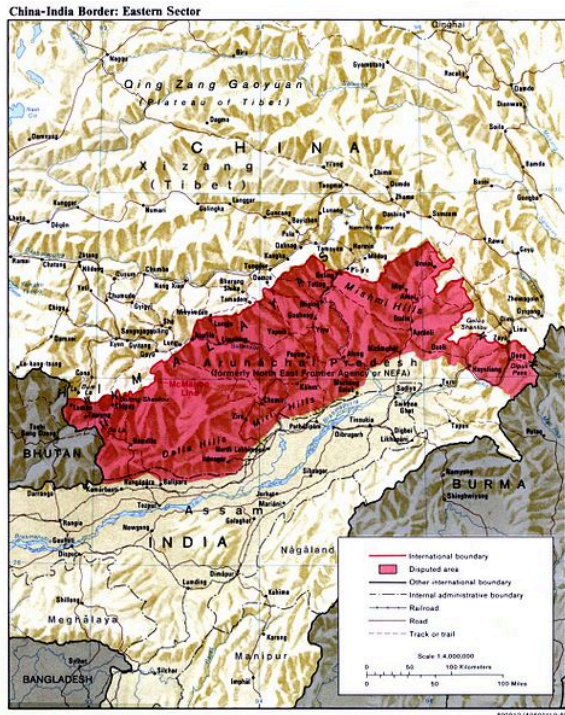
In 1962, the world's two most populous countries went to war. The Sino-Indian War claimed about 2,000 lives, and played out in the harsh terrain of the Karakoram Mountains, some 4,270 meters (14,000 feet) above sea level. Although the primary cause of the 1962 war between India and China was the disputed border between the two countries, in the high mountains of **Aksai Chin**, the roots of the disagreement go back to the mid 19th century, and matters of politics and religion further complicated the issue.

### Background

The principal reason of the 1962 war was the mountainous border region of Aksai Chin. India asserted that the region, which is slightly larger than Portugal, belonged to the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. China countered that it was part of Xinjiang.

The roots of the dispute date back to the mid 19th century, when the British Raj in India and the Qing Chinese agreed to let the traditional border, one which was not clearly set

out, stand as the boundary between their nations. As of 1846, only those areas near the Karakoram Pass and Pangong Lake were clearly delineated; the rest of the border was not formally demarcated.



In 1865, the British Survey of India placed the boundary at the Johnson Line, which included about 1/3 of Aksai Chin within Kashmir. Britain did not discuss with the Chinese about this border allocations, as Beijing was no longer in control of Xinjiang at the time. However, as Chinese recaptured Xinjiang in 1878, they gradually pressed forward, and set up boundary markers at Karakoram Pass in 1892, declaring Aksai Chin as part of Xinjiang.

The British once again proposed a new border in 1899, known as the Macartney-Macdonald Line, which divided the territory along the Karakoram Mountains and gave India a larger portion of the area. British India

would control all of the Indus River watershed, while China took the Tarim River watershed. When Britain sent the proposal and map to Beijing, the Chinese did not respond. Both sides accepted this line as settled, for the time being.

Britain and China both used the different lines interchangeably, and neither country was particularly concerned since the area was mostly uninhabited and served only as a seasonal trading route. China had more pressing concerns with the fall of the Last Emperor and the end of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, which set off the Chinese Civil War. Britain would soon have World War I to contend with, as well. By 1947, when India gained its independence and maps of the subcontinent were redrawn in the Partition, the issue of Aksai Chin remained unresolved. Meanwhile, China's civil war would continue for two more years, until Mao Zedong and the Communists prevailed in 1949.

The creation of Pakistan in 1947, the Chinese invasion and annexation of Tibet in 1950, and China's construction of a road to connect Xinjiang and Tibet through land claimed by India all complicated the issue. Relations reached a nadir in 1959, when Tibet's

spiritual and political leader, the Dalai Lama, fled into exile in the face of another Chinese invasion. Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru reluctantly granted the Dalai Lama sanctuary in India, angering Mao immensely.

## China-India relations and Tibet

Numerous changes occurred in the late 1940s, with the independence of the Republic of India and the separate Islamic Republic of Pakistan's creation in 1947, and the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. One of the most basic policies for the Indian government was that of maintaining cordial relations with China. The Indian government wished to revive its ancient friendly ties with China. When the PRC was declared, India was among the first countries to give it diplomatic recognition.

After coming to power, the PRC announced that its army would be occupying Tibet. India sent a letter of protest to China proposing negotiations on the Tibet issue. On various occasions in 1951 and 1952, however, the government of China expressed the idea that there were no frontier issues between India and Chinese Tibet to be worried about. In 1954, China and India concluded the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence under which India acknowledged Chinese sovereignty in Tibet. Indian negotiators presented a frontier map to the Chinese that included the McMahon Line and the Chinese side did not object. At this time, the Indian government under Prime Minister Nehru promoted the slogan Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai (India and China are brothers).



Nehru's policy on Tibet was to create a strong Sino-Indian partnership which would be catalyzed through agreement and compromise on Tibet. Much misunderstanding between the two nations led to diplomatic spats over Tibet, with Nehru's move to accommodate the Dalai Lama overshadowing his other actions and opinions on Tibet, including the opinion that an armed resistance movement in Tibet would be suicidal and counterproductive. While China treated India's concerns with Tibet as expansionist, some in India claim that its concerns were in fact sentimental and

culturally-linked, as Buddhist Tibet had been under influence of Indian culture for many years.

## Forward Policy

In 1959, India started sending Indian troops and border patrols into disputed areas. This program created both skirmishes and deteriorating relations between India and China. The aim of this policy was to create outposts behind advancing Chinese troops



to interdict their supplies, forcing them north of the disputed line. There were eventually 60 such outposts, including 43 north of the McMahon Line, to which India claimed sovereignty. China viewed this as further confirmation of Indian expansionist plans directed towards Tibet. Implementation of the Forward Policy was

intended to provide evidence of

Indian occupation in the previously unoccupied region through which Chinese troops had been advancing. At first the Chinese army simply retreated, but eventually Chinese forces began to counter-encircle the Indian positions which clearly intruded into the north of McMahon Line. This led to a tit-for-tat Indian reaction, with each force attempting to outmaneuver the other. However, despite the escalating nature of the dispute, the two forces withheld from engaging each other directly.

## Early Incidents

From 1959 forward, border altercations broke out along the disputed line. In 1961, Nehru instituted the Forward Policy, in which India tried to establish border outposts and patrols north of Chinese positions, in order to cut them off from their supply line. The Chinese responded in a similar fashion, each side seeking to flank the other without direct confrontation.

The summer and fall of 1962 saw increasing numbers of border incidents in Aksai Chin. One June episode killed more than twenty Chinese troops. In July, India authorized its

troops to fire not only in self-defense, but to drive the Chinese back. By October, even as Zhou Enlai was personally assuring Nehru in New Delhi that China did not want war, the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA) was massing along the border. The first heavy fighting took place on October 10, 1962, in a skirmish that killed 25 Indian troops and 33 Chinese soldiers.

On October 20, the PLA launched a two-pronged attack, seeking to drive the Indians out of Aksai Chin, marking the start of the Sino-Indian War.

## Sources

<http://asianhistory.about.com/od/warsinasia/fl/The-Sino-Indian-War-1962.htm>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/india-china-war-of-1962/1/528159.html>

<http://thediplomat.com/2012/08/historys-hostage-china-india-and-the-war-of-1962/>