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25: Film Response: Cuban Missile Crisis

The escalating arms race for nuclear superiority led to the deployment of missiles in Cuba, by the Soviet Union; these missiles were aimed toward the United States and the eastern seaboard. As a result of this, approximately 3,000 US nuclear weapons were focused on targets across the soviet union. In response to the US leading in the arms race; the soviet union used bluffs, threats, and intimidation strategies to maintain an illusion of having more power in the nuclear department.

One early decision of the US ushered by President Kennedy was the Bay of Pigs invasion; where the US soldiers invaded Cuba in hopes of overthrowing Fidel Castro and eliminating communism in Cuba, but upon arrival, US soldiers received little to no help from the Cubans. In response to the failed invasion attempt on Cuba; the soviet union deployed nuclear weapons to Cuba in secrecy. Once the US intelligence gained knowledge of the Cuban missiles, President Kennedy responded by setting up naval blockades around Cuba; to prevent the shipment of materials/missiles needed to complete missile sites in Cuba.

On the day of Black Saturday; Khrushchev, leader of the soviet union, sent another proposal for peace to the U.S.; stating that he would remove his missiles from Cuba if the US removed the Jupiter missiles in Turkey; Khrushchev broadcasted his proposal over the radio for the world to hear it. Meanwhile, A US pilot flying over Cuba's missile sights was taking pictures of the

sights; when his plane was shot down by the Soviet army. After this Kennedy sent a proposition to Krushchev saying that the US wouldn't invade Cuba and would remove the Jupiter missiles from Turkey; if the soviet union removed the missiles from Cuba. Khrushchev accepted the terms to bring the Cuban missile crisis to an end. Measures to set up better communication between the U.S. and the Soviet Union were taken; in the event of another crisis.

Works Cited

“The Cuban Missile Crisis Explained in 20 Minutes | Best Cold War Documentary.”

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UbVuTXg4CQ&t=1275s>.