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Short Film

The Cuban Missile Crisis started when the U.S found out that the Soviet Union was sending missiles to Cuba. In response, the U.S. put up a naval blockade around Cuba, making it impossible for the Soviets to send any more weapons. Meanwhile the United States' early options included air strikes on the missile sites and an invasion of Cuba. The Soviet Union said that if this happened, it would lead to a nuclear war.

On October 27, 1962, was Black Saturday. The US was getting ready to attack Cuba from the air, and the USSR was getting ready to use nuclear weapons against the US. This was the most dangerous point of the crisis as both sides were prepared to use nuclear weapons.

Following several days of back-and-forth discussions, the parties to the Cuban Missile Crisis were finally able to come to an agreement about how to handle the situation. The Soviet Union and the United States reached an agreement whereby the Soviet Union would remove its missiles from Cuba and the United States would remove its nuclear weapons from Turkey. Because of this compromise conclusion, the issue was able to be resolved without resorting to military force. The easing of tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union that resulted from the successful resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis marked the beginning of an era in which the two superpowers engaged in détente.