

Esmeralda Sime

Lyndell O'hara

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The event that led up to this crisis of The Cuban Missile Crisis was a political and military standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union in October 1962. The crisis was sparked by the Soviet Union's decision to install nuclear missiles in Cuba, which is only 90 miles from the US coast. The early options and decisions of the United States & the response of the Soviet Union Upon discovering the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba, with this the President John F. Kennedy at the time convened a group of advisors to discuss the appropriate response. The options within this included a military invasion of Cuba, a naval blockade of the island to prevent further Soviet shipments, or some sort of resolution. Kennedy chose the naval blockade as a way to avoid a direct confrontation with the military. The day known as "Black Saturday," was a point of extreme danger because it was the closest the two sides came to direct military confrontation. Both the US and the Soviet Union had authorized the use of nuclear weapons in the event of an attack as the predicament was dangerous. Towards the end it ended with a direct communication line it was established within the soviet leadership and the United States for further miscommunications.