



Cuban Missile Crisis (11.9.3)

Background:

As a response to the failed American backed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs, Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro came to an agreement that would allow the Soviets to place nuclear missiles in Cuba. With growing concerns that a military build up was underway President Kennedy ordered increased surveillance over Cuba. On October 14, an American U-2 spy plane took photos that showed the presence of nuclear missile sites being constructed in Cuba. Kennedy would announce to the world that he was ordering a naval blockade of Cuba to force the Soviets to take their missiles out of Cuba.

Prompt:

Why did the Russians pull their missiles out of Cuba?

Task:

In a well thought out essay:

- Write a claim in response to the prompt.
- Support your claim by using at least five pieces of evidence from the documents, background reading, and additional research on why the Soviets put missiles in Cuba and why they subsequently pulled them out.
- Be sure to explain how the evidence you have chosen supports your claim
- Incorporate at least two additional pieces of evidence from the documents and/or your research that argues against your claim and use your evidence to counter that opposing claim.