**“The Missiles of October”: The Cuban Missile Crisis**

Directions: Download the “Cuban Missile Crisis Activity” document (pdf) from the class website. Follow the steps for each activity in the document and complete the assignments in the space below. Make sure you directly use the links given in each activity. Email your completed assignment to Mr. Vandsburger by Friday 4/5 at 8 pm.

Activity #1: The Discovery of the Missiles

*Read Kennedy’s statement on Cuba and then examine each of the documents listed in the PDF. Use the glossary of technical terms found on page 3 of the PDF as you read the documents.*

*Task:* Write a memorandum (brief statement) to President Kennedy explaining whether the missiles located in Cuba are a threat to the United States. Begin your memorandum with a clear statement of your position (argument) and develop 3 areas of analysis to explain why Kennedy must take your position into consideration.

Length: The memorandum should be a minimum of 3 paragraphs.

Activity #2: Days of Decision

*Follow the directions in the PDF to get to the interactive simulation. Examine the five options for responding to the Soviet missiles in Cuba, then scroll over each of the advisors in the picture. Fill in their advice into the chart below.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Advisor** | **What option does this person favor and why?** | **What options does he specifically reject, and why?** |
| *Secretary of State Dean Rusk* |  |  |
| *Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara* |  |  |
| *Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Maxwell Taylor* |  |  |
| *National Security Advisor MacGeorge Bundy* |  |  |
| *Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon* |  |  |
| *CIA Director John McCone* |  |  |
| *Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy* |  |  |

*Then read the “Special Intelligence Estimate” underneath the image and prepare a statement (1 full paragraph in length) explaining which of the five options you would choose for responding to the Soviet missiles in Cuba.*

Activity #3: Read (or click the link and listen) to Kennedy’s “Quarantine Speech” delivered on October 22, 1962 and respond to the questions below in complete sentences.

1. What, according to Kennedy, was the purpose of the missile sites in Cuba?
2. Why, according to Kennedy, did the presence of the missiles pose a threat to the United States?
3. Kennedy referred to the 1930s. To what was he referring and, more importantly, what was to be learned from it?
4. Kennedy’s first action was to institute a “strict quarantine.” What did he mean by this?
5. What other steps did Kennedy plan to take?

Activity #4: Read the correspondence between Kennedy and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev and answer the questions below.

1. What did Kennedy agree to do to end the crisis?
2. What did Khrushchev agree to do to end the crisis?
3. Respond to the following prompt in a full paragraph: *On balance, do you think either side “won” in the end? If so, which one, and why? If not then why not? Explain your reasoning.*