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JCC Cold War: Soviet Union

Akshaya Natarajan & Yana Brahmhatt
Chairs



JCC Cold War USSR

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Honorable/Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the 14th iteration of MoodyMUN! We are so excited for your participation in the JCC, USSR committee. Your chairs for this committee are Akshaya Natarajan and Yana Brahmbhatt. Akshaya currently is an 8th grader at Moody and has attended five conferences, winning awards at two. Outside of MUN, she enjoys playing tennis and the violin in orchestras. Yana began her journey for Model UN in seventh grade where she found her passion for leadership and debate. When she isn't participating in MUN, you can find Yana playing for RCVA's volleyball team or participating in her club, HOSA.

This committee is set in the Soviet Union and takes place from 1958-1962, in the midst of the Cold War. Specifically, the Berlin Crisis, which occurred on November 10, 1958, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, which began on October 16th, 1962. The events of the Berlin Crisis occurred as the Soviet Union (USSR) pressured Berlin and caused the crisis responses from the US. The Cuban Missile Crisis was a detrimental period in history as humanity was the closest it's ever been to destroying itself with nuclear power. The Berlin and Cuban Missile crises led to many challenges, such as tensions over espionage, control or power struggles, and uncertainty in brinkmanship. It is up to the delegates in this committee to find resolutions to these issues, as the USSR.

Western attire is advised as it sets a formal tone for the conference. This may include ties, blazers, suits, and business casual wear. While this committee does not mandate the submission of position papers, they are required as a part of the award qualifications. The use of AI on position papers is strictly prohibited and will lead to disqualification. For awards, we are looking for strong speaking with confidence, well-researched position papers, and overall impact on the committee.

As you enter the committee, you are expected to have prepared prior to the conference. Position papers must be submitted via email to hcps-natarajas@henricostudents.org and hcps-brahmbhay@henricostudents.org on April 10th at 5:00 P.M with editor access. Additionally, position papers are to be taken into consideration when awards are being decided. We look forward to seeing everyone, and wish all delegates the best of luck!

Best Regards,
Akshaya Natarajan & Yana Brahmbhatt

MMSMUN XIV

George H. Moody Middle School Model United Nations

JCC Cold War - USSR

Topic 1: The Berlin Crisis

Topic 2: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Committee Overview

The Cold War was a term first coined in 1945 to describe the rivalry and tensions between two or more superpowers, each possessing nuclear capabilities. In a few years, this term would reference the infamous, near-nuclear war between the US and USSR. As World War II ended, tensions between the once-allied countries arose. Eastern Europe had been infiltrated by Soviet government installations, capturing the eyes of the US and Britain. This threat of powered domination was feared by Western countries, while the Soviet Union was determined to sustain control to prevent the threat of German control or communism.

Tensions formed, leading to the solidified start of the Cold War between 1947-1948.

This committee focuses on the USSR's side of the war, driven by spreading a socialist government. The Soviets had an upper hand in the military aspect, scientific advancements, and a variety of nuclear power, yet still had difficulties with providing basic resources, a suffering economy, governmental restraints, and tensions over espionage.

The Berlin Crisis first started in 1948 when the Soviet Union established the Berlin Blockade, an attempt at blocking off all land access to West Berlin, in hopes of gaining control over Western powers. Due to

the Soviets wanting to reunify the city and end Western influence, along with other tensions like economic failure, power imbalances, and espionage disagreements, the war reached a peak during this time. With the Soviets demanding that the Western powers leave in a six-month ultimatum, the Berlin Crisis began in November 1958.

In 1961, the US failed to overthrow Cuba's communist government, convincing Cuba to ask for help from the USSR. In response to this, nuclear weapons were secretly exported and deployed for purposes of defense and a way to counteract the threat of US missiles in Europe, which were later discovered by the US. The fear of a nuclear war was rising. Due to tensions over proximity, time, and intelligence, the Cuban Missile Crisis began on October 16, 1962.

Topic 1: The Berlin Crisis

Topic Introduction

One of the most notable and recent conflicts in US history was the Cold War, a US victory. The US was flourishing with new technologies and military protocols in place. However, on the eastern side of the globe, the Soviet Union weakened with economic struggles and internal political pressure. The once powerful nation collapsed, leading to the division of 15 new independent nations, most notably Russia, which inherited most of the power, resulting in the end of the Cold War. Massive reforms and protest movements were seen to be possible for the self-government of these individual nations. A significant part of the reform was the end of a communist government that controlled Europe. The political repression, lack of freedom, and Western powers triggered large, peaceful revolutions.

In 1961, during the Berlin crisis, a physical need for a divide between communism and democracy led to the

construction of the Berlin Wall. The Berlin Crisis was a moment when tensions between the US and USSR peaked in Germany's center. However, the wall eventually was torn down in 1990 due to weakened Soviet reinforcement and protests, reunifying Germany and shortly resulting in the collapse of the Soviet Union, after Mikhail Gorbachev's failed reforms, and ultimately the end of the Cold War.

Topic History

In 1945, the Potsdam Conference was held between Soviet Dictator Stalin, British Prime Minister Churchill, and US President Truman, to arrange terms from the end of WWII. Pressing issues discussed how to handle Germany's internal division, the aftermath of Poland, and how to finalize the destruction of Japan's military, while questions stirred about Germany and Poland's reparations and economic rehabilitation. After World War II, the Soviet Union and the United States had different

perspectives on how to sustain and control Germany. Prime Minister Joseph Stalin initially wanted Germany to be unified, stripped of its military, and a change of borders, all while preventing Western involvement. Joseph Stalin, Vyacheslav Molotov, and Georgy Malenkov were all primary figures involved with the negotiations of Germany's future. However, as the Cold War expanded, they began to focus on control of East Germany, spreading communism and Soviet influence throughout.

From 1945 to 1958, before the start of this crisis, the Soviets focused on dividing Germany and weakening the East. During this time period, the Soviet Union absorbed power through military control, economic or industrial strength, and technological developments. However, Stalin's Soviet Union slowly weakened East Germany of wealth and machinery during the post WWII years, in efforts of rebuilding the Soviet

Union as war reparations, destroying Germany's economy. Ultimately, this communist rule began to crumble as the skilled Eastern population fled to the prosperous, US-controlled West Germany through Berlin. Insecurities of the USSR rose, and East Germany grew weak. The Berlin Ultimatum of 1958, issued by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, was implemented; it was a note issued to the governments of the three Western Allies explaining a six month ultimatum to turn West Berlin into a "free, demilitarized city" or else the Soviets would sign a separate peace treaty with East Germany, officially closing Western access to Berlin through the construction of the Berlin Wall.

Analysis of the Topic

As one of the most pivotal conflicts in history, the Berlin Crisis was a significant event in establishing the direction of the Cold War II. This topic is strategically revolved around the struggle between

communism and capitalism, ultimately deciding the future of Europe after critical divisions. Berlin itself was divided between the Soviet Union and Western powers such as the United States. However, this was not the main concern. Much of Europe had its own allies and in the midst of division in Germany, a crucial part of Europe was forced to choose between the Allied Powers and Soviet Union. Additionally, West Berlin allowed Western ideas such as money, influence, and ideology to enter the socialist East. This continued presence of Western powers in West Berlin allowed capitalist influence to penetrate East Germany, undermining its socialist stability and encouraging mass emigration.

Following the end of World War II, Germany became the center of a growing struggle because the division of Germany did not just split the country; it also reflected the larger division between Eastern and Western Europe. Although Berlin was

located deep within East Germany, it was heavily divided between the Soviet Union and Western powers. The Soviet Union was working with its allies in Eastern Europe. On the other side were its oppositions, the Western Allied Powers like the United States, United Kingdom, and other nations like France. These tensions significantly escalated from the late 1950s to the early 1960s when the situation in Berlin became inferior. During this time period, large numbers of people were fleeing from the East to the West, destabilizing Eastern Germany and creating serious economic conflicts in Berlin and political problems between negotiation powers. As a result, In 1961, the Berlin Wall was established to prevent the mass exodus and protect the socialist state. Although the Berlin Wall brought stability and control, it also contributed largely to the increasing tensions globally. It is to be remembered here that the Berlin Crisis was not a war in the sense that

there has not been significant battle nor geographic territory being captured. Instead, it was largely to end political and strategic disputes.

When negotiations between the US, USSR, UK, and France began to repeatedly fail, tensions started to increase and the unstable situation in Berlin became highly unpredictable. The Berlin Crisis went to show just how divided Europe was during the Cold War. Additionally, although the creation of the Berlin Wall contributed in stabilizing mass emigration and divisional concerns, the Berlin Crisis went to become an increasing concern between the superpowers. Not only did it affect civilians, but the economy and government as well. Throughout the struggle, this Crisis became a symbol of struggle between capitalism and communism.

The Berlin Crisis' lasting impact spread beyond the city itself. It became a symbol of the greater struggle between the

Soviet Union and the United States. A simple political and ideological struggle could go from miniscule struggle to shaping one's everyday life. This crisis influenced policies and decisions all across Europe, as both the Eastern and Western sides worked to maintain their influence and avoid going into war. Ultimately, The Berlin Crisis reinforced the division of Europe for decades, shaped the strategies of both superpowers, and left a lasting impression on the history of the Cold War.

Potential Solutions

The six-month ultimatum failed as the Western powers found Berlin a crucial symbol of freedom and refused to abandon citizens or follow under pressure, resulting in the construction of the Berlin Wall. An understanding between the US and USSR formed from the Berlin crisis that led to the construction. The Soviet agreed to continue their dominance over their eastern European allies and East Berlin, as the US and its

allies would be able to assert themselves over Western Europe, West Germany, and West Berlin with influence. Yet, this was only a stalemate solution. The issue with this outcome was that it was simply a physical divider and barrier rather than a negotiated, political resolution. Root causes like ideological and political tension were never fully resolved, making this conflict only stall rather than reach a diplomatic agreement between both sides. As a result of the long period of time with the wall, division began to normalize, and stability only became temporary.

The USSR, Eastern Berlin, and supporting members are those in favor of these intentions. Resolutions in this topic should meet the criteria of mutual security and formal diplomatic recognition, all while not repeating similar mistakes from history. These flaws include not addressing political viewpoints, taking real action into an effective outcome, and finding a solution

able to be negotiated with both the US and USSR. The criteria include realistic and clear statements that display an understanding of underlying root causes should be made along with long-term political strategies. In addition, these solutions should benefit the Soviets' efforts in spreading a communist government and help overtake other powers without starting new wars or conflicts.

Besides, proposals for resolutions should prioritize the security of a strong government whose Western ideological influence remains limited. A diplomatic approach should be prioritized along with political pressure and leverage rather than direct physical military confrontation.

Fundamentally, resolutions should be able to follow with their main goal, strengthening the Soviets influence of communism over the globe and fulfilling industrial power worldwide.

Questions to Consider

1. How did daily life from the Berlin Wall affect the daily lives of people in West and East Berlin by instances like separating families and forcing danger amongst millions?
2. What were the political, economic, and social consequences of the Berlin Wall and how did this affect the crisis as a whole?
3. What strategies could be used to solve the crisis in Berlin without involving military use or engaging in war, and how could these strategies improve the conflict between the US and USSR?
4. How did the Berlin Crisis influence future policies in Europe?
5. What can be learned from the failure of negotiation between the US and USSR contributing to the escalation of the tensions and why?

Topic 2: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Topic Introduction

The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 was a major confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. Initiated by Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Union decided to place its nuclear missiles in Cuba in order to protect its allies and restore strategic balance with the United States. By supporting Cuba, the USSR aimed to prevent further aggression from the United States and maintain stability within its region. That was later diminished as the discoveries of missile sites began to cause further tensions and international instability.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a moment when tensions between the US and USSR began to diminish from the superpowers to underlying allies like Turkey, Italy, Cuba, the nations which contained the missiles and nuclear weaponry. Both sides feared surprise attacks and they raced to innovate more powerful nuclear weapons and began to escalate. After the Cold War, the Cuban

Missile Crisis was recognized as a turning point in relations between the top superpowers. With its demonstration of diplomacy, mutual respect across nations, and negotiation, the crisis encouraged control and agreement between allies and rival powers.

Topic History

As the US attempted and failed to throw out Cuba's communist government, known as the infamous Bay of Pigs Invasion, the Soviet was content to comply with nuclear weapons for Cuba. In 1959, Fidel Castro led a revolution in Cuba in order to overthrow the U.S. government to dismantle what he viewed as American imperialism. After the immense power gained by Cuba, Castro began to form close alliances with the Soviet Union which resulted in a threat to the United States. In 1961, the U.S. supported a failed invasion, known as The Bay of Pigs, which in turn caused Cuba to rely on the Soviet Union as

close allies. At the same time, the United States placed nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy, close to Soviet territory. The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev saw this as a threat and aimed to protect Cuba with undercover nuclear missiles in 1962.

After careful investigation by the U.S., spy planes discovered missile sites under construction in Cuba. President John F Kennedy saw this as a serious danger as it was aimed to strike the United States, which caused him to announce a naval blockade around Cuba. For thirteen days, the world was stuck at the edge of nuclear war as both sides prepared for incoming conflict. After intense negotiations under pressure and the brink of global nuclear war, the Soviet Union agreed to remove its missiles from Cuba at the expense of a promise from the U.S. to not invade Cuba and remove the secret missiles from Turkey and Italy. This showed the Soviet's commitment to national

and regional security through peaceful diplomacy with its opposition.

Internally, the Soviet leadership faced an intense amount of pressure to act decisively while avoiding nuclear war. Nikita Khrushchev and Politburo (Political Bureaucracy) and the other top advisors in the region to evaluate military, politics, and strategic options like whether or not deploying nuclear missiles would be beneficial. Additionally, the USSR had alliances within the Eastern bloc of Europe and strong military officials that supported Khrushchev publicly. This included nations such as Germany, Poland and militant leaders from Cuba as the Soviet Union relied on the missiles placed in their country to be deployed as their strongest military barrier from the United States. Overall, diplomacy played a big role in encouraging nations to not wage war at the brink of nuclear collapse and deterioration. Each country and alliance fought for safety and

stability. However, it often came at the expense of foreign policy and a lasting impact on the Cold War relations.

Analysis of the Topic

The Cuban Missile Crisis' main theme was the recklessness of the spread of nuclear power. Both the US and the Soviet Union were aware of the weapons and tests being conducted. When the powers competed for nuclear status, an issue surfaced. Not only was this to prevent future invasions as a form of defense from the US, but it was also a response to counteract the threat of US missiles deployed in Italy and Turkey. As US intelligence discovered the transaction, they began operations of airstrikes and missile strikes in Cuba. Not only were military tensions rising, but so was pressures between espionage, including secret surveillance and missile sites unveiling. This tense standoff between the Soviet and US was hazardous as the potential for destruction from nuclear

weapons began to ascend and also how closely the powers stood on the brink of nuclear war.

Both the US and USSR had their own perspectives on this issue. For example, US President John F. Kennedy believed it was best to handle the crisis through an interception, often seen as an act of war, rather than a US naval blockade. Soviet Prime Minister Khrushchev was infuriated as blocking international waters was seen as an effort to push mankind towards nuclear war. Like this, more miscommunications between the sides arose. A US plane was hit by a Soviet missile, and an USSR submarine was hit by a US Navy vessel, at the time believed to be an indication of the start of war. Thankfully, Vasili Arckhipov suspended the launch of a Soviet nuclear torpedo, temporarily clearing the air. The US was believed to ally with the leaders of France, Great Britain, and West Germany, all assisting with naval blockade efforts and

a suspension of power. On the other hand, the USSR primarily allied with Cuba, led by Fidel Castro, as both nations believed in a communist revolution.

As the Cold War progressed, tensions between the two sides escalated. Both the US and the Soviet Union were aware of the nuclear power and capabilities of each country. At the height of the Cold War, in October of 1962, the world was swaying towards the extinction of humanity, moving the Doomsday Clock to the closest it had ever been during the time; it was so close that the US was ready to move to DEFCON 2. This is often referred to as “the closest the world has come to nuclear war” because of time constraints and rigid confrontations between the USSR and the US. As a result of the hostile brinkmanship, the impact of the Cuban Missile Crisis was deemed monumental. When the two global superpowers compromised, new communication emerged and a forced shift

towards detente. Due to the conclusion of this crisis, the Cold War began to resolve, and an effective discussion about handling nuclear power emerged, including the creation of the Moscow-Washington hotline, where the two powers are able to maintain a connection to prevent an accidental nuclear war.

Regarding the outcome of the Cuban Missile crisis, both leaders were able to de-escalate the situation by reaching a sustainable solution, addressing the goals of either side. The US agreed to remove nuclear missiles from Turkey and Italy, along with a pledge not to invade Cuba. As for the Soviets, they reached an agreement to withdraw from Cuba under UN inspection, along with the removal of all offensive Soviet missiles under US supervision. This resolution was often praised as a diplomatic victory, and the peaceful nature of the resolution with the

Soviets is known as one of Kennedy's greatest accomplishments.

Ultimately, the 13-day period of time in October of 1962 was a daunting crisis between two superpowers that led humanity on the cliff's edge to self-destruction. From maintaining a naval blockade to threats of nuclear war, this period of time was risky due to the severity of the situation. In retrospect, this period of the Cuban Missile Crisis has reinforced the importance of diplomacy, shaped the world's progress on nuclear control, and most importantly, helped quell the chaos of the Cold War.

Potential Solutions

Just thirteen days can make a critical impact on the world. In this instance, the world was struck at the edge when nuclear war was a possibility that would affect millions globally. This committee must use the purpose and timeframe of these thirteen days when tensions began to escalate to ensure final agreements fit the standard of

the timeframe. The most beneficial ways to resolve the issue were to use diplomacy during high-stress situations. From the Soviet's perspective, the primary solution to the Cuban Missile Crisis was diplomatic negotiation and compromise. It has been seen as effective as the superpowers (United States, Cuba, and Soviet Union) took measures to resolve nuclear detonation with transparency and cooperation. Not only should this be done with allies, but with oppositions. As the Model United Nations, bringing collaboration is looked favorably upon, as unison is key in preventing global crisis.

The USSR aimed to protect its ally, Cuba, by reaching a mutual agreement with the United States with proposals that combined missile removal and security guarantees. Resolutions in this topic should show cooperation, mutual agreements, and promotion of security within a strong government. More importantly, each

resolution should address the Cuban Missile Crisis from the Soviet perspective to benefit the USSR and its allies by maintaining strategic balance. They should prioritize compromise rather than military escalation, and include clear steps and verification from every perspective to ensure implementation. Directives must avoid one-sided demands without taking other delegates and nations into consideration. Vague language or measures lacking enforcement could lead to mistrust and destabilize the committee, so it is critical that each solution be prevalent to benefitting the Soviet Union.

The Cuban Missile Crisis showed the importance of defending allies while managing tensions with other nations. Directives that respect the Soviet's forces and use them in turn for the benefit of the USSR are the most favorable and practical steps to resolve moving forward.

Questions to Consider

1. In what ways did the Cuban Missile crisis reshape perspectives on politics, military, and diplomacy during the Cold War?
2. What roles could transparency and inspection play when resolving crises involving nuclear weapons?
3. What strategies could be implemented to reduce the dangers of nuclear brinkmanship during this crisis, without acts of war or military confrontation?
4. How could international cooperation and communication be enhanced in the time of crisis in order to avoid rapid escalation between rival powers?
5. Until what extent should nuclear weapons be permitted as a defense tool, accounting for the dangers from the Cuban Missile Crisis?

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