

Cuban Missile Crisis



How far is Cuba from
the coast of Florida?

■ 90 miles

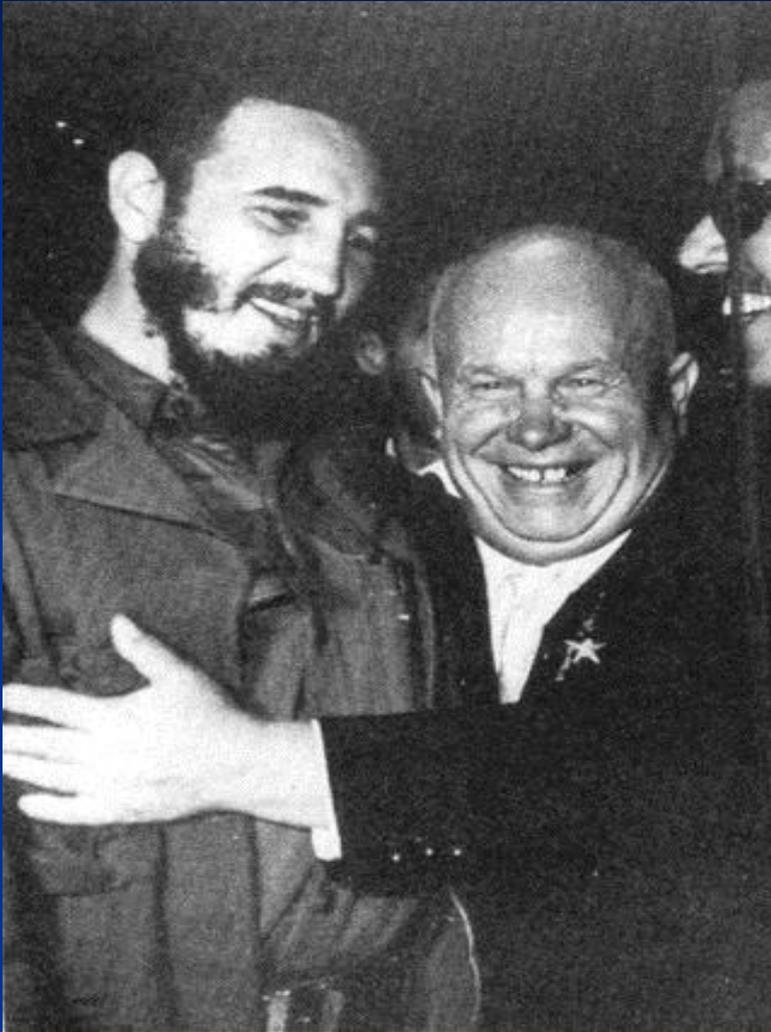
Background

- Cuba, small island, 90 miles from FL
- U.S. businesses controlled much of Cuba, U.S. military base (Guantanamo)
- 1959, Fidel Castro overthrows Batista (US-backed dictator)



Castro enters Havana 1959

Relations Worsen



Kruschev embraces Castro

- Castro takes over U.S. businesses
- January 1961, US breaks off diplomatic relations
- April, 1961, Bay of Pigs – 1,400 anti-Cuban exiles attempted to overthrow Castro
- By Autumn 1962, Cuba has received 1000s of USSR missiles, jets, boats & personnel

Why was the USSR interested in helping Cuba?

- To help a new Communist state
- To get a launch base for inter-continental missiles (ICMs)
- To test strength of new U.S. president, JFK
- Khrushchev wanted to force JFK to bargain over U.S. missiles in Europe



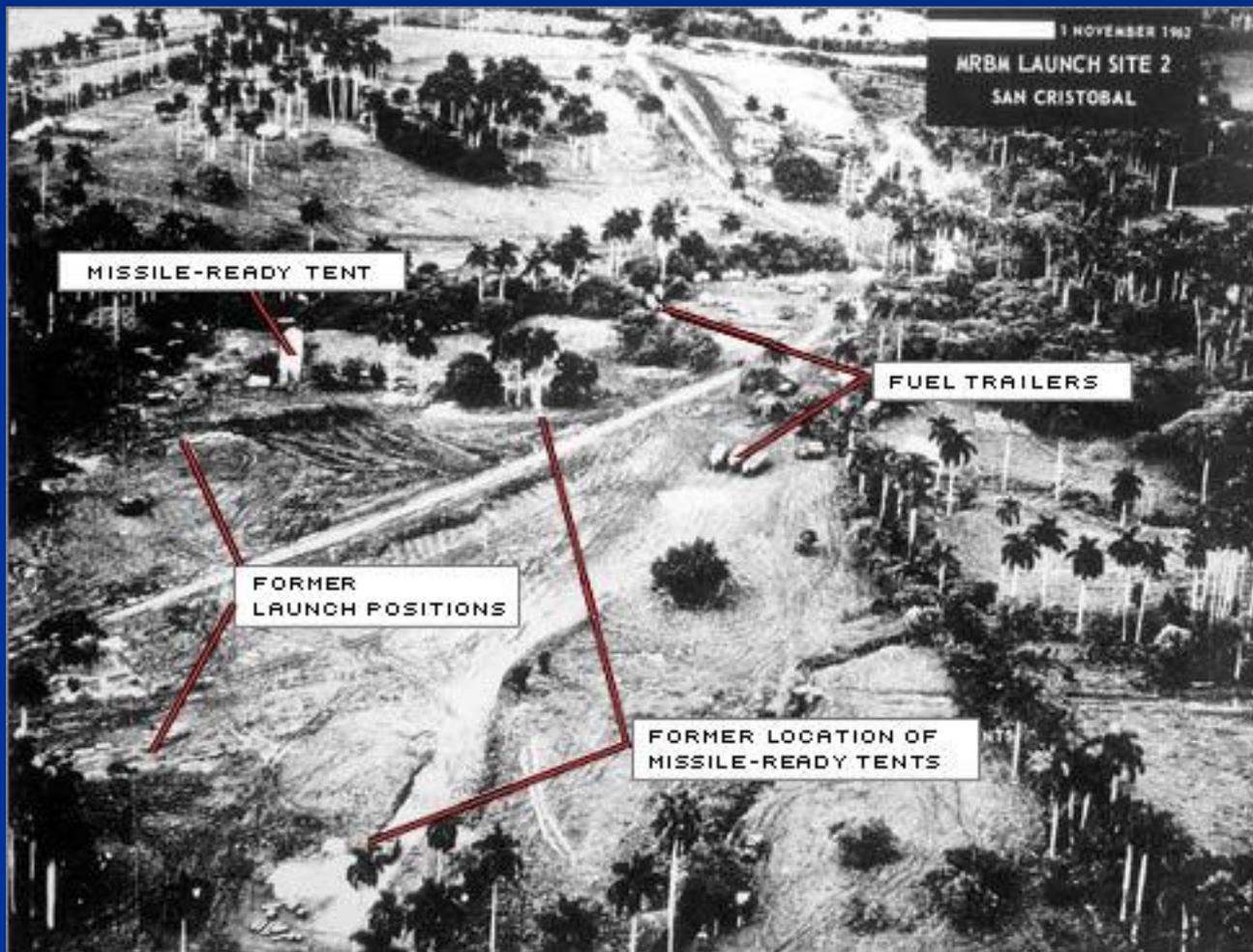
Why does this cartoonist think that Khrushchev was interested in Cuba?

14 October 1962, U.S. U-2 spy plane takes photos of suspected USSR missile sites in Cuba



- Missile sites nearing completion, could be ready in 7 days

20 Soviet ships bound for Cuba carrying missiles!







The Missiles: Locations





The world holds
its breath....



Pres. Kennedy had 6 options—
what were they?

Option #1



Air Strike

- At least against missile sites, and perhaps against wider targets
- May provoke a Soviet response in West Berlin

Option #2



Do Nothing

- Ignore missiles in Cuba.
- U.S. had military bases in 127 different countries including Cuba.
- U.S. had nuclear missiles in several countries close to the Soviet Union.
- Therefore, only right that the Soviet Union should be allowed to place missiles in Cuba.

Option #3



Diplomacy/Negotiate

- Offer the Soviet Union a deal
- USSR remove missiles in Cuba → U.S. withdraw its nuclear missiles from Turkey and Italy.

Option #4



Military Blockade

- Use the US Navy to block any missiles from arriving in Cuba
- Announce that any ships coming into Cuba would be searched for weapons before entering
- Soviet ships could decide to not stop when U.S. ships blocked them which could trigger gunfire and possible escalation

Option #5



Invasion

- Send troops to overthrow Castro
- Missiles could then be put out of action

Option #6



Nuclear Weapons

- Use nuclear weapons against Cuba and/or the Soviet Union.

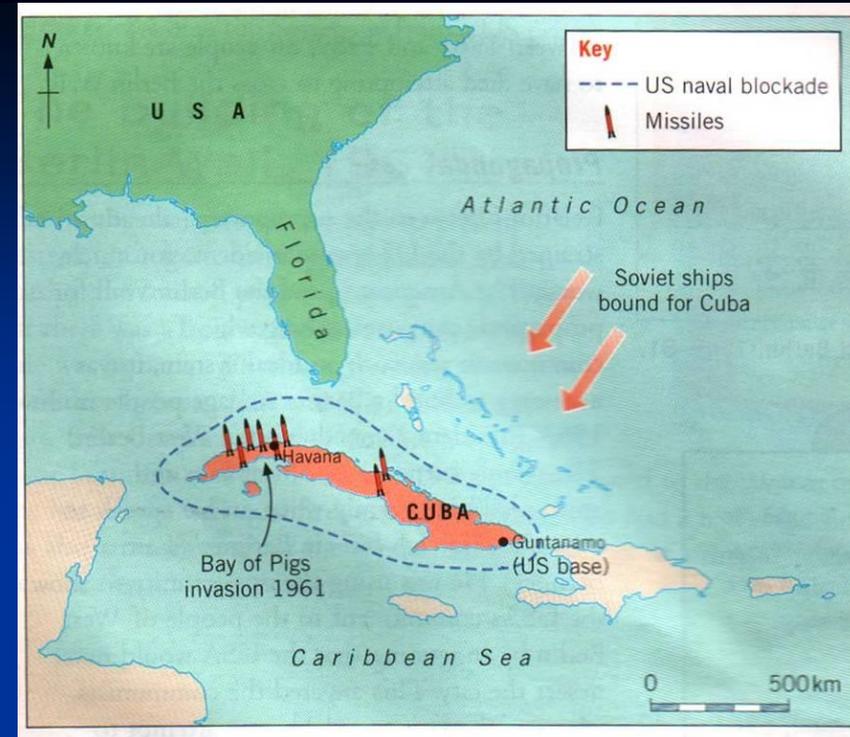
What would you have done?

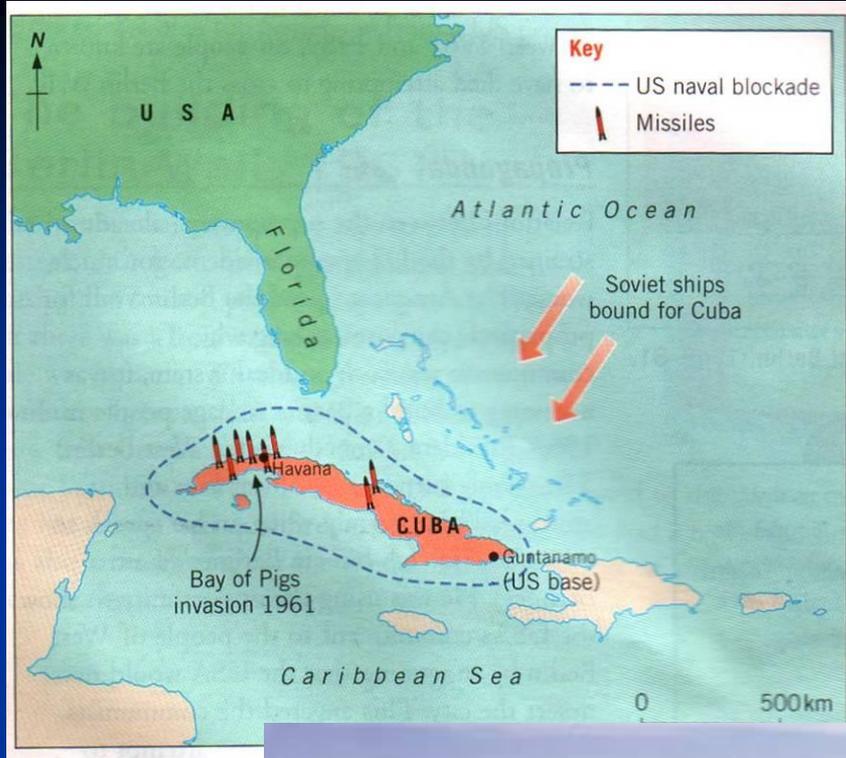
1. Air Strike
2. Do Nothing
3. Diplomacy/Negotiate
4. Military Blockade
5. Invasion
6. Nuclear Weapons

With a partner, rank the options from your most preferred option to your least preferred option

What actually happened?

- 10/20--JFK decides to blockade Cuba
- 10/22-- Publicly calls on Khrushchev to remove weapons





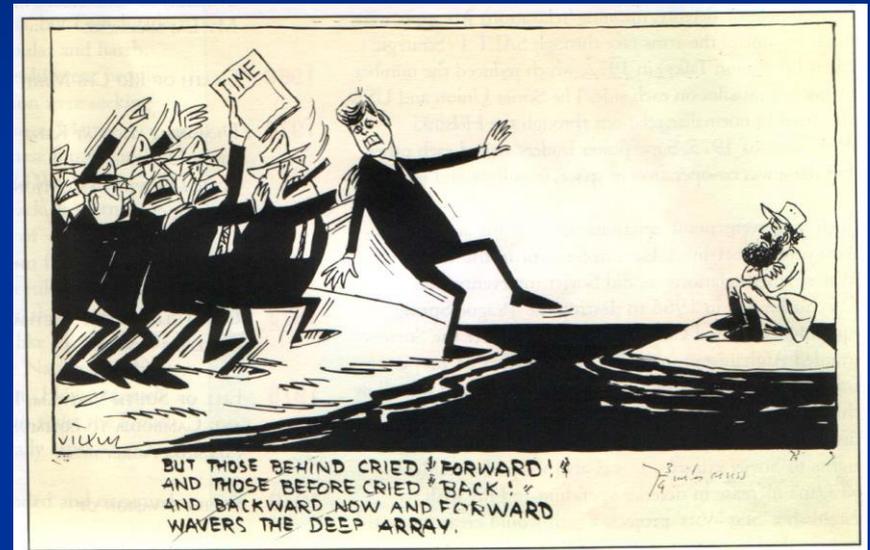
- 10/24 Soviet ships (accompanied by submarine) approach blockade zone
- 10/24, 10:32 am, Soviet ships stop & turn round



What happened next?

- 10/25-- Photos show continued construction of missile sites
- 10/26--Kennedy receives offer: we'll remove missiles if you end blockade & promise not to invade Cuba
- 10/27--JFK receives 2nd letter calling for withdrawal of US missiles in Turkey too

- 10/28--Khrushchev agrees to dismantle Soviet missiles in Cuba
- U.S. publicly declares it will never invade Cuba & secretly agrees to dismantle missiles in Turkey



What is this cartoonist trying to say about the difficulties facing Kennedy during the Crisis?

Outcome

- Cuba remained Communist & heavily armed, but without nuclear missiles
- World saw the futility of the idea of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)
- Supported theory of containment & co-existence because alternatives unimaginable
- Permanent hotline between White House & Kremlin set up
- U.S. & U.S.S.R Negotiate a nuclear test ban treaty