Revolutionary Cuba

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I. Early Years
1. political independence and resource redistribution
2. shuffling of cabinet ministers
3. Castro’s visit to U.S. and meeting with VP Nixon
4. concern that Cuba was moving into Soviet orbit
5. Eisenhower directed CIA to train Cuban exiles
6. wrangling over sugar quota
7. Soviet oil for Cuban sugar – takeover of U.S. refineries
8. embargo and break in relations
Assumption of Power 1959
Proclamation of Victory
Castro–Nixon Meeting of April 19, 1959
Castro and Khrushchev at UN in September 1960
U.S. Breaks Relations with Cuba

Senators Clash Over Plan to Revise Rules

Party Role of Johnson Widened

Democrats Ask Texas to Preside Over Caucasuses

Robert C. Albritton and Hearon

A long-simmered fight to liberalize the Senate's until-fallhammer rules broke into a welter of parliamentary chaos yesterday as the Senate reconvened under new leadership, with a striking link with its old "split." In a companion development, as newsroom at the reactivated rules session, Vice President-elect Johnson, who ran the Senate with a firm hand for eight years, was in the chamber to preside at special sessions under a new format.

The latter proposal, put forward by Johnson's successor as Majority Leader, Robert C. Byrd, was volleyed with objections at a session that stretched almost through the day. The Senate, now led by a speaker more accustomed to conducting the Senate, was divided along party lines.

The Caucuses voted for Byrd, 70-30, after rejecting all other nominees in a session to delay adjournment. As by-elections in the Senate were finally held, the Senate's regular order was restored after a week.

Air of Calm in House Hides War of Nerves

Congressional Stories Inside

Kennedy Appoints Hitch Pentagon Budget Chief

Ike Calls Castro Slash in Embassy at Havana 'Limit of Endurance'

The United States last night broke off diplomatic relations with the Cuban Government of Fulgencio Castro.

President Eisenhower at 8:38 p.m. issued a statement saying: "There is a total to what the United States is willing to accept. That limit has now been reached."

The United States has asked Russia to terminate all its diplomatic and consular duties in Cuba.

Mr. Eisenhower gave as his reason the ouster of the United States' last postman in its embassy and consular offices in Havana to 11 persons.

In Havana, police last night arrested U.S. Embassy personnel Stewart B. Adams as the cause of his departure for the United States; United Press International reported.

He was seized in his home while packing. There was no immediate indication of what the charge against him was.

The arrest came before the aura reached Havana that the United States had broken diplomatic relations.

U.S. Relaxes Stand on Laos Policy

Pressure by All Pows Prompts Review of Peace Talks

By Warren Ison

The United States, under its new administration, has reconsidered its policies toward Laos. The United States, under its new administration, has reconsidered its policies toward Laos.
Embargo: February, 1962
Fidel Plays to Win 1960
Bay of Pigs

I. Overview

1. election of John F. Kennedy in November 1960
2. “How could I have been so stupid to let them go ahead?”
   a. campaign rhetoric and stopping communism
   b. success of Guatemalan coup = illusion of success
   c. Allen Dulles and Richard Bissell
   d. flow of information to president from CIA
   e. misgivings of Joint Chiefs and State Department
Bay of Pigs

I. Operation
1. effort to conceal U.S. involvement
2. security breaches among Cuban exiles
3. Castro eliminated threat of major uprising
4. problems with landing zone
5. Kennedy’s cancellation of air strikes
6. spectacular failure
7. sabotage and assassination attempts

II. Costly Error
1. Cuban military alliance with Soviet Union
2. Castro’s commitment to communism
Castro in Control
Captured Members of Assault Brigade 2506
Aftermath

April 17, 1961 - Bay of Pigs Invasion

The U.S.-backed invasion fails, 90 exiles were killed and the rest were captured.
Fiasco
Summary

THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION

The Bay of Pigs Invasion was perhaps one of the biggest failures of the United States. In an attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro, the United States government planned an invasion that ended with decreased trust in U.S. Government and killed all Cuban-American relations.

WHY:

The Bay of Pigs Invasion had been thought out long before the actual event occurred. Here are some of the events that lead up to Kennedy's invasion at the Bay of Pigs.

- March 17, 1960
  Eisenhower authorizes a CIA plan called "Operation Trilogy" to create a false-flag operation in Cuba. The goal is to overthrow the Castro government.

- May 7, 1960
  The United States suspends the Cuban sugar quota, effectively cutting off 10 percent of Cuban sugar exports to the United States. In the following day, the Soviet Union agrees to buy Cuban sugar.

- September 6, 1960
  A U.S.-backed coup attempt in Cuba by anti-Castro forces.

- October 6, 1960
  In response to the sugar situation, Castro nationalizes U.S. private investments in Cuba worth about $2 billion.

- December 6, 1960
  The Soviet Union and Cuba establish diplomatic relations.

- January 2, 1961
  Soviet Premier Khrushchev denies the existence of a Soviet military base in Cuba.

- January 3, 1961
  The United States and Cuba resume diplomatic and economic relations.

- January 20, 1961
  John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as the thirty-fifth president of the United States.

- Early April, 1961
  Kennedy discusses issues of feasibility with regard to U.S. participation in the planned invasion of Cuba.

THE INVASION:

- Saturday, April 13, 1961
  Air Force B-26 attack bombers begin flying bombing and strafing missions against Castro's airfields near the Bay of Pigs and the Zapata swamps. Castro was prepared and had dispersed some Silicon, unsustainable planes to find the attackers and chase them.

- Sunday, April 16, 1961
  Two battalions come ashore at Playa Girón and one at Playa Larga. However, due to poor-quality gear, identified as supplied by U.S. agents, delayed the landing enough to expose it to air attacks the following morning.

- Monday, April 17, 1961
  By 3 a.m. the next morning, Castro knew about the landing, and the Cuban government responded immediately, taking a superior position in the air. Since world opinion was against the U.S., Kennedy decided not to provide further air coverage and Cuba forced had complete control of the air.

- Wednesday, April 19, 1961
  A final attempt for U.S. air support resulted in the loss of four planes. That afternoon, the U.S. invaders surrendered. More than 200 people were killed; another 1,197 were taken captive.

- Thursday, April 20, 1961
  Kennedy told the American Society of Newspaper Editors that the episode was Cuba fighting Cuba and that the U.S. had not been involved.

WHAT WENT WRONG:

Due to poor-quality gear, identified as supplied by U.S. agents, delayed the landing enough to expose it to air attacks the following morning.

- Two ships, each about 80 yards from shore, some heavy equipment was lost.

- Regarded as one of the biggest blows to the Bay of Pigs invasion, Kennedy halted U.S. air support after the brigade landed, giving Cuban air forces superior control of the air.

- After landing, reports from both sides describe lack of support involving heavy USSR equipment.

BY THE NUMBERS

- Four 2,400-ton transports landed American soldiers
- 1,511
- 23 The average age of the U.S. soldiers
- 75,000 Cubans vs. 1,511 Americans
- 400 American soldiers lost
- A thousand and one hundred captured
- $53,000,000,000 of food and drugs in exchange for those captured
Cuban Missile Crisis

I. To the Brink
1. acceleration of revolutionary changes in Cuba
2. agreement to install nuclear missiles
3. strategic considerations
4. U-2 reconnaissance
5. EXCOM’s three options: naval blockade, air strike or military invasion
6. Kennedy vs. Khrushchev: missiles withdrawn
7. perceptions vs. realities
Oblique view of a Cuban MRBM site following removal of launch erectors and a missile transporter. On this date, launch stands were still in place and construction was under way on the nuclear warhead storage facility at the left. Courtesy U.S. Air Force.
MEDIUM RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE BASE IN CUBA
SAN CRISTOBAL

LAUNCH POSITION
MISSILE-READY TENTS
MISSILE ERECTORS
Thirteen Days

Cuban Missile Crisis

For 13 days in October 1962 the world hovered on the brink of nuclear war, with the United States and the Soviet Union locked in a standoff at the height of the Cold War.

24 SS-4 medium-range and 16 SS-5 intermediate-range launchers, loaded with two missiles, each with 1-megaton nuclear warhead.

- **SS-5 range:** 3,540km
- **SS-4 range:** 1,770km

**Oct 24:** Soviet ships carrying military equipment to Cuba reverse course as they near quarantine zone.

**Oct 26:** CIA reports SS-4 missiles are ready to fire – Kennedy considers invasion.

**Oct 27:** Kennedy offers to end blockade and not invade Cuba if Soviets withdraw missiles.

**Oct 28:** Khrushchev announces removal of missiles in exchange for U.S. pledge never to invade Cuba. Deal to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey not made public.

**Nov 20:** Naval blockade lifted after Soviet missiles withdrawn.

**Aug 30:** "Hotline" – direct communication between Moscow and Washington – goes into operation.


**Oct 16:** U.S. President John F. Kennedy convenes ExComm – group of senior advisors – to tackle crisis.

**Oct 24:** Khrushchev says blockade is "an act of aggression". U.S. forces go to DEFCON 2 – highest alert status short of war.

**Oct 25:** CIA reports SS-4 missiles are ready to fire – Kennedy considers invasion.

**Oct 26:** Soviets offer to dismantle sites if U.S. pledges not to invade Cuba.

**Oct 27:** Khrushchev now demands removal of U.S. missile sites from Turkey.

**Oct 28:** Khrushchev announces removal of missiles in exchange for U.S. pledge never to invade Cuba. Deal to remove U.S. missiles from Turkey not made public.

**Oct 29:** U.S. military forces worldwide ordered to go to DEFCON 3 – heightened state of nuclear alert.

**Oct 30:** ExComm told installation of SS-4 missiles is nearly complete.

**Oct 31:** Kennedy makes TV address, declaring naval blockade of Cuba and warning U.S. will retaliate if any Soviet missile is launched from Cuba.

**Sep 1962:** Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev gives go-ahead to install nuclear missiles on Cuba to defend island from U.S. invasion.

**Apr 1961:** Soviet Union increases support of Fidel Castro’s regime in Cuba after Bay of Pigs invasion.

**U.S.**

- **Washington**
- **Miami**
- **Sagua La Grande**
- **Remedios**

**CUBA**

- **Havana**
- **Guantanamo Bay**

**CARIBBEAN SEA**

**ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**U.S. blockade enforced by 180 ships**

**Sources:** Cold War by Isserlis and Downing, cubanmissilecrisis.org.
“...is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted by this country...” - John F. Kennedy
Radicalization of 1960s

Radicalization of the System

A. Reshaping in the mid-1960s
1. planning
2. ideology
3. economic experimentation
   a. challenges and failures

B. Sino-Guevarism, 1966-70
1. Chinese model
2. “new man”
3. mobilization campaigns
4. exporting revolution - focos
5. revolutionary offensive
6. defeat of revolutionary drive
Che in Africa 1965: "This is the history of a failure."
Che Guevara in Bolivia 1967
Execution and Public Display
Che Guevara Mausoleum, Santa Clara
Revolution Square, Havana
Jean Paul Sartre: Che was "the most complete human being of our time".
Retrenchment

Return to the Soviet Model, 1970-76
1. restructuring and retreat from idealism
2. legal institutionalization - Constitution
3. state machinery
4. stabilization
5. involvement in Africa
10 Million Ton Sugar Harvest Campaign
Cuban Internationalism
In the 1980s the focus of friction in U.S.-Cuban relations shifted to also include immigration issues. A major crisis unfolded. In April 1980 an estimated ten thousand Cubans stormed the Peruvian embassy in Havana seeking political asylum. Eventually, the Cuban government allowed 125,000 Cubans to illegally depart for the United States from the port of Mariel, an incident known as the "Mariel boatlift." A number of criminals and mentally ill persons were involuntarily included.

Quiet efforts to explore the prospects for improving relations were initiated in 1981-82 under the Reagan administration, but ceased as Cuba continued to intervene in Latin America. In 1983, the United States and regional allies forced the withdrawal of the Cuban presence in Grenada.