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1. **Letter From Secretary-General**

2. **Letter From Under-Secretary-General**

Honourable Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to FLZMUN's Historical United Nations General Assembly.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was one of the most dangerous moments of the Cold War, bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war. Throughout this committee, you will have the opportunity to examine the events of October 1962, represent your assigned countries, and work towards maintaining international peace and security.

I encourage you to participate actively, demonstrate diplomatic skills, and approach every discussion with an open mind. Remember that your decisions may shape the course of history.

I wish you all a productive and memorable conference.

Sincerely,

Poyraz Perit Dilber

Under-Secretary-General

dilberpoyrazperit@gmail.com

3. Introduction to the Committee

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly occupies a central position as the chief deliberative, policymaking, and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Member States of the United Nations, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full spectrum of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a significant role in the process of standard-setting and the codification of international law.

The General Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. It has also initiated political, economic, humanitarian, social, and legal actions that have benefited the lives of millions of people throughout the world. The landmark Millennium Declaration, adopted in 2000, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document reflect the commitment of Member States:

- To reach specific goals to attain peace, security, and disarmament, along with development and poverty eradication;
- To safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law;
- To protect our common environment;
- To meet the special needs of Africa; and
- To strengthen the United Nations.

In September 2015, the General Assembly agreed on a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals, contained in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (Resolution 70/1).

Powers and Functions of the General Assembly

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly may:

- Consider and approve the United Nations budget and establish the financial assessments of Member States;
- Elect the non-permanent members of the Security Council and the members of other United Nations councils and organs and, on the recommendation of the Security Council, appoint the Secretary-General;
- Consider and make recommendations on the general principles of cooperation for maintaining international peace and security, including disarmament;
- Discuss any question relating to international peace and security and, except where a dispute or situation is currently being discussed by the Security Council, make recommendations on it;
- Discuss, with the same exception, and make recommendations on any questions within the scope of the Charter or affecting the powers and functions of any organ of the United Nations;
- Initiate studies and make recommendations to promote international political cooperation, the development and codification of international law, the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international collaboration in the economic, social, humanitarian, cultural, educational, and health fields;
- Make recommendations for the peaceful settlement of any situation that might impair friendly relations among countries; and
- Consider reports from the Security Council and other United Nations organs.

The General Assembly may also take action in cases of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression when the Security Council has failed to act owing to the negative

vote of a permanent member. In such instances, according to its “Uniting for Peace” Resolution of 3 November 1950, the General Assembly may consider the matter immediately and recommend to its members collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.

4. **Introduction to the Agenda Item**

Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis

The things happened in the 40s.

The Cold War wasn’t a physical hot conflict; it was kind of a period that took place between 1947 and 1991. It started with the establishment of “Doctrine Truman" on March 12, 1947. The term "cold war" was first used in 1945 by English writer George Orwell. Orwell used the term in an article to refer to what he predicted would be a nuclear stalemate between “two or three monstrous super-states, each possessed of a weapon by which millions of people can be wiped out in a few seconds.” . It was first used in the United States by the American financier and presidential adviser Bernard Baruch in a speech at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1947. With the Truman Doctrine, President Harry S. Truman established that the United States would provide political, military, and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces. The Truman Doctrine effectively reoriented U.S. foreign policy, away from its usual stance of withdrawal from regional conflicts not directly involving the United States, to one of possible intervention in far away conflicts. On the 5th of June 1947, in a speech to the graduating class at Harvard University, Secretary of State George C. Marshall issued a call for a comprehensive

program to rebuild Europe. Fanned by the fear of Communist expansion and the rapid deterioration of European economies in the winter of 1946–1947, Congress passed the Economic Cooperation Act in March 1948 and approved funding that would eventually rise to over $12 billion for the rebuilding of Western Europe. The Marshall Plan was so successful in helping the Western zones of Germany to make a strong economic recovery. The countries who controlled the western zones - America, UK, and France - introduced a new currency, the Deutsche Mark, in an attempt to settle the economy down. But this angered Stalin. At the Yalta Conference it was agreed they would work towards reuniting Germany—and the new currency in the American, French, and British zones made this less likely. In March 1948 the Allied powers decided to unite their different occupation zones of Germany into a single economic unit. In protest, the Soviet representative withdrew from the Allied Control Council. Coincident with the introduction of a new deutsche mark in West Berlin (as throughout West Germany), which the Soviets regarded as a violation of agreements with the Allies, the Soviet occupation forces in eastern Germany began a blockade of all rail, road, and water communications between Berlin and the West. On June 24 the Soviets announced that the four-power administration of Berlin had ceased and that the Allies no longer had any rights there. On June 26 the United States and Britain began to supply the city with food and other vital supplies by air. They also organized a similar “airlift” in the opposite direction of West Berlin’s greatly reduced industrial exports. By mid-July the Soviet army of occupation in East Germany had increased to 40 divisions, against 8 in the Allied sectors. By the end of July three groups of U.S. strategic bombers had been sent as reinforcements to Britain. Tension remained high, but war did not break out. On September 3, a U.S. spy plane flying off the coast of Siberia picked up the first evidence of radioactivity from the explosion. Later that

month, President Harry S. Truman announced to the American people that the Soviets too had the bomb. Three months later, Klaus Fuchs, a German-born physicist who had helped the United States build its first atomic bombs, was arrested for passing nuclear secrets to the Soviets. While stationed at U.S. atomic development headquarters during World War II, Fuchs had given the Soviets precise information about the U.S. atomic program, including a blueprint of the "Fat Man" atomic bomb later dropped on Japan, and everything the Los Alamos scientists knew about the hypothesized hydrogen bomb. The revelations of Fuchs' espionage, coupled with the loss of U.S. atomic supremacy, led President Truman to order development of the hydrogen bomb, a weapon theorized to be hundreds of times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped on Japan.

Things happened in the 50s.

On June 25, 1950, an armed conflict broke out between North and South Korea when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China–or even, as some warned, World War III. Finally, in July 1953, the Korean War came to an end. In all, some 5 million

soldiers and civilians lost their lives in what many in the U.S. refer to as “the Forgotten War” for the lack of attention it received compared to more well-known conflicts like World War I and II and the Vietnam War. The Korean peninsula remains divided today. On October 4, 1957, the USSR launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth. The satellite, an 85-kilogram (187-pound) metal sphere the size of a basketball, was launched on a huge rocket and orbited Earth at 29,000 kilometers per hour (18,000 miles per hour) for three months. When it finally fell out of orbit in January 1958, Sputnik had traveled 70 million kilometers (43.5 million miles) around the planet. The only cargo onboard Sputnik was a low-power radio transmitter, which broadcast a beeping noise at regular intervals. This beeping could be heard by radio listeners around the world.

The Cuban Revolation

The Cuban revolution was a rebellion movement which was done by the Cuban people against the dictator of Cuba, Fulgencio Batista…

Everything started on March 10, 1952. Fulgencio Batista seized power in Cuba through a military coup, suspending the constitution and cancelling upcoming national elections. Batista, a former president and army strongman, moved quickly to take control of Havana’s key military installations and government ministries.

On July 26, 1953, 160 young rebels led by Fidel Castro stormed a barracks in eastern Cuba. It was supposed to be the beginning of an armed uprising against the dictatorship. The aim was to obtain weapons and distribute them to the local population. The revolution would then be proclaimed over the radio. In a second phase, the rebel army would retreat to the mountains and start a guerrilla war. The bold plan failed due to setbacks and above all due to lack of experience. Fidel was barely 26 years old. Most of the rebels were brutally slaughtered; only a few managed

to escape. Fidel, his brother Raúl and several others were rounded up and put on trial. In 1955, the Castro brothers and other prisoners were released under a general amnesty; Fidel Castro went into exile in Mexico and began organising a revolutionary force. In November 1956, 82 Cuban rebels piled onto the small yacht Granma and set sail for Cuba to touch off the Cuban Revolution. The yacht, designed for only 12 passengers and supposedly with a maximum capacity of 25, also had to carry fuel for a week as well as food and weapons for the soldiers. Miraculously, the Granma made it to Cuba on December 2, and the Cuban rebels, including Fidel and Raul Castro, Ché Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, disembarked to start the revolution, but unfortunately, they were ambushed by military units. Only a small number of people managed to escape from the military forces, and they retreated to the Sierra Maestra mountains, and they started the guerrilla war. Between the years 1957 and 1958, the Guerrilla Movement, which spread from Sierra Maestra, found support among the public, and the USA cut off the supply of weapons. In December 1958 Rebel forces advanced within the country; units under the command of Che Guevara won the Battle of Santa Clara, which was of strategic importance. On 1st January 1959, the dictator Fulgencio Batista fled to the Dominican Republic. And the rebels led by Fidel Castro captured the management of Cuba.

Bay of Pigs invasion

The Bay of Pigs Invasion was an invasion of Cuba carried out between April 17 and 19, 1961, by approximately 1,500 Cuban exiles opposed to Fidel Castro. The invasion was directed and managed by the U.S. government. It takes its name from Bahía de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs)—specifically a location known to Cubans as Playa Girón—in southwestern Cuba, where the invasion took place.

1. Background and Planning

In March 1960, President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the CIA to launch a covert program. Following Fidel Castro's rise to power in Cuba and his move toward closer ties with the Soviet Union, Cuban exiles (Brigade 2506) began training for guerrilla warfare and amphibious operations at secret camps in Guatemala under "Operation Pluto." When John F. Kennedy assumed the presidency in January 1961, he was confronted with a covert plan devised by the Central Intelligence Agency and military leaders during the Eisenhower era. Although Eisenhower had the plan prepared, his term ended in January 1961, and the presidency passed to John F. Kennedy; the plan was subsequently debated within the new administration. The plan was predicated on landing a brigade of anti-communist Cuban exiles (Brigade 2506) in Cuba to incite a popular uprising against Castro and overthrow the regime. In evaluating the plan, Kennedy found himself torn between the fear of communism and concerns regarding his international image. The CIA was the principal actor responsible for planning and managing the Bay of Pigs operation from start to finish. It organized the invasion plan (Operation Pluto), which entailed neutralizing the Cuban Air Force and executing an amphibious landing on the coast. The agency supplied the B-26 bombers and landing craft used in the operation and orchestrated radio broadcasts aimed at inciting an uprising against Castro.

2. Kennedy Administration's Decisions

The decisions made by the Kennedy administration regarding the authorization and modification of the plan inherited from the Eisenhower administration represent a major turning point in the context of the Cold War. Kennedy completely rejected the CIA's original plan but modified it to keep the US's involvement covert. The initial

plan had envisioned a landing near the city of Trinidad—offering escape routes into the mountains—in an area where opposition to Castro was strong. To conceal US involvement, Kennedy shifted the landing site to the Bay of Pigs, a remote and isolated area. Strict rules were established ensuring that US military forces and official aircraft would not participate in the combat; consequently, the Cuban Air Force was not neutralized by American planes prior to the invasion. Kennedy's decision to approve the operation while simultaneously withholding military support to shield the US led to a historic disaster.

3. Brigade 2506 and José Miró Cardona

Brigade 2506 was a paramilitary military unit composed of anti-Castro Cuban exiles, covertly established by the CIA in 1960 with the aim of overthrowing Fidel Castro. Its primary objectives were to topple Castro, restore the previous government, and instigate an uprising to rally the Cuban people and military against the regime. Comprising approximately 1,400 to 1,500 personnel—including students, doctors, and workers—the brigade underwent training in guerrilla warfare, parachuting, and jungle operations, while Cuban pilots also received specialized training. José Miró Cardona was the first Prime Minister of the Cuban Revolution; however, after failing to reach an agreement with Castro, he defected to the U.S. The CIA positioned him as a unifying figure for the anti-Castro exiles and the leader of the majority faction of the revolutionary movement. Had the invasion succeeded, he was slated to become the new Prime Minister. Once Brigade 2506 secured a safe zone on the island, Cardona and his cabinet were to land in Cuba, form a government, and request military aid from the U.S. He was confined to a base and cut off from the outside world.

4. The Course of the Invasion

April 15, 1961 — Attack on Cuban Airbases

The initial phase of the Bay of Pigs invasion involved a covert operation—carried out two days prior to the main landing—aimed at destroying Castro's air power. Three separate locations were bombed simultaneously as part of a strategy designed to mask the US role in the operation. While some aircraft were destroyed on the ground during the attack, the entire fleet was not eliminated; the CIA had underestimated the small number of T-33 jets and Sea Fury aircraft remaining in Cuban hands. The attack was orchestrated to appear as though rebel pilots within Cuba had defected, rather than as a direct American operation. One of the aircraft involved in the bombing landed at Miami International Airport bearing Cuban Air Force markings; the pilot claimed to be a defector from the Cuban military who had bombed bases belonging to the Castro regime and was seeking asylum in the US. The exposure of this ruse caused a scandal at the UN, and the US operation ultimately failed.

April 16, 1961 — Developments in Cuba and Kennedy's Decisions

Socialism was declared and a general mobilization was ordered in Cuba, and thousands of regime opponents were arrested to prevent an uprising. The US response was characterized by panic and the cancellation of air operations.

April 17, 1961 — Landings at Playa Girón and Playa Larga

CIA-backed exiles encountered intense resistance from militia forces upon landing on the beaches, and Castro mobilized his forces immediately. Because Kennedy had cancelled air support, Castro’s aircraft remained operational; they sank the invasion fleet, cutting off the troops from their ammunition and supplies.

Deprived of air support, the force of over 1,400 exiles became sitting ducks for Castro's regular army and jet fighters. Brigade 2506 soldiers found themselves trapped on the beach, with the sea at their backs and enemy forces pressing in from the front.

April 17–18, 1961 — Clashes and Counter-attacks Against Cuban Forces

Fidel Castro personally took command, deploying heavy weapons, tanks, and thousands of militia troops to the area. Cuban fighter jets, maintaining air superiority, bombed the remaining supplies; deprived of air support, Brigade 2506 ran out of ammunition by the end of the second day.

April 19, 1961 — The Invasion Attempt Ended in Defeat

The combat brigade ran completely out of ammunition after three hours of fighting and sent a message to the CIA stating, "You have abandoned us here to die." Due to a time difference, the air support Kennedy had authorized at the last minute arrived too late; four unprotected American pilots were shot down by Castro's jets, and the remaining exiles were defeated.

5. Consequences of the Invasion

Contrary to intelligence predictions, the Cuban population did not rise up in revolt; instead, more than 100 exiles were killed and nearly 1,200 were captured. These captured brigade members were later released after the US paid $53 million in food and medicine to Cuba. Following this failure, Kennedy changed his management style. Instead of blaming others, he took responsibility for the failure and announced the CIA team, yet the decision-making dynamics remained unchanged.

The Soviet Union, Cuba and The Strategic Balance

Cuba's geopolitical position offered the Soviet Union (USSR) invaluable geostrategic, military, and logistical advantages during the Cold War. Situated right next to the US mainland, the island transformed into a pivotal hub that fundamentally altered the global balance of power in Moscow's favor.

1) Advantages Regarding Missile Range and Flight Time

Geographically, Cuba is located just 90 miles (approximately 145 km) from the Florida coast of the United States. By deploying medium- and intermediate-range Soviet missiles to Cuba, the issue of range limitations was entirely eliminated. Missiles launched from Cuba could reach critical American cities—such as Washington D.C., New York, or Miami—within minutes.

2) Control of Maritime Lanes and Trade Routes

Cuba serves as the gateway to the Caribbean and is situated at the very center of the maritime routes connecting the Gulf of Mexico to the Atlantic Ocean.

US oil shipments, commercial vessels, and naval routes bound for the Panama Canal passed right alongside Cuba.

3) Breaching the US Containment Policy

During the Cold War, the US had encircled the USSR with military bases located in neighboring countries (Turkey, Italy, West Germany, and Japan). Cuba's strategic location offered the Soviets a chance to break through this encirclement. Moscow effectively countered the nuclear pressure building up right on its own borders by establishing a retaliatory presence just 90 miles away from the US.

4) The Primary Objectives of the Soviet Union

Balancing Nuclear Power In the early 1960s, the U.S. had deployed nuclear missiles to NATO countries bordering the Soviet Union, such as Turkey and Italy. Through Cuba, the USSR seized the opportunity to station nuclear forces right on the U.S. doorstep. International Influence: A Springboard in the Western Hemisphere and the Non-Aligned Movement The USSR utilized Cuba as a bridge to extend its global reach into the Western Hemisphere—a region otherwise considered to be under total American control. Moscow positioned Cuba as a power projection tool in crisis zones where it could not intervene militarily or where it lacked a direct presence. The deployment of thousands of Cuban troops to civil conflicts in African nations like Angola and Ethiopia during the 1970s was driven by Cuban military motivation and facilitated entirely by Soviet logistical support. The Objective of Supporting an Ally: Ideological Prestige and Socialist Solidarity The Soviet leadership presented Cuba's shift toward the communist camp to the world as an inevitable outcome of the global triumph of Marxism-Leninism over the excesses of capitalism. It framed the protection of the Castro regime against U.S. attempts to overthrow it—such as the Bay of Pigs invasion—in ideological terms, characterizing it as a bond of "socialist brotherhood and solidarity."

5) Nuclear Deterrence and MAD

Nuclear deterrence, second-strike capability, and the doctrine of MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) form the three pillars that defined relations between the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War and aimed to prevent a potential future third world war. Nuclear deterrence is a strategy designed to dissuade an adversary from launching a nuclear attack or a massive conventional strike. The second-strike

strategy ;is the capability to retain and launch a sufficient number of nuclear missiles to completely destroy the enemy—even after directly absorbing a surprise initial nuclear attack (first strike)—thereby ensuring a retaliatory response. The MAD; (Mutually Assured Destruction) doctrine is a military strategy involving two or more nuclear powers wherein the mutual use of nuclear weapons would result in the complete and definitive annihilation of both the attacker and the defender. Although nuclear operations may appear to ensure absolute stability through deterrence models, in practice, they possess an inherently insecure structure. The fundamental factors leading to the destabilization of the nuclear balance are:

- Faulty programming and errors in perception: Time pressure on operational units and military command echelons during crises can precipitate hasty decisions. Misinterpreting the adversary's signals—such as construing a routine military exercise or a defensive maneuver as preparations for an all-out first strike—is a primary cause of nuclear instability.
- Technical errors in early warning systems: Due to the short flight times of intercontinental ballistic missiles, leaders are left with a very narrow window—often just 10 to 15 minutes—to make decisions upon receiving an attack warning. This situation carries the risk that a software or hardware malfunction could lead to catastrophic failure.
- Risk of nuclear escalation: There is a risk that a limited conventional conflict in any region could escalate into a nuclear exchange as parties attempt to avoid losing the upper hand.

E. The Deployment of Soviet Missiles on Cuba

After 5 years from the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in 1954, the USA started sending nuclear heads to the NATO countries, especially the countries that are close to the USSR. They planted Jupiter missiles in Turkey. In contrast to this, the USSR didn't have allies close to the USA to send nuclear heads until the 1960s. After the Cuban Revolution, they gained an ally to send nuclear heads, but there was a big problem: they had to keep it as a secret, so they started sending them with disguised convoys in 1962

F. U.S. Intelligence and the Discovery of the Missile Sites

At dawn on Sunday, 14 October 1962, a single grey reconnaissance jet crossed the Yucatán Channel at 72,500 feet and turned north towards western Cuba. Its pilot was Major Richard S. Heyser of the US Air Force. He was flying so high that he left no contrail. Heyser spent about six minutes over Cuba with his cameras running. Then he flew on to Florida and landed, seven hours after taking off in California. By the following evening, photo interpreters in Washington had found what his film contained: Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles, capable of carrying nuclear warheads, being installed about 90 miles from the United States. On the 16th of October 1962 at 8:45, the American National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy informed President John F. Kennedy by himself

G. Committee Starting Point & Available Information

The committee will begin on 23 October 1962. At this point, the United States has publicly announced the discovery of Soviet missile installations in Cuba, and President John F. Kennedy has declared a naval quarantine around the island. Delegates will be aware of the American government's concerns regarding Soviet

military activities in Cuba, the announced naval quarantine, and the growing tensions between the United States, the Soviet Union, and Cuba. The Soviet Union has not yet announced its decision regarding the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba. The situation remains uncertain, and the possibility of military confrontation continues to threaten international security. Delegates will be expected to act according to their assigned roles, national interests, and the information available as of 23 October 1962.

5. **Key Words and Definitions**
    1. **Cuban Missile Crisis:** a 13-day confrontation between the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union
    2. **Cold War:** a period of international geopolitical rivalry between the United States (US) and the Soviet Union (USSR) and their respective allies, the capitalist Western Bloc and the communist Eastern Bloc
    3. **Nuclear Deterrence:** The prevention of an attack through the threat of nuclear retaliation.
    4. **Nuclear Missile:** A missile equipped with or designed to carry a nuclear warhead.
    5. **U-2 Reconnaissance** Aircraft: A United States high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft used for photographic intelligence missions.
    6. **Naval quarantine:** a maritime sanction physically enforced in peacetime and defined by its measured nature and intent to deescalate the situation and return it to the status-quo.
    7. **Blockade:** a belligerent action designed to prevent vessels of all states from entering or departing specified areas without at least subjecting themselves to a search for contraband goods.

8. **Sphere of Influence:** An area in which a state exercises political, economic, or military influence.
9. **Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD)**: The condition in which opposing nuclear powers possess the ability to destroy each other through retaliatory nuclear attacks.
10. **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**: The United Nations organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security.

6. Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. How can the United States, the Soviet Union, and Cuba reach a peaceful settlement without compromising their national security interests?

2. What measures should be taken regarding the Soviet nuclear missile installations in Cuba?

3. Should the United States withdraw its Jupiter missiles from Turkey and Italy as part of a potential agreement?

4. How can Cuba's sovereignty and territorial integrity be protected throughout the crisis?

5. What measures can be introduced to prevent accidental military confrontations and unauthorized use of nuclear weapons?

6. How can the United States and the Soviet Union establish long-term diplomatic communication to prevent similar crises?

7. What international agreements or security arrangements should be established to prevent future nuclear confrontations?

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