

Briefing Note for Mr. U Thant, the Secretary General of the United Nations

Topic: The implications of the 1962 Cuban Crisis for global security

SUMMARY

The Cuban missile crisis occurred when the Soviet Union placed missiles in Cuba with the intention of using them on the United States. They did this privately so they could have more time to finish getting the missiles ready, and so that they could do this without the US intercepting their plans. When the US found out about the missiles in Cuba, they kept it private that they knew. This is presumably so that they could go about combating it without conflict or distraction. Luckily, before any major damage was done, the two leaders of the US and the USSR decided to negotiate which put a halt to the nuclear missiles being launched. The whole reasoning for Cuba preparing these missiles was to combat the US invading Cuba, which was prompted by the Bay of Pigs. The Bay of Pigs was a failed attempt from the US to try and invade Cuba using Cuban exiles, and the result of this invasion was the increased chance of nuclear war. It is such a key point in the cold war, because if the missiles had launched, the story would be looked at differently. Due to the result of the crisis being avoided and no nuclear war taking place, the Cuban missile crisis is regarded as a successful moment in the Cold War rather than a story of bloodshed and the loss of millions of lives in both countries.

BACKGROUND

This event undermined global security because it did not adhere to any of the goals of global security. The goals of global security are non proliferation of weapons, disarmament, and peace. By building nuclear arms and keeping them in other countries, the arms are being proliferated and spread amongst different locations. With this proliferation, arms could also fall into the wrong hands and then be spread even further. The mere placement of these arms is a big undermining to nonproliferation as well as peace. The existence of arms that are so capable of mass destruction has no ties to peace at all. They are made to kill at an alarming rate, and made to end a large number of human lives, destroy environments, and do so in a short amount of time. All of these elements in nuclear weaponry show that it does nothing for peace, but has all of the elements that contribute to the start of a war. Finally, the global security goal of disarmament is being undermined through the countries all being armed and actively trying to be more armed. The arms race is a battle of seeing who can be in the possession of the most arms whether it be nuclear, fire, or militia. This is arming countries and militaries and inevitably arming civilians on the sidelines. All of this is working against disarmament. In general, all rules of global security and all morals included within the concept of global security are being violated by the mere existence of the Cuban crisis. Not only this, but It also undermined global security because it put other countries in harm's way. The realist approach would recognize that it is important to be armed in an international stage where it's every man for himself, but the missile building and placements involved the USSR, US, Cuba, and Turkey. These countries and their surrounding neighbors would be directly affected by nuclear arms, especially if something

were to go wrong and land in the wrong place. This means the more countries involved in a nuclear war, the more bloodshed overall.

RECOMMENDATION

To ease global tensions and encourage international cooperation, a proposal that we all commit to the non proliferation of arms is not the simplest to enforce, but is the first step towards mitigation.