**TIMELINE OF EVENTS: CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS**

1. The Soviet Union secretly places missiles in Cuba (September 1962).
2. American U-2 flight photographs Soviet missiles (October 14, 1962).
3. President Kennedy initiates a public confrontation by announcing the Soviet action to the world, demanding Soviet removal of their missiles, ordering a U.S. blockade of Soviet weapon shipments to Cuba, putting U.S. strategic forces on alert, and warning the Soviet Union that any missile launched from Cuba would be regarded as a Soviet missile and met with a full retaliatory response (October 22).
4. Khrushchev orders Soviet strategic forces to alert and threatens to sink U.S. ships if they interfere with Soviet ships en route to Cuba (October 23).
5. Soviet ships stop short of the U.S. quarantine line (October 24). Ambassador Adlai Stevenson confronts the Soviets at the United Nations and demands they answer for putting missiles in Cuba (October 25th)
6. Khrushchev’s private letter says the necessity for the Soviet deployment would disappear if the U.S. will pledge not to invade Cuba (October 26), followed by a second, public, Khrushchev letter demanding U.S. withdrawal of Turkish missiles for Soviet withdrawal of Cuban missiles (October 27).
7. U.S. responds affirmatively to Khrushchev’s first letter but says that first missiles now in Cuba must be rendered inoperable and urges quick agreement. Robert Kennedy adds privately that the missiles in Turkey will eventually be withdrawn but that the missiles in Cuba must be removed immediately and a commitment to that effect must be received the next day, otherwise military action will follow (October 27).

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