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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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Gift and Release Agreement:

We Gene Cornett and Kristin Hammond
(Interviewee) (Interviewer)

Do hereby grant permission to Jacksonville State University to copy the tape of the interview conducted at Anniston, AL on the date(s) of 11-13-95 for the oral history collection being compiled at Jacksonville State University.

This collection will be maintained by Jacksonville State University for research into the history of Northeast Alabama and the South. We further grant researchers permission to quote from the interview on this ~~tape~~.

Gene Cornett
(Interviewee's signature)

Date 11-13-95

1900 Valley Creek Road
(Address)

Anniston, AL 36201

(205) 831-1311
(Telephone)

Kristin Hammond
(Interviewer's signature)

Date 11-13-95

4130 Mitchell Road
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Anniston, AL 36201

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KAL #1010K4

Interviewee Background Information

Name: Gene Cornett
Address: 1900 Valley Creek Road, Anniston AL 36201
Phone Number(s): 831-1311
Approximate age or date of birth: 12-10-41
Mother's name: Lucille Cornett
Father's name: William Carl Cornett
Places lived and when: Juscalosa, Gardendale, Ft. Walton, FL, Panama Canal Zone, Waco Texas, Anniston

Education: B.S. Parks & Recreation Administration

Religion: Methodist
Business, political and social memberships (past and present):
Ala Parks & Recreation Association, National Parks & Recreation Assoc;

Present occupation: Director Parks and Recreation Dept., City of Anniston
Former occupation(s): Director P.A.R.D Gardendale, AL;

Special skills: _____
Major Accomplishments: _____

Local events in which you have participated: _____

State and/or regional events in which you have participated: _____

National events in which you have participated: _____

International events in which you have participated: _____

Natural born U.S. citizen? Yes/No
Naturalized Citizen: Yes/No Date: _____
Country from which you emigrated: _____
Documents, photographs, and artifacts which are in your possession: _____

Individuals you recommend who might be candidates for an oral history interview: _____

Additional information: _____

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What made you decide to enter the U.S. Air Force?
2. When did you enter the U.S. Air Force?
3. Where were you first stationed?
4. In your opinion, what was the mood of the country toward Russia after you entered the Air Force?
5. What was the attitude of the Air Force toward Russia while you were enlisted?
6. Were you trained in what to do in case of a nuclear attack?
7. When did you first hear or learn of the crisis in Cuba?
8. What affect did the crisis have on you? On the armed forces?
9. What steps were taken by your unit to prepare or guard against an attack?
10. What were your instructions, if any, in the event of a nuclear attack?
11. How did you know when it was all over? When was it all over?
12. What was the feeling in the armed forces after the crisis in Cuba had ended?

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- * The end of the Crisis .
- * American confidence

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH PROJECT

ON

GENE CORNETT
THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS OF 1962

BY

KRISTIN HAMMOND

DR. JACKSON
ALABAMA HISTORY
JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

NOVEMBER 21, 1995

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY - 1920's to 1970's

- 1920 -- 19th Amendment passed.
- 1920 -- January, Steelworkers strike ended.
- 1921 -- Ku Klux Klan membership drive began.
- 1920 -- November, Warren G. Harding elected President.
- 1922 -- William "Plain Bill" Brandon elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1923 -- August 2, President Harding died and Coolidge becomes President.
 - September, Banner Mine convict workers rebellion.
 - Fall, Teapot Dome scandal.
- 1924 -- November, Coolidge elected President.
- 1926 -- January, University of Alabama wins Rose Bowl.
 - November, Bibb Graves elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1927 -- Alabama state docks opened at Mobile, Alabama.
 - January, Alabama legislature passed Gov. Graves education reform act.
 - May, Charles Lindbergh's flight across the Atlantic ocean.
- 1928 -- Kellogg-Briand Treaty signed.
 - June, convict-lease labor system abolished in Alabama.
 - November, Herbert Hoover elected President.
- 1929 -- October 24, Black Thursday.
 - October 29, Stock Market crashed.
- 1930 -- July, Hawley-Smoot Tariff passed.
- 1931 -- Benjamin Miller elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1932 -- November, Franklin Delenor Roosevelt elected President.
- 1933 -- 21st Amendment passed.
 - March, Emergency Banking Relief Act passed by Congress.
 - March, Economy Act passed by Congress.
 - March, Civilian Conservation Corps created.
 - April, Tennessee Valley Authority created.
 - May, Federal Emergency Relief Act passed by Congress.
 - May, Agricultural Adjustment Act passed by Congress.
 - June, Banking Act passed by Congress.
 - June, Farm Credit Act passed by Congress.
 - November, Civil Works Administration created.
 - November, Civil Works Administration began putting Alabamians to work.
- 1934 -- June, Securities and Exchange Commission created.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY - Page 2

- 1934 -- June, Federal Communications Commission created.
- 1935 -- Bibb Graves elected Governor of Alabama.
 - Alabama Chamber of Commerce created.
 - April, Works Progress Administration created.
 - July, Wagner Act passed by Congress.
 - August, Social Security Act passed by Congress.
- 1936 -- November, Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President.
- 1937 -- Hugo Black appointed to U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1939 -- Frank Dixon elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1940 -- August, Gunter AFB established in Montgomery, Alabama.
 - November, Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President.
- 1941 -- December 7, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii bombed by Japan.
 - December 11, Germany, Italy and Japan declare war on United States.
- 1942 -- January, War Production Board created.
 - April 18, Doolittle's raid on Tokyo.
 - June, Battle of Midway.
 - June 28, Germany began offensive against Russia.
 - August, American offensive at Guadalcanal.
 - November 8, Anglo-American offensive, Operation Torch.
- 1943 -- Chauncey Sparks elected Governor of Alabama.
 - January, Casablanca conference.
 - June, race riots occur in Detroit, MI.
 - November, Teheran conference.
- 1944 -- June 6, D-Day, Normandy invasion.
 - August 25, Paris liberated from Nazi occupation.
 - October, Battle of Leyte Gulf.
 - November, Franklin D. Roosevelt elected President.
- 1945 -- February, Yalta Conference.
 - February to March, Battle of Iwo Jima.
 - April to June, Battle of Okinawa.
 - April 12, President Roosevelt died and Harry Truman becomes President.
 - May 8, V-E Day, Victory in Europe.
 - August 6, Atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, Japan.
 - September 2, Japan surrenders, formal end to WWII.
 - June 26, charter for United Nations signed.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY - Page 3

- 1947 -- James E. Folsom elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1948 -- June, Berlin Blockade.
 - July, Truman ended segregation in armed forces.
 - November, Truman elected President.
- 1949 -- April, NATO created, North Atlantic Treaty Organization.
- 1950 -- June, Korean War began.
- 1951 -- Gordon Pearsons elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1952 -- Dwight Eisenhower elected President.
- 1953 -- Department of Health and Educational Welfare created.
 - July, Armistice signed to end Korean War.
- 1954 -- May 17, Supreme Court handed down decision on Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka.
 - September, SEATO created.
- 1955 -- James E. Folsom elected Governor of Alabama.
 - Summer, Geneva summit.
 - December 1, Rosa Parks arrested for not giving up bus seat to a white person.
 - December 3, Montgomery bus boycott began.
- 1956 -- Federal Highway Aid Act passed by Congress.
 - November, Dwight Eisenhower elected President.
 - December 17, Montgomery buses ordered to desegregate.
- 1958 -- Paul "Bear" Bryant became coach of University of Alabama football.
- 1959 -- John Patterson elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1960 -- May, U.S.S.R. shot down U.S. spy plane.
 - November, John F. Kennedy elected President.
- 1961 -- April 17, Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba.
 - August, Berlin wall construction began.
- 1962 -- October, Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963 -- George Wallace elected Governor of Alabama.
 - June, Governor Wallace attempted to prevent black students from entering the University of Alabama.
 - September, Blacks integrate Alabama public schools.
 - September, 16th Street Baptist Church bombed.
 - November 22, President Kennedy assassinated, V.P. Johnson becomes Pres.
- 1964 -- Civil Rights Act passed by Congress.
 - November, Lyndon Johnson elected President.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY - Page 4

- 1965 -- March, American troops arrived in Vietnam.
 - March, Selma to Montgomery, Martin Luther King march.
 - June, Medicare Act passed by Congress.
 - August, Voter Rights Act passed by Congress.
- 1967 -- Lurleen Wallace elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1968 -- May 7, Gov. Wallace died and Albert Brewer becomes Governor.
 - November, Richard Nixon elected President.
- 1969 -- July 20, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin walked on the moon.
 - August, group murders committed by Charles Manson followers.
 - August, music festival called "Woodstock" held in Bethel, N.Y.
- 1970 -- May 4, Kent State University crisis.
- 1971 -- George Wallace elected Governor of Alabama.
- 1972 -- Equal Opportunity Act passed by Congress.
 - Equal Rights Amendment passed by Congress.
 - June, 5 men arrested for breaking into Democratic National Committee Headquarters.
 - June, Governor Wallace shot, J. Beasley becomes acting Governor.
 - November, Richard Nixon elected President.
- 1973 -- January, official end of Vietnam war.
 - October, energy crisis began.
- 1974 -- April, Hank Aaron hit home run #715, breaking Babe Ruth's record.
 - August 9, President Nixon resigns and Gerald Ford becomes Pres.
 - September, President Ford pardoned Nixon for his involvement in Watergate.
- 1976 -- November, Jimmy Carter elected President.
- 1978 -- November 17, Jonestown massacre.
- 1979 -- Forrest "Fob" James elected Governor of Alabama.
 - Department of Education created.
 - April, Three Mile Island nuclear accident.
- 1980 -- November, Ronald Regan elected President.

PERSONAL CHRONOLOGY OF GENE CORNETT

- 1941 -- December 10, born in Tuscaloosa, AL.
- 1945 -- Father came home from World War II.
- 1947 -- Started school at Holt Elementary.
- 1960 -- Graduated from Holt High School.
- 1960 -- November 24, married Bonnie L. Lockridge.
- 1961 -- Joined U.S. Air Force.
- 1961 -- Stationed at Eglin AFB, FL.
- 1962 -- Summer, President Kennedy visited base for Airforce manned weapons demonstration.
- 1962 -- July 10, first child born, Kerrie Lynn.
- 1962 -- October, Cuban Missile Crisis.
- 1963 -- Stationed in Panama Canal Zone, Howard AFB.
- 1964 -- Canal zone riots.
- 1964 -- October, stationed at Waco, Texas.
- 1964 -- November 6, second child born, Jeffery Gene.
- 1965 -- August, discharged from Air Force.
- 1965 -- August, moved to Tuscaloosa, AL, began work at foundry.
- 1966 -- Enrolled in University of Alabama.
- 1966 -- Found out daughter, Kerrie, had leukemia.
- 1968 -- July 4, Kerrie Lynn died.
- 1969 -- December, Graduated from University of Alabama.
- 1970 -- Moved to Gardendale, AL, to take job as Director, Parks and Recreation Department.
- 1971 -- October 19, third child born, Wesley Keith.
- 1972 -- February, Wesley died from spinal meningitis.
- 1973 -- June 14, fourth child born, Kristin Lynn.
- 1975 -- Moved to Anniston, AL, to take job as Parks and Recreation Department Director.

PERSONAL CHRONOLOGY, PAGE 2

1987 -- November 21, son, Jeffery, married Tracy Magourk.

1988 -- Parents 50th wedding anniversary.

1989 -- November 15, first grandchild born, Nicole Jasmine.

1993 -- October 9, daughter, Kristin, married Shaun Hammond.

1994 -- December 13, father died.

"WE WERE EYE BALL TO EYE BALL AND RUSSIA BLINKED"

by

KRISTIN C. HAMMOND

**"WE WERE EYE BALL TO EYE BALL
AND RUSSIA BLINKED"**

In October of 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union had their first nuclear confrontation, and the world was on the brink of a nuclear war. The Cold War had been going on for almost twenty years by the time of the crisis in October 1962. Both countries distrusted each other, wanted to be superior in the arms race, wanted a hold over Cuba and wanted to win. Cuba, an island in the Caribbean about 90 miles from the United States, became the backdrop for the first nuclear confrontation.

The end of World War II brought about a competition between the United States and the Soviet Union over nuclear weapons. The one with the most had the 'upper hand'. The competition became known as the Cold War -- both countries were ready to fight, or press the red button, and both were building weapons as fast as they could. In the United States, the feeling toward Russia was mostly fear. Gene Cornett said of the public's feelings toward Russia:

Russia was our enemy. The prospect of a nuclear bomb/atomic bomb was the topic of discussion. People were actually building fall out shelters/bomb shelters. The threat of nuclear attack was pretty prevelant on everyone's mind. Nuclear attack was **percieved as a possibility.**¹

In Cuba, the United States had, because of economic and political interests, emphasized order rather than freedom or independence. Since

¹Gene Cornett, Interview by Kristin C. Hammond, 13 November 1995, Anniston, tape recording. Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville.

1898 United States policy toward Cuba had tried to control the country's development.² In 1959 Fidel Castro came to power by way of rebellion and revolution. The United States, then lead by Dwight Eisenhower, assessed Castro as being a "man of ideals, courage and remarkable qualities of leadership," and as fighting for democracy in Cuba.³ However after attaining power, Castro turned to the Soviet Union for assistance which came by way of money and military aid. Ultimately, Castro announced his communist beliefs on December 1, 1961, after a full year of Russian aid. He claimed he had been a revolutionary since the 1950's but never told because he didn't want to become unpopular.⁴

In 1960, Khrushchev, leader of the Soviet Union, threatened America with a nuclear attack if it tried to intervene in Cuba. America did however intervene. The Eisenhower administration decided to arm and train anti-Castro cuban exiles; many had flooded the United States after Castro came to power in 1959. The plan was that an invasion would be quick and easy, coming from the outside and from anti-Castro cubans still on the island. But what the administration did not know was that anti-American sentiment in Cuba was high and any invasion aided by the United States would be defended by all Cubans. The Bay of Pigs invasion in April of 1961 carried out under the Kennedy administration, was ultimately a failure. Castro was ready and Cuba's 20,000 troops

²Lester H. Brune, The Missile Crisis of October 1962 (Claremont: Regina Books, 1985), 16.

³David Detzer, The Brink: Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962 (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Publishers, 1979), 5.

⁴Ibid, 25.

easily captured the invaders who made it to the beach. The invasion inturn strengthened Castro's hold on Cuba.⁵

In early 1962 the Soviet Union decided to place medium (MRBM) and intermediate (IRBM) range ballistic missiles in Cuba.⁶ Analysts try to explain the decision claim Khrushchev was testing America on how and if it would respond to an aggressive Soviet move, or that Khrushchev needed to disprove Soviet nuclear weakness and prove Russia's ability to lead revolutions in the third world countries. All agree the decision to place missiles in Cuba was not an impulsive one. Between January and July 1962, the Soviet Union's Presidium decided to secretly construct missile bases in Cuba that would be operational by mid-November. David Detzer, The Brink, felt that "the main reason Moscow wanted missiles in Cuba was that in her military competition with the United States she was falling far behind."⁷ The decision was a gamble but if it worked Cuba would be protected, Moscow could press Washington to accept its terms in Berlin and Germany, nuclear free zones could be gained and increase in Soviet equality in the international political/military community.⁸

Surveillance flights by U-2 spy planes photographed Russian's constructing SAM (anti-aircraft missile) launching pads on August 29, 1962. President Kennedy issued press release statements on both September 4th and 13th saying that only weapons aiding Cuba's defense

⁵Brune, 12.

⁶Ibid, 15.

⁷Detzer, 41.

⁸Brune, 29.

were found, no offensive weapons were discovered, but if they were he would do whatever was necessary to protect the United States.⁹ Kennedy's message claimed no action being taken by the United States at that time; but in reality the United States military had begun preparing. The military had made a smart decision because when President Kennedy made his September 4 statement, Soviet missiles were en route and nearing the island of Cuba.¹⁰ Mr. Cornett remembers being on alert status before the actual missile launch pads were discovered in Cuba on October 14. Alert status for Mr. Cornett, as a member of the Armed Forces Security detail meant 12 hours on and 12 hours off, guarding the B-52 bombers and other planes that would be used to retaliate or initiate an attack on Cuba or Russia.¹¹

On October 14, 1962, U-2 photos showed MRBM and IRBM launch pads under construction in Cuba. The sites could launch missiles that were capable of reaching Washington, D.C., and the rest of the United States, all of Mexico, the Caribbean and the north western section of South America. As Kennedy met with ExCOM, the Executive Committee of the National Security Council, to plan a response the United States military heightened its alert status.

During the two weeks following October 14, United States intelligence discovered a wide variety of Soviet military equipment

⁹Brune, 35.

¹⁰Detzer, 69.

¹¹Cornett.

in Cuba. In all there were six (6) MRBM launch sites, three (3) IRBM launch sites, forty-two (42) IL-28 bombers, twenty-four (24) SAM weapon sites, four (4) coastal cruise missile sites, twelve (12) high speed guided missile patrol boats, forty-two (42) MIG-21 planes and 22,000 Russian soldiers and technicians.¹²

Within a week of October 14, President Kennedy and ExCOM members agreed on a naval blockade of Cuba that would stop all but the necessities of life from getting into Cuba. The two believed the naval blockade was the best choice because it was a non-violent action but it would show the Soviet Union the United States meant business. On October 22, at 7:00pm, President Kennedy informed the people of the United States that offensive missile sites had been discovered in Cuba and a naval blockade would be placed around Cuba, certain military units would go on alert and if a missile was fired from Cuba the United States would retaliate.¹³ The certain military units the President referred to in his speech meant all units and actually most units were already on alert. So in addition to the naval blockade, troops, fighter planes and bombers were sent to bases all over Florida. Mr. Cornett recalls:

Part of the strategy for the United States was to move alot of ground troops and airborne troops to south Florida. So part of our mission, with the Security detail at Eglin [Air Force Base]

¹²Brune, 41.

¹³Detzer, 186.

was to accomodate the convoys of troops and equipment coming from different parts of the United States. We would go to small towns around Eglin and block traffic so [the convoys] could get to south Florida as quickly as they could.¹⁴

President Kennedy had sent a letter to Khrushchev on Tuesday, October 23, urging the Soviet Union to observe the blockade and not to "allow events to make the situation more difficult than it is."¹⁵ Tuesday evening Fidel Castro gave a speech in which he urged his nation to hold off the invaders and fight for Cuba till the end. The full blockade of 63 ships was in effect by 10:00am, Wednesday, October 24. Minutes after the blockade was in place 2 Soviet ships reached the blockade line and a Soviet submarine took its place between the two ships. By 10:30am Wednesday, 14 Soviet ships had reached the blockade line but had stopped completely -- Khrushchev had decided not to challenge the blockade.¹⁶

The blockade had worked but for the next four days those ships would stare nervously at each other while the world stood on the brink of a nuclear war. Mr. Cornett remembers it was "very, very dramatic, our ships were there, the Russian ships were there. [Everyone] just knew there was going to be a confrontation."¹⁷

¹⁴Cornett.

¹⁵Brune, 61.

¹⁶Ibid, 62.

¹⁷Cornett.

Eventhough the Soviet ships had stopped at the blockade line, they still had not officially accepted the blockade. For the blockade to be official, the United States would have to board and search a Soviet ship. Wednesday night President Kennedy recieved a message from Khrushchev stating that the blockade was unacceptable. Khrushchev claimed the blockade was only done out of hatred for Cuba and for the benefit of the upcoming election campaign. He also stated that the Soviet ships had not been instructed to turn back but to continue on to Cuba.¹⁸

The Soviet ship, Bucharest was the first enemy ship to challenge the blockade, other non-Soviet ships had been allowed to pass. After being contacted by the United States Navy the Bucharest identified itself and told the American ship it was carrying oil, something the United States intelligence already knew. The ship was allowed to pass and once again the Soviet Union had unofficially acknowledged the blockade.¹⁹

President Kennedy along with ExCOM, carefully chose the first ship that would be boarded. The Marcula a lebanese registered freighter, leased by the Soviet Union was chosen to be less aggressive move than the search of a Soviet owned ship.²⁰ Friday morning the ship was stopped and searched. The United States found no weapons and the Marcula was allowed to continue to Cuba. Ironically, the United States ship was the USS Joesph P. Kennedy, Jr., named after the President's

¹⁸Detzer, 214.

¹⁹Ibid, 228.

²⁰Brune, 63.

brother, killed during World War II.

On Friday, October 26, things seemed to be looking up for the United States. Soviet KGB agent, Alexander Fomin telephoned ABC news correspondent John Scali to ask him to meet for lunch. At the lunch meeting Fomin asked Scali if he thought that America would promise not to invade Cuba if the Soviet Union removed the missiles from Cuba. Fomin wanted Scali to use his resources to see what response the United States might give to a proposition such as that. Soon the news reached the administration and later in the day a letter arrived from Khrushchev seeming to hint toward what Fomin had suggested; the administration was ready to deal. However, on Saturday morning October 27, a second letter arrived from Khrushchev which seemed to withdraw the first letter's proposal. Not long after the letter arrived the news reached Washington that a Soviet SAM had shot down Major Randolph Anderson, Jr.'s U-2 spy plane over Cuba -- nuclear war seemed inevitable.²¹

Saturday afternoon President Kennedy and ExCOM members began plans for an air strike on Cuba for Monday or Tuesday. President Kennedy sent another letter to Khrushchev offering one last chance to avoid war. In the letter President Kennedy offered not to invade Cuba if the Soviet Union would remove the missiles and other offensive weapons from Cuba. The letter also stated that an immediate response from Khrushchev was essential or the United States would take more serious

²¹Brune, 65, 68.

action.

Sunday, October 28, Washington received a letter from Khrushchev agreeing to President Kennedy's proposal. Mr. Cornett recalls the message that was passed down signaling the end of the crisis: "We were eye ball to eye ball and Russia blinked."²²

Castro however had been left out of the compromise and was deeply upset at the decision. Part of the Kennedy-Khrushchev agreement was that missile and equipment removal would be supervised by the United Nations but when it came time for the removal process to begin Castro did not allow the United Nations or any one else to enter Cuba to supervise removal. To overcome the situation the United States itself supervised the removal through continuous U-2 surveillance.

The missiles were removed by mid-November but then the question of the IL-28 bombers became a problem. Castro argued that the bombers were a gift from the Soviet Union, but Khrushchev agreed on November 20 to remove the bombers and the United States agreed to end the blockade. Finally the crisis was completely over.

The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 had brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. People waited on the edge of their seats in horror, anticipating a nuclear war to break out at any minute. But the United States had acted with cool and decisive action and had avoided a nuclear war. Americans became blessed with a new sense of

²²Cornett.

security and patriotism. Mr. Cornett said about American feeling at the end of the crisis:

[America] had confidence. We had stood our ground. President Kennedy was very, very popular and had had the courage to call Khrushchev's hand and won that little crisis. Everyone felt good about their country and their military.²³

²³Cornett.

NOTES

1. January 1959, Castro gains control of Cuba.
2. July 1960, Khrushchev offers "rocket" support to Cuba.
3. October 1960, United States embargoes all exports to Cuba except medicine and food.
4. January 1961, United States severs diplomatic relations with Cuba.
5. February 1961, Soviet-Cuban trade agreement completed.
6. April 17-20 1961, Bay of Pigs invasion by exiles.
7. August 29, 1962, U-2 photos verify SAM defense missiles in Cuba.
8. September 1962, Kennedy warns Moscow not to place offensive missiles in Cuba.
9. October 14, 1962, U-2 photos disclose MRBM and IRBM launch pads under construction in Cuba.
10. October 16, 1962, First secret session of ExCOM to advise Kennedy on a U.S. response.
11. October 22, 1962, JFK's speech informs the United States public of the soviet missiles and announces a naval blockade of Cuba.
12. October 24, 1962, Soviet ship acknowledges the blockade.
13. October 26-27, 1962, Washington receives 2 letters from Moscow regarding a deal for removing Soviet missiles.
14. October 27, 1962, U-2 shot down in Cuba, Kennedy sends Khrushchev a proposal to resolve the crisis.
15. October 28, 1962, Khrushchev agrees to remove Soviet missiles and accepts Kennedy's pledge not to invade Cuba.
16. November 20, 1962, U.S. announces removal from Cuba of the last Soviet missiles.

WORKS CITED

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