



Activity: What do the key players think about the missile crisis?

It is 26 October 1962, 12 days since an American U2 aircraft took photos of Soviet missiles on Cuba. You are one of Kennedy's special advisors. Your job is to advise the president of the views of the other key players during the crisis.

Stage 1: USSR and Cuba

It is crucial that Kennedy understands why the Soviets have placed missiles in Cuba and why the Cubans have let them do it. It will help him to decide what actions to take in response.

Some issues that might motivate the Soviets and the Cubans are listed on the research table below.

- Choose **four** issues that you consider significant. Explain why they are significant, using evidence from the original sources (Case Study 2: Why didn't the Cuban missile crisis lead to a nuclear war?).
- Then think of some actions to recommend that President Kennedy should take to counter or solve these issues.

Open the table and print it out or save it to your computer.

[Research table](#)

Stage 2: Britain

Britain is a close ally of the USA. Will it support Kennedy's actions, no matter what?

Write a report to Kennedy telling him what the British really think about the Cuban crisis. Use the sources (Case Study 2: Why didn't the Cuban missile crisis lead to a nuclear war?) to help you to write your report.

You can use this frame to organise your thoughts. Open it and print it out or save it to your computer.

[Report](#)