


● INFOGRAPHIC

THE CUBAN MISSILE *CRISIS*

In the summer of 1962, the United States learned that the Soviet Union was shipping nuclear missiles to Cuba, less than 100 miles off the coast of Florida.

President John F. Kennedy demanded that the Soviet Union remove the missiles from Cuba. In October 1962, the United States imposed a naval blockade on Cuba. For one week, a tense confrontation brought the world to the brink of nuclear war. Finally, on October 28, Khrushchev agreed to remove the Soviet missiles.  AUDIO



◀ U.S. President John F. Kennedy



▲ Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev



▲ This aerial photo shows Soviet missiles being unloaded at a Cuban port.



◀ During the U.S. naval blockade, the U.S. Navy surrounded Cuba with ships. (See the map below). In this photo, the USS *Barry* inspects the cargo of a Soviet freighter returning from Cuba.



Thinking Critically

- Map Skills** Considering Cuba's location on the map, why did Soviet nuclear missiles on the island pose a threat to the United States?
- Draw Conclusions** Why might Khrushchev have agreed to withdraw the missiles from Cuba?