expansionist rather than following the policy of containment. Furthermore, at the Geneva Summit in 1955 the two powers disagreed with everything that the other had to say. The USSR proposed the Mutual disbandment of NATO, the Warsaw Pact, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Europe, the establishment of a European Security Treaty and for free elections to be carried out for the re-unified German government. The US called the proposal “hostile” as it was unacceptable for Western governments. The USA suggested the “Open Skies Proposal” which implied that both sides would share their plans for military installations and allow aerial surveillance of each other’s bases. Khrushchev described the USA’s proposal as being “like seeing into our bedrooms” and therefore also refused to carry out their offer.

Khrushchev's De Stalinization speech of 1956 resulted in there being problems in Hungary. The USA also faced a problem in the Suez Canal. Both of the crisis dissipated the trust that was achieved at the Geneva summit a year prior. The Suez crisis led to growing fears of Communist expansionism. In 1957 the Eisenhower doctrine was therefore established which stated that the US would help defend any country in the Middle East from Communism. On 4th October 1957, the Soviet Union sent their first Sputnik satellite into space and a month later a second. Khrushchev gave a speech stating that everything developed faster under Socialism. This terrified the USA as they believed that the USSR had superior missile technology. Khrushchev's speech backed up their worry as he stated that he could wipe out any US city. The USA therefore, began improving their offensive defence missiles and built fallout shelters to prepare for the worst. American U-2 Spy planes revealed that actually there wasn't a missile gap and that the US had the same, if not more, missiles than the USSR. Eisenhower created NASA to promote missile research and space exploration to cover up their espionage. In 1958 the USSR issued an ultimatum for the West to withdraw from West Berlin within 6 months. Two years later a US spy plane was shot down over the Soviet Union. The pilot under interrogation admitted he was a spy and Eisenhower took full blame for the issue. While at the Paris Summit Eisenhower refused to apologise as he believed that it was justified. Khrushchev replied by cancelling Eisenhower’s visit to the USSR which resulted in no progress being made.

In conclusion, we can see that during this period of the cold war there were both improvements and a continuation of mistrust between the two superpowers. The death of Stalin allowed the less hostile Khrushchev to take over. Eisenhower, the new president of the US, was also open to the idea of peace and willing to negotiate with Khrushchev to obtain it. Both sides were able to reduce their respective spending on arms, a positive move for both. Nevertheless, there was still tension and both countries were involved in military conflicts abroad. Moreover, there remained a underlying feeling of mistrust as both sides continued to spy on each other. Finally, I believe that their relations were slowly improving up until the US intervened in the Suez Canal and were caught spying on the USSR.