

- Stalin reopened communications

A divided Germany

- As a result of BB – Germany divided into 2 nations
- May 1949 – UK, French and US zones became Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
- October 1949 – Communist eastern zone formed German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

A powerful symbol

- Germany stayed divided 41 years
 - Berlin remained powerful symbol of CW tensions
 - From US PoV – oasis of democratic freedom in middle of Communist repression
 - From Soviet PoV – invasive cancer growing in workers' paradise of East Germany

A flashpoint

- Berlin more than a symbol – potential flashpoint
- USA and USSR's worries about future affected policies in parts of world

A pattern for CW

- BB set out a pattern for the CW
 - Superpowers and allies shown how suspicious they were
 - Would obstruct each other in almost any way
 - Would bombard each other with propaganda
 - Each had shown it was not willing to go to war
 - BB established sort of tense balance between superpowers that was to characterise much of the CW period

Why was NATO set up?

- During BB – war between USA and USSR seemed possible
 - At height of crisis, Western powers met in Washington

- Ex Comm formed
- 20th Oct
 - JFK decides to blockade Cuba
- 22nd Oct
 - JFK announced blockade
 - Calls on USSR to withdraw missiles
- 23rd Oct
 - JFK receives letter from USSR saying ships won't observe blockade
 - Khrushchev doesn't admit nuclear missiles on Cuba
- 24th Oct
 - Blockade begins
 - 1st missile carrying ships accompanied by USSR submarines approach 500-mile blockade zone
 - At 10:32am – 20 ships closest, turn around/stop
- 25th Oct
 - Despite ships turning, ariel photos reveal missiles progressing rapidly
- 26th Oct
 - JFK receives long personal letter from Khrushchev
 - Claims missiles on Cuba are defensive
 - "If assurance were given that the USA would not participate in an attack on Cuba and the blockade was lifted, then the question of the removal or the destruction of the missile sites would be an entirely different question"
 - First time Khrushchev admitted missiles on Cuba
- 27th Oct
 - Morning
 - Khrushchev sends 2nd letter
 - Revising proposals – saying condition for removing Cuban missiles is USA withdrawing missiles from Turkey
 - US U-2 plane shot down over Cuba
 - Pilot killed
 - JFK advised to launch immediate attack

- Afternoon
 - JFK delays attack
 - Ignores 2nd letter but accepts terms suggested on 26th
 - Says is USSR will not withdraw – attack will follow
- 28th Oct
 - Khrushchev replies:
 - “In order to eliminate as rapidly as possible the conflict which endangers the cause of peace...Soviet Government has given a new order to dismantle the arms which you described as offensive and to crate and return them to the Soviet Union”

The outcomes

For USA

- Greatly improved JFK's reputation in USA and West
 - Stood up to Khrushchev – made him back down
 - Also stood up to hardliners in own gov
 - Critics of containment wanted USA to invade Cuba – to turn back Communism
 - However, CMC highlighted weakness of their case
 - Intervention was not worth high risk
- JFK had to remove missiles from Turkey
 - Slightly awkward – decision for them to move was up to NATO
 - NATO allies unhappy JFK traded them during CMC
 - Clearly much better than nuclear war
- JFK had to accept Cuba will remain Communist in America's backyard
 - USA still has trade and other economic restrictions in place

For USSR

- Khrushchev able to highlight role as responsible peacemaker
 - Willing to make first move towards compromise
- Keeping Cuba safe from US action was major achievement
 - Cuba was valuable ally

- Proved a useful base to support Communists in South America
- Khrushchev got USA to withdraw nuclear missiles from Turkey
 - Agreed to keep secret – unable to use as propaganda
- CMC exposed USA to criticism amongst some allies
 - Newspapers felt USA was unreasonable to have missiles in Turkey and object Soviet missiles in Cuba
- No denying Khrushchev was forced to back down/remove missiles
 - Soviet military particularly upset at terms of withdrawal
 - Put missiles on decks of ships so US could count them
 - Humiliation
- Khrushchev's actions in Cuba had no impact on problem of Missile Gap
 - USSR developed own stockpile of ICBMs – huge financial costs
 - Never caught up with USA
- 1964 – Khrushchev forced from power by enemies in the USSR
 - Many commentators believe CMC contributed to this

For Castro's Cuba

- Castro upset by deal between Khrushchev and USA – had no choice
 - Needed support of USSR
- Cuba stayed highly armed and Communist
 - Nuclear missiles removed
 - Stayed important base for Communist supporters - South America
 - Cuban forces helped Communists in Angola civil war 1970s
- Castro kept control of US companies and economic resources he nationalised during his revolution
 - Remains source of dispute between Cuba and USA today – Castro has never backed down

For the Cold War

- Historians agree – CMC helped CW relations between USA and USSR
 - Leaders saw how game of brinkmanship nearly ended in nuclear war
 - Now more prepared to take steps to reduce nuclear war risk