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|  **Larbi Ben Mhidi, Oum El Bouaghi University December, 17, 2024****Faculty of Law and Political Sciences second Year** **Political Sciences Department Full Name:………………….…………………..**  |

**Text:**

**THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS:**

In October 1962, the United States and the Soviet Union had a dangerous confrontation over the existence of offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba. When U.S. intelligence discovered the missile-launching facilities under construction, President Kennedy was deeply concerned. If he did nothing, he would leave the country vulnerable, but he did not want to provoke the Soviets into a military response. After negotiations proved fruitless, Kennedy considered several options. One was an immediate military strike to destroy the weapons. Some advisers were concerned that delay would allow the Soviets to make the weapons operational, at which point no military response would be possible without the risk that they would be launched. A second option was to set up a naval blockade to prevent any additional Soviet ships from reaching Cuba.

Kennedy chose the second option while continuing to pursue negotiations. It was an extremely tense moment, because a naval blockade is an act of war and neither Cuba nor the Soviet Union had attacked the United States. To make the blockade less provocative, Kennedy called it“quarantine,” and he instructed the navy not to try to board any Soviet ship approaching the blockade. The Soviets backed down, promised to remove the missiles, and the crisis passed. Some believe that they withdrew the missiles because the U.S. nuclear arsenal was so much larger than theirs at that time, making the Soviets unwilling to risk a nuclear exchange.

We now know that the United States and the Soviet Union were far closer to nuclear war in 1962 than had previously been realized. In 1992, a conference was held in Cuba regarding the missile crisis. Top Soviet, U.S., and Cuban officials involved in that historic event spoke with amazing frankness about their thinking and strategies at the time. The most dramatic revelation was that, unknown to President Kennedy and U.S. defense and foreign policy officials, not only did Soviet troops in Cuba have tactical nuclear weapons at that time, *but also the military commander in the field had authorization to use them without having to obtain approval from Moscow!* Moreover, Castro had urged the local Soviet military commander to use his nuclear weapons if the United States launched an attack on Cuba (a definite possibility).

**Questions:**

**1/ Text comprehension:**

1/ what is the cold war vocabulary mentioned in **the first paragraph**?

2/ what is **the meaning of ‘quarantine’** according to **the second paragraph**?

3/ a new era in international relations history was defined according to **the third paragraph. Explain it** ?

4/ “A second option was to set up a naval **blockade** to prevent any additional Soviet ships from reaching Cuba.

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**Blockade** means: **\*** siege **\***containment **\***tension / Choose the correct option.

6/Find in the text words or expressions **synonymous** to:

worried =............................§1 /talks =.......................§2 / atomic =......................§3

7/Find in the text words or expressions **opposite in meaning** to:

defensive **≠** .......................§1 /put **≠** ....................§2 / strategic **≠**........................§3

**2/ Mastery of Language:**

* Turn this sentence into **passive voice**:

Kennedy considered several options

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* Turn this sentence into **active voice**:

A new world war was being avoided by the two blocs in 1962.

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* Fill in **the** **gaps**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| verb | noun | adj |
| To strike | .................................... | ................................ |
| .................................. | blockade | ................................ |
| .................................. | .................................... | withdrawn |

* Find in the text: **a phrase, a clause and a sentence.**

**3/ Translation:**

A/ translate **from Arabic into English:**

كان العالم على حافة حرب نووية

التعايش السلمي والاستقطاب الدولي

بؤر التوتر خلال الحرب الباردة

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B/ translate **from English into Arabic**:

The Soviets backed down, promised to remove the missiles, and the crisis passed. Some believe that they withdrew the missiles because the U.S. nuclear arsenal was so much larger than theirs at that time, making the Soviets unwilling to risk a nuclear exchange.

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**Good luck/**

 **Your Teacher. I/Benammar**