

USS Cony: Taking a Stand on the Brink of Nuclear War

Hannah Tsay

Senior Division

Individual Website

Primary Sources

About Participation of Submarines "B-4," "B-36," "B-59," "B-130" of the 69th Submarine Brigade of the Northern Fleet in the Operation "Anadyr" during the Period of October/December, 1962. USSR Northern Fleet Headquarters, Dec. 1962, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB399/docs/Report%20of%20the%20submarine%20Omission.pdf. Accessed 21 Mar. 2017. This source was essential in helping me understand the Soviet perspective of the deployment of its submarines to the Caribbean, allowing for more balanced research. This clearly explained the horrendous conditions under which the submarines' crews were forced to operate. Also, it is very credible since it comes directly from the USSR Northern Fleet Headquarters.

Andreyev, Anatoly Petrovich. Letter. 11 Oct. 1962, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB399/docs/Andreyev_Diaries.pdf. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is an original diary entry, written in Russian, by Anatoly Petrovich Andreyev, a naval officer aboard the B-59 during its confrontation with USS Cony. This source was crucial in helping me understand the Soviet perspective of this event. Conditions aboard B-59 were horrendous - many crewmen became ill, fainted, and/or developed severe rashes. Also, water and food were severely rationed.

---. Letter. 11 Oct. 1962, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB399/docs/My%20dear%20Sofochka.pdf. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is an English translation of the diary entry written by Anatoly Petrovich Andreyev, a naval officer aboard Soviet submarine B-59 during its confrontation with USS Cony. This was very useful, since the original diary entry was written in Russian, and I do not understand Russian. This source helped me better

understand the horrendous conditions aboard B-59 that aggravated the crew. The heightened tension aboard the submarine nearly led Vitali Savitsky, the Commanding Officer of B-59, to fire a nuclear torpedo against USS Cony.

The Babun Brothers under Interrogation. Latin American Studies,

www.latinamericanstudies.org/2506-prisoners-4.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of the Babun Brothers, members of Brigade 2506, being interrogated by Fidel Castro's government after the Bay of Pigs invasion. I used this on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Bermuda Anti-Submarine Warfare Task Group. Telegram to Commander, Anti-Submarine

Warfare Forces, Atlantic. 26 Oct. 1962. *National Security Archive,*

nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/asw-II-8.pdf. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a cable message sent to the Commander of Anti-Submarine Warfare Forces in the Atlantic reporting a sighting of Soviet submarine B-59. I used this on the Black Saturday page of my website.

Bradick, Andrew. Interview. 15 Jan. 2017. This interview with former Lieutenant Andrew

Bradick, who served aboard the USS Cony during the confrontation with B-59, provided me with an excellent analysis of the Cony's legacy. I used an audio clip from this interview on the "Taking a Stand" page of my website to highlight the importance of this event in history.

Briefing Board #93: MRBM Launch Site 3 / San Cristobal, Cuba / 27 October 1962. 27 Oct.

1962. *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum,* [www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-](http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/DODCMCBM-010-004.aspx)

[Viewer/Archives/DODCMCBM-010-004.aspx](http://www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/DODCMCBM-010-004.aspx). Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of a missile launch site at San Cristobal, Cuba. This photograph was taken on

October 27, 1962, often referred to as Black Saturday due to the dangerous situation that day. I used this source on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

Brigade 2506 Prisoners. Latin American Studies, www.latinamericanstudies.org/2506-prisoners-1.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This website contains several pictures of the members of Brigade 2506 that were taken captive by Fidel Castro's government after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. These photographs were used on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Brigade 2506 Prisoners. Latin American Studies, www.latinamericanstudies.org/2506-prisoners-2.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This website contains several photographs of Brigade 2506 prisoners. These photographs were used as part of a slideshow on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Brigade 2506 Prisoners. Latin American Studies, www.latinamericanstudies.org/2506-prisoners.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of Brigade 2506 prisoners. This source was used in a slideshow on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Burr, William, and Thomas Blanton, editors. "The Submarines of October." *The National Security Archive*, 31 Oct. 2002, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/. Accessed 8 Feb. 2017. This website provided me with a wealth of primary sources including original charts, photographs, cables, reports, deck logs, etc. relating to the USS Cony's confrontation with B-59. These sources greatly increased the interactivity of my website.

CIA Reference Photograph of Soviet Medium-Range Ballistic Missile in Red Square, Moscow. The National Security Archive, nsarchive.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/16.jpg. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. The Soviet Union placed medium-range ballistic missiles, such as the one shown in the photograph, in Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. This photograph was used on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

Columbia Broadcasting System. "Address to the Nation on the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, 26 July 1963." *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*, 26 July 1963, www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/ZNOo49DpRUa-kMetjWmSyg.aspx. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a video of President Kennedy's speech to the nation regarding the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. This allowed me to realize the true significance of this treaty in the long run.

Cuban Missile Crisis Map of Missile Range. 1962. *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*, www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/15JC38yN2E-zS8u0K1O-ow.aspx. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. Map. This is a map of the Western Hemisphere that displays the full range of the Cuban nuclear missiles. If launched, Cuban nuclear missiles could reach the United States in a matter of minutes. I used this source on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

"Deck Log Book for USS Cony." Oct. 1962, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/asw-II-14.pdf. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. Memo. USS Cony's Deck Log Book allowed me to see precisely when the crew took certain actions, eventually leading up to the surfacing of Soviet submarine B-59. I used excerpts from this source on the Black Saturday and Disaster Averted pages of my website.

The family of Navy Lt. Cmdr. Thomas W. Robinson prepares to enter an underground bomb shelter on Nov. 4, 1960, at Parks Air Force Base near Pleasanton, Calif., where they were to remain for 48 hours to test life in the shelter. 4 Nov. 1960. *National Public Radio*, www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2011/03/17/134604352/images-of-the-atomic-age. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of a family entering an underground bomb

shelter in order to ensure the shelter is well-equipped in case of a nuclear fallout. I used this source on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

Fidel Castro. 26 Jan. 1959. *TIME Magazine*,

content.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,19590126,00.html. Accessed 9 Feb. 2017. This photograph of Fidel Castro on the TIME Magazine cover shows his ascension to power after the Cuban Revolution. I used this on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev. *The Guardian*,

www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/oct/22/cuban-missile-crisis-nikita-khrushchev. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of Fidel Castro and Nikita Khrushchev standing together. It was used on the Bay of Pigs page to show the alliance that formed between the Soviet Union and Cuba prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Garbuz, Leonid. *On the Edge of the Nuclear Madness*. *National Security Archive*,

nsarchive.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/dobbs/garbuz_acct.pdf. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This was a report by Gen. Leonid Garbuz, the Deputy Commander of Soviet Forces in Cuba, of the moments leading up to the decision to shoot down the U-2 spy plane. Poor communication with his superiors was one of the main reasons Garbuz was forced to take matters into his own hands and shoot down the U-2 spy plane.

Huchthausen, Peter. *October Fury*. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2002. This book by Peter

Huchthausen, a former Captain in the United States Navy aboard the USS Blandy (one of the ships in the Cuban blockade), provided me with excellent details of the Cuban blockade and the Soviet reaction to this event. At the time, the information in this book was startling to the USS Cony crew. Previously, they had not known that the Soviet

submarine B-59 was armed with a nuclear torpedo, capable of mass destruction. This book was recommended by many of the USS Cony crew that I interviewed.

"John F. Kennedy Speech - Bay of Pigs." *C-SPAN*, National Cable Satellite, 17 Apr. 1961, www.c-span.org/video/?c4495501/john-f-kennedy-speech. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a video of John F. Kennedy's speech, given after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion. Kennedy emphasized that the United States government would work to ensure national security, as well as security in the Western Hemisphere. A clip of this speech was used on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Lewis, Anthony. "U.S. Imposes Arms Blockade on Cuba Because of the New Offensive-Missile Site." *New York Times*, 22 Oct. 1962. *New York Times*, www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/big/1022.html. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This New York Times article was used on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website. Additionally, it described in close detail the reaction of Kennedy's administration to the placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba.

Low-level photography reveals 17 missile erectors at north Mariel port awaiting return to the USSR. Nov. 1962. *National Security Archive*, nsarchive.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/40.jpg. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph showing missile erectors in Cuba awaiting shipment back to the Soviet Union after the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis. I used this on the Agreements page of my website.

Michel, Philip. Interview. 14 Jan. 2017. This interview with Phil Michel, a Signaller 3rd Class Petty Officer aboard USS Cony during its confrontation with Soviet submarine B-59, provided me with a clearer knowledge of the events that transpired on Black Saturday.

He explained to me that the lessons that can be extrapolated from this event are powerful: maintaining professionalism and calm composure during times of tension is crucial, and negotiation is always a better option than violence.

October 29, 1962: Low-level photography reveals Soviet removal of missiles and tents at San Cristobal. 29 Oct. 1962. *National Security Archive*, nsarchive.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/37.jpg. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This photograph shows the removal of missiles and tents at San Cristobal, Cuba, signifying the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis. I used this on the Agreements page of my website.

Officers. Sept. 1962. *USS Cony*, usscony.com/Pictures/GS/pages/Officers_jpg.htm. Accessed 9 Feb. 2017. I used this photograph of the USS Cony officers on the USS Cony vs. B-59 page of my website. This was an useful source since it was taken only a month before the Cony's confrontation with B-59.

A P2V Neptune U.S. patrol plane flies over a Soviet freighter during the Cuban missile crisis in 1962. *The Atlantic*, www.theatlantic.com/photo/2012/10/50-years-ago-the-cuban-missile-crisis/100387/. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of a U.S. patrol plane, the P2V Neptune, flying over a Soviet freighter. The P2V Neptune caused panic when it activated its photoelectric lenses after the surfacing of Soviet submarine B-59, due to the bright flashes of light. I used this on the Disaster Averted page of my website.

Photograph of a Basement Family Fallout Shelter. 1957. *National Archives*, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/fallout-docs/images/shelter-photo.gif. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of a family's fallout shelter during the Cold War to be used in case of a nuclear attack. I used this source on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

Photograph of Soviet Submarine B-59 Taken by U.S. Navy Photographers, circa 28-29 October, 1962. 28 Oct. 1962. *National Security Archive*, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/asw2.jpg. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of an United States Navy helicopter flying over Soviet submarine B-59 shortly after its confrontation with USS Cony. I used this photograph on the USS Cony vs. B-59 page of my website.

"President Kennedy's Cuban Missile Crisis Oval Office Address." *C-SPAN*, National Cable Satellite, 22 Oct. 1962, www.c-span.org/video/?308689-1/president-kennedys-cuban-missile-crisis-oval-office-address. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is the video of a speech given by Former President John F. Kennedy regarding the Cuban Missile Crisis. Kennedy announced the implementation of a Cuban quarantine after Soviet ballistic missiles were found in Cuba. I used a clip of this video on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

President Signing the Limited Test Ban Treaty. 7 Oct. 1963. *United States Department of State: Office of the Historian*, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/limited-ban. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This website contains a photograph of President Kennedy signing the Limited Test Ban Treaty. Signing this treaty was a crucial step towards easing tensions and lessening the chance of nuclear war. I used this photograph on the Agreements page of my website.

Prisoner Jose A. Miró Torra Being Interrogated. *Latin American Studies*, www.latinamericanstudies.org/2506-prisoners.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of a Brigade 2506 prisoner being interrogated after the Bay of Pigs invasion. I used this source in a slideshow on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Schlesinger, Arthur, Jr. "Cuba: Security, 1961." 3 May 1961. *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*, www.jfklibrary.org/Asset-Viewer/Archives/JFKPOF-115-003.aspx. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. Memo. This is a memo written by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., President Kennedy's Special Assistant, to President Kennedy. Schlesinger discusses the various reactions he heard in Western Europe regarding the Bay of Pigs invasion. This source was used on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

Schoolchildren kneel to practice a "duck and cover" air-raid drill in an elementary school classroom, circa 1955. 1955. *National Public Radio*, www.npr.org/sections/pictureshow/2011/03/17/134604352/images-of-the-atomic-age. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of schoolchildren conducting an air raid drill during the Cold War. I used this source on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website to show the intense fear felt by Americans during this time period.

Slaughter, Gary. Interview. 14 Jan. 2017. This interview with Gary Slaughter, who served on the USS Cony as Communications Officer during the encounter with Russian submarine B-59, gave me a wealth of insightful information regarding this event. Mr. Slaughter was involved in direct communications with B-59 Commander Vitali Savitsky and helping ease tensions by sending fresh bread and cigarettes to the B-59 crew. I used numerous quotes and some interview clips of Mr. Slaughter on my website.

---. *Sea Stories: A Memoir of a Naval Officer (1956-1967)*. Nashville, Fletcher House, 2016.

This book by Gary Slaughter provided a valuable first-hand perspective into the details of the USS Cony's confrontation. It also helped me more clearly understand the naval terminology associated with this topic.

Soviet Navy Map Depicting Foxtrot Sub Locations near Cuba. The National Security Archive,
nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB399/photos/Map-1.jpg. Accessed 21 Mar. 2017.

This photograph was used on the "USS Cony vs. B-59" page of my website. This gave me an excellent picture of the positions of the Soviet Foxtrot submarines in the Caribbean prior to USS Cony's confrontation with B-59.

Soviet personnel and six missile transporters loading onto ship transport at Casilda port. 6 Nov. 1962. *National Security Archive,* nsarchive.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/41.jpg. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This photograph shows Soviet personnel and missile transporters loading onto a ship to be transported back to the Soviet Union after the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis. I used this on the Agreements page of my website.

Soviet Submarine B-59. 28 Oct. 1962. National Security Archive,
nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB75/asw1.jpg. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of Soviet submarine B-59, taken shortly after it surfaced. I used this photograph on the Disaster Averted page of my website.

Task Group Alpha. USS Cony, usscony.com/Pictures/RogersConyPics/conypictures.html.
Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of Task Group Alpha, which consisted of eight anti-submarine warfare destroyers (including USS Cony) and one anti-submarine warfare aircraft carrier. I used this photograph on the USS Cony vs. B-59 page of my website.

U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson. National Security Archive,
nsarchive.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/dobbs/anderson.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This website includes a photograph of Rudolf Anderson, the pilot of the U-2 spy plane that was shot down over Cuba. I used this photograph on the U-2 Crisis page of my website.

"U.S. Navy Department, Cable to CINCLANTFLT, Forwarding State Department Notice on Submarine Surfacing and Identification Procedures, 24 October 1962." Received by Robert Dennison, 24 Oct. 1962. *National Security Archive*, nsarchive.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB399/docs/cable%20on%20ASW%20ops.pdf. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. Telegram. This is a cable message sent to the Commander in Chief of the United States Atlantic Forces regarding Submarine Surfacing and Identification Procedures. USS Cony followed this procedure to surface B-59. I used this on the Black Saturday page of my website.

USS Cony. Photographic History of the United States Navy, www.navsourc.org/archives/05/508.htm. Accessed 9 Feb. 2017. This website provided me with several photographs of the USS Cony. I used these photographs throughout my website in order to allow the viewer to see actual visuals of the destroyer.

USS Randolph (CVS-15) refueling at sea from USS Pawcatuck (AO-108), circa 1960. Sept. 1960. *Photographic History of the U.S. Navy*, www.navsourc.org/archives/02/15.htm. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a photograph of USS Randolph, an aircraft carrier that was part of Task Group Alpha. I used this source on the USS Cony vs. B-59 page of my website.

Valtman, Edmund S. "Fidel Castro." *Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/item/2002709651/. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. Cartoon. This is a caricature of Fidel Castro. I used this source on the Bay of Pigs page of my website.

"The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*, microsites.jfklibrary.org/cmc/oct23/. Accessed 12 Feb. 2017. This webpage provided me with various primary source documents, such as

the original copy of Proclamation 3504, which ordered the Cuban blockade. Also, it provided me with a photograph of President John F. Kennedy signing Proclamation 3504.

These documents were used on the Cuban Missile Crisis page of my website.

Wreckage of Maj. Rudolf Anderson's U-2 plane. 27 Oct. 1962. *Boston Globe*, Boston Globe

Media Partners, [www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2012/10/26/shootdown-pilot-years-ago-propelled-peaceful-resolution-cuban-missile-](http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2012/10/26/shootdown-pilot-years-ago-propelled-peaceful-resolution-cuban-missile-crisis/hFM3xaCrZg4mLf4w0iXrKL/story.html)

[crisis/hFM3xaCrZg4mLf4w0iXrKL/story.html](http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2012/10/26/shootdown-pilot-years-ago-propelled-peaceful-resolution-cuban-missile-crisis/hFM3xaCrZg4mLf4w0iXrKL/story.html). Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This is a

photograph of the wreckage of Major Rudolf Anderson's U-2 spy plane. I used this

photograph on the U-2 Crisis page of my website.

Secondary Sources

"The Bay of Pigs." *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*,

www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/The-Bay-of-Pigs.aspx. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017.

This website provided me with an outstanding background of the Bay of Pigs. The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion led to tenser relations between the United States and Cuba.

"The Cold War." *John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum*,

www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/The-Cold-War.aspx. Accessed 15 Feb. 2017.

This website gave me a brief yet exceptional summary of the major events that occurred during the Cold War. This allowed me to quickly form background knowledge on this topic, for the "Cuban Missile Crisis" page of my website.

"The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962." *Office of the Historian, Bureau of Public Affairs*,

United States Department of State, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis. Accessed 13 Feb. 2017. This website provided me with an excellent

summary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, leading up to its resolution. Additionally, I used the photograph of a Cuban missile launch site on the "Cuban Missile Crisis" page of my website.

"The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962." *United States Department of State: Office of the Historian*, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This website provided me with a comprehensive account of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The world had come very close to nuclear war, and it was because of this very fact that President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev actively took steps to lessen tensions and lower the prospect of nuclear war.

Gaddis, John Lewis. *The Cold War: A New History*. Penguin Books, 2005. This book provided me with an in-depth look into the Cold War, with an emphasis on the escalation and de-escalation of this conflict. This gave me excellent background knowledge into the events of the Cold War.

History.com Staff. "Cuban Missile Crisis." *History.com*, A+E Networks, 2010, content.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,19590126,00.html. Accessed 9 Feb. 2017. This article greatly helped me in understanding the details of the Cuban Missile Crisis - particularly, the discovery of missiles in Cuba, the institution of the Cuban blockade, Black Saturday, and the resolution to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Also, it emphasized the extreme danger of the situation on Black Saturday.

"The Limited Test Ban Treaty, 1963." *United States Department of State: Office of the Historian*, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/limited-ban. Accessed 22 Mar. 2017. This source gave me an excellent understanding of the Limited Test Ban Treaty. This was so significant because it was the world's first step towards disarmament and towards a safer society.