**Address to the American People from President John F. Kennedy**

1. According to President Kennedy, how did the builup of nuclear bases in Cuba constitute an explicit threat to peace and security in the United States and all of the Western Hemisphere?

The nuclear bases contained missiles, cspable of traveling and striking many major cities in the western hemisphere. “This urgent transformation of Cuba into an important strategic base -- by the presence of these large, long-range, and clearly offensive weapons of sudden mass destruction -- constitutes an explicit threat to the peace and security of all the Americas” - JFK

2. What did the Soviets claim was the purpose of the missile build‐up in Cuba?

They claimed that the nuclear build up in Cuba was exclusively for defensive purposes.

3. What seven steps did the president immediately set in motion in order to halt the missile build‐up?

a. “a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated”

b. “I have directed the continued and increased close surveillance of Cuba and its military buildup.”

c. “It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States”

d. “I have reinforced our base at Guantanamo, evacuated today the dependents of our personnel there, and ordered additional military units to be on a standby alert basis.”

e. “We are calling tonight for an immediate meeting of the Organ[ization] of Consultation under the Organization of American States, to consider this threat to hemispheric security and to invoke articles 6 and 8 of the Rio Treaty in support of all necessary action.”

f. “we are asking tonight that an emergency meeting of the Security Council be convoked without delay to take action against this latest Soviet threat to world peace.”

g.  “I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this clandestine, reckless, and provocative threat to world peace and to stable relations between our two nations.”

4. What special message did the president give to the “captive” people of Cuba?

JFK assured the Cuban people that he understood their pain and how their country isn’t control by a leader of their choice. They’re just apart of an international regime. Only to be used as a pawn, their freedoms are being taken from them. It won’t be long until they’re able to join the league of free nations.

5. What do you think was the intent of this message?

The intent of this message was to display to the American people the surveillance that the government has promised in Cuba and to motivate the Cuban people to stay positive.