

## Warm-Up: Cuban Missile Crisis



Alarmed by the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev decided to give weapons and missiles to Cuba and their communist leader Fidel Castro. In a televised statement, President John F. Kennedy announced that we would blockade Cuba and turn back any Soviet ships traveling to Cuba with missiles on board. A tense week followed as Soviet ships steamed toward Cuba and American T.V. broadcasted the progress to all Americans. The American public panicked. Grocery stores sold out of food, people left the major cities, schools practiced air raid drills, and many businesses closed. At the last minute, the Soviet ships turned around and the two nations reached a compromise. The Soviets would take their missiles out of Cuba and we promised not to invade the island.

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1. What action is happening in the above cartoon?
2. Who was the leader of the USA at the time of the crisis? Cuba? The Soviet Union?
3. Why were there missiles in Cuba?
4. How did the American public show their fear during the crisis?
5. What role did television play in the Cuban Missile Crisis?