



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

2010

History

**Paper 2
Foundation and Higher Tiers**

[G4602] [G4604]

WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE, MORNING



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**RESOURCE
BOOKLET**

Source Materials: Relations between Cuba, the USA and the USSR, 1959–1962

Source A: Modern historian writing about the effect of Castro's actions in Cuba from 1959 to 1961

Fidel Castro was a nationalist who promised to end Cuba's dependence on the USA and to introduce social reforms. In 1959 he took land owned by US businessmen and gave it to Cuban peasants. The US government responded by reducing the amount of sugar it bought from Cuba. When Castro seized more US property, President Eisenhower banned all Cuban sugar imports. Castro approached the USSR which agreed to buy all the sugar Cuba produced. Khrushchev, the Russian leader, also offered to sell Russian machinery and oil to Cuba. When Kennedy became President in 1961 he was told of a CIA plan to invade Cuba and overthrow Castro. He allowed the plan to go ahead.

The Cuban Missile Crisis, Peter Chrisp (Hodder Wayland, 2001) adapted

Source B: Khrushchev explains the USSR's actions in Cuba between 1959 and 1962

“We had a duty to make sure that Cuba stayed communist and that Castro was protected. It would be a good example to other countries in Central and South America. We also wanted to sell our tractors and oil to Cuba. One thought kept hammering at my brain – what will happen if we lose Cuba? I knew it would be a terrible blow to communism and to the USSR. It would seriously damage our reputation throughout the world.”

Khrushchev Remembers, An Autobiography (1971) adapted

Source C: Modern historian writing about the reasons for the USSR's actions in Cuba between 1959 and 1962

Khrushchev was already giving financial aid and political support to Castro and Cuba. Instead of simply helping Castro to remain in power, he (Khrushchev) decided to use Cuba to help the USSR. He wanted to turn the island into a Russian base directly threatening the USA with Russian missiles. He hoped to get the USA to remove its missiles from Turkey because these threatened many parts of the USSR.

World Relations since 1945, Peter Calvocoressi (1996) adapted

Source D: A photograph of Castro and Khrushchev, taken when Castro visited Moscow after the Cuban Missile Crisis



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