Cuba


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Books


**Articles**


**Videos**

*Cuba the 40 Years War*. Peter Melaragno, 2002.

*JFK from the Solomon Islands to the Bay of Pigs*. A&E Television Networks, 2009.


Collections

The Museum’s Collection provides audio, visual, documentary resources, and artifacts related to Cuba, the Cuban missile crisis and the Bay of Pigs invasion. Artifacts and documents include campaign ephemera, newspaper clippings, letters and photographs. Audio and video recordings include oral history interviews, home movies and archival news footage.

Please visit our online collections database for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or (214) 741-6660 ext. 6646.

Oral Histories

For more information about the Oral History Collection

Eileen Albert

A home economics teacher in 1963, Albert visited the Capitol Rotunda on the weekend of the assassination to pay her respects to President Kennedy. At that time, her parents were participating in "Operation Peter Pan," caring for a twelve-year-old Cuban girl for one year until her mother could settle in Miami. Recorded July 1, 2010.

Esteban Caras

A member of Assault Brigade 2506, Caras served as part of the Bay of Pigs invasion force. Recorded October 29, 2000.

Ruben Esquivel

Currently a member of the Dallas County Historical Foundation's board of directors, Esquivel was a native Cuban who fled his homeland when Fidel Castro came to power. Recorded September 15 and October 29, 2000.

Carlos Fonts

A longtime Dallas businessman, Fonts was a Cuban native living in exile in Florida when he joined the Bay of Pigs invasion force. Recorded November 27, 2000.

Hector Garcia

A native Cuban who fled his homeland when Fidel Castro came to power, Garcia became an active community leader in Dallas. Recorded September 27 and October 29, 2000.

Rene Gonzalez

A member of Assault Brigade 2506, Gonzalez served as part of the Bay of Pigs invasion force. Recorded October 29, 2000.
Robert MacNeil

A veteran broadcast journalist, MacNeil covered the Cuban missile crisis from inside Cuba and, as a White House correspondent for NBC, covered President Kennedy in 1963. He was in the Dallas motorcade on November 22 and phoned NBC from the Texas School Book Depository building within minutes of the shooting. Recorded April 16, 2004.

Dr. Carlos Morton

A professor of theater and dance at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Morton was living in Panama during the Cuban Missile Crisis. On November 22, 1963, he was preparing for a high school play, which was delayed one week because of the assassination. Recorded August 16, 2013.

George Perrault

A longtime U.S. Navy sailor, Perrault was part of the blockade of Cuba during the Cuban missile crisis. Stationed in Washington, D.C., in 1963, he was part of the Ceremonial Guard for President Kennedy's casket at the White House and U.S. Capitol Rotunda. Recorded November 21, 2013.

Delia Reyes

A Cuban native now living in Dallas, Reyes fled her homeland when Fidel Castro came to power. Recorded September 18 and October 29, 2000.

Felix Rodriguez

A member of Assault Brigade 2506, Rodriguez served as part of the Bay of Pigs invasion force. Recorded October 29, 2000.

Capt. Maury Seitz

A former U.S. Air Force captain who later served as a longtime captain for American Airlines, Seitz was co-pilot on numerous chartered flights that backed up Air Force One during the Kennedy presidency. Seitz met the Kennedy family and spent time with Caroline and John Jr. During the Cuban missile crisis, his plane carried a JFK decoy during a top-secret flight. Recorded February 13, 2002, March 7, 2008, July 15, 2009, and June 9, 2010.

Dennis Vincent

YouTube
The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza Channel

Living History with Captain Maury Seitz

A former U.S. Air Force captain who later served as a longtime captain for American Airlines, Seitz was co-pilot on numerous chartered flights that backed up Air Force One during the Kennedy presidency. During the Cuban missile crisis, his plane carried a JFK decoy during a top-secret flight.

Websites

American Rhetoric - John F. Kennedy: Cuban Missile Crisis Address to the Nation
Complete text, audio and video of John F. Kennedy - Cuban Missile Crisis Address.

Foreign Relations of the United States - 1961-1963 Cuban Missile Crisis and Aftermath

This collection of documents, part of the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Relations series, is the electronic version of the volume on the Cuban Missile Crisis and its aftermath, which was initially published in print in 1996. Compiled using strict editorial standards, the collection includes briefing papers, letters, telegrams, and memoranda of conversations prepared by U.S. government officials involved in the crisis. Also available are transcripts and summary reports of meetings of the Executive Committee of the National Security Council (ExCom), but not renditions of the ExCom tapes. Items are organized chronologically by links in groups of 25, the sum of which provides a day-by-day account of the evolving crisis, U.S. policymaking, and the diplomacy involved in implementing that policy. The volume contains a glossary of abbreviations used in the documents, a list of key figures in the crisis, and sources for documents. The compilation is a major resource for studying the U.S. side of the crisis.

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum - Cuban Missile Crisis, Bay of Pigs
The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to the memory of our nation's thirty-fifth president and to all those who through the art of politics seek a new and better world.

Also check out the interactive exhibit also created by the JFK Presidential Library & Museum, "The World on the Brink: John F. Kennedy and the Cuban Missile Crisis."

Mary Ferrell Foundation - Kennedy and Cuba
Created by researcher and historian Mary Ferrell, this website offers the largest searchable electronic collection of materials related to the JFK assassination and summarizes the campaigns and operations that relate to Kennedy and Cuba during the early 1960s.
Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia - John F. Kennedy

The Presidential Recordings Program, chaired by David Coleman, was established by the Miller Center in 1998 to make the secret White House recordings accessible through transcripts and historical research.

The National Security Archive - Cuba Documentation Project

From the National Security Archive, the collection of declassified U.S. government documents related to Cuba, covering the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Bay of Pigs invasion, relations between Fidel Castro and John F. Kennedy, and U.S.-Cuba. Also from the National Security Archive's website on the 40th Anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis and Bay of Pigs are more documents, audio clips, photographs, naval charts, chronologies, and analysis of contemporary historians.

NPR - Ahead of Bay of Pigs, Fears of Communism

Fifty years ago today, a brigade of around 1,500 CIA-trained soldiers stormed the beach in Cuba's Bay of Pigs. It was the opening phase of a secret mission to overthrow Fidel Castro. Of course, things didn't go as planned, and the lessons learned could apply to U.S. foreign policy today. (Aired April 17, 2011)

Nuclear Files.org: Project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation - Cuban Missile Crisis

From nuclear proliferation to nuclear testing, by providing access to primary source documents, historical and background information, and analysis, Nuclear Files is an excellent educational resource that explores the political, legal and ethical challenges of the Nuclear Age. The site features a timeline of the history of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Nuclear Files also includes primary source documents, data and graphs, biographies of key individuals, as well as a media gallery with photos, video and audio clips.

Lesson Plans

Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. Dept. of State - Cuban Missile Crisis

A quick slideshow of photos and images for educators.

EDSITEment: Lesson Plans from the National Endowment for the Humanities - The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962: The Missiles of October

This lesson will examine how this crisis developed, how the Kennedy administration chose to respond to the Cuban Missile Crisis, and how the situation was ultimately resolved. By examining both government documents and photographs students will put themselves into the role of President Kennedy during this crucial period, considering the advice of key administration figures and deciding on a course of action.
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library & Museum - Curricular Resources

The JFK Presidential Library & Museum developed many wonderful educational resources and lesson plans divided up by grade level. Resources and lesson plans on Cuba are available for middle school and high school level students.

The National Archives - Heroes & Villains: Kennedy and Cuba

This gallery contains four case studies and an activity key about John F. Kennedy and the Cuban missile crisis for students ages 11-18 years. Additional teaching sources can be found here.