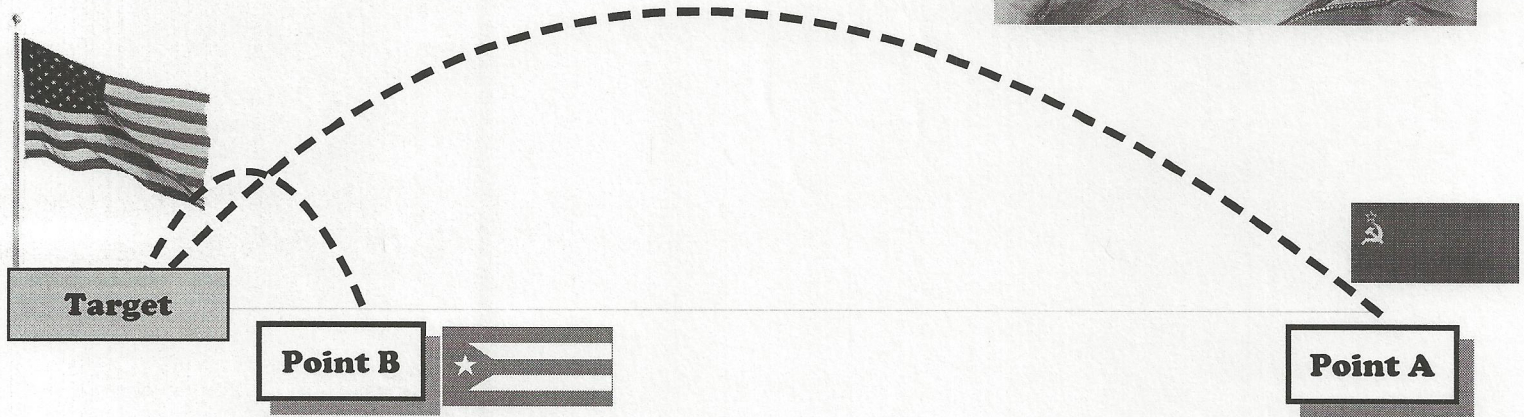
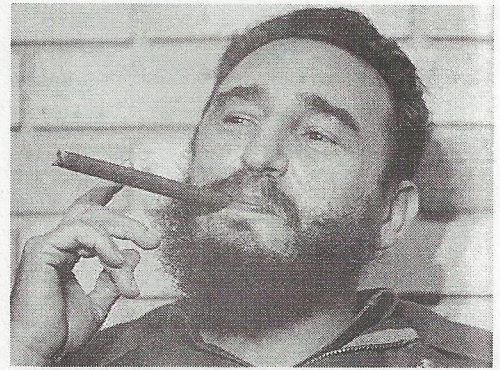


# Cuban Missile Crisis

*What was the problem?*



- ★ During the Cold War the great fear for the United States was a surprise Nuclear attack by the Soviet Union (Point A).
- ★ Because the Soviet Union was so far away, the Americans would have had some warning of an attack (Especially with their use of NORAD).
- ★ In 1962, Cuba was ruled by Fidel Castro (who was its dictator). Cuba's form of government was communist, just like the Soviet Union.
- ★ Fidel Castro signed an agreement with the Soviet Union that permitted them to place Nuclear missiles in Cuba (Point B). All of a sudden, the distance Soviet missiles had to travel to reach the United States was shortened.
- ★ The President of the United States, John F. Kennedy, went on television to warn the Soviet Union that if they continued to place missiles in Cuba, such action would be an act of war. The rest of the world watched as the United States and the Soviet Union moved toward the brink of Nuclear War.



- ★ **The United States asked Canada, as its ally, to put all of its defences on alert. Seeing that war was the next step, Canada hesitated causing a rift between it and the US.**
- ★ **While Canada did have missiles in its territory, the government refused to arm them with nuclear warheads.**
- ★ **Eventually, after 14 days that saw the world reach the brink of Nuclear War (the closest it has even been – seconds away, according to the “Doomsday Clock”), Soviet Premier Khrushchev backed down. The missiles were removed.**
- ★ **Canada eventually (under Prime Minister Lester Pearson, in 1963) armed its missiles with nuclear warheads.**



*Range of missiles stationed in Cuba*