

“The Missiles of October”: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Student Name _____ Date _____

Activity #2: Days of Decision

Directions: Play the interactive simulation located at <http://www.teachingamericanhistory.org/neh/interactives/cubanmissilecrisis/>. Start by examining the five options you have available for responding to the Soviet missiles in Cuba—you will find these in the upper left-hand corner. Then move the mouse over the photograph in the upper right. As names of your advisers appear click on them and see what they have to say about the various options. Record their advice on the chart below.

Adviser	What option does this person favor, and why?	What options does he specifically reject, and why?
Secretary of State Dean Rusk		
Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara		
Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Maxwell Taylor		

National Security Advisor MacGeorge Bundy		
Secretary of the Treasury C. Douglas Dillon		
CIA Director John McCone		
Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy		

Next click on the tab labeled “Special Intelligence Estimate” to get a report prepared by the CIA on this question. After you have read the report, choose one of the five options in the upper left-hand corner. In the space below indicate why you have made this choice.