The Cold War and U.S. Diplomacy: Kennedy Doctrine

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John F. Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States of America from 1961 to 1963 (John F. Kennedy). Since his childhood, he was interested in issues dealing with conflict and tranquility (Bacevich, 2002). Kennedy voiced backing for the containment of communism and the reversal of communism progress in the western. Kennedy deployed a new generation of foreign policy experts referred to as the best of the brightest (Hastedt, 2004). His foreign policy saw military and diplomatic initiatives in Southeast Asia, Europe and other regions despite the cold war tensions. He encapsulated his Cold War stance as never to negotiate out of fear and never fear to negotiate (Eidenmuller, 2001). The flexible response he issued was aimed at reducing the possibility of war by miscalculation. The Cuban Missile Crisis resolution was as a result of his governance and this further refrained from Berlin crisis. Kennedy began the establishment of Peace Corps, United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and Alliance for Progress. He had a less rigid outlook of the world and accepted the world's multiplicity as well as improving United States' rank in the third world (Bacevich, 2002).

Kennedy was an active cold war warrior before being a president. He boasted of taking on the anti-Cold War faction of the Democratic Party led by Henry Wallace at the time of his campaign. Kennedy played hard on the communism issue in his first term in the House of Representatives. He supported all of his America's overseas activities in waging the cold war while in Congress. Kennedy allured to the "tough on the Soviets" issue by beating on Eisenhower for America's imaginary lack of leadership and falling behind the Soviets by Americans.

Kennedy charged that the Eisenhower policy had resulted in the loss of Cuba while he was debating with Nixon. Kennedy also ordered an increase in spending on nuclear missiles which by the end of the decade led to America losing its nuclear superiority. Kennedy supported nuclear weapons testing ban however his interest in the ban was for environmental reasons and not because he visualized the long-term dismissal of nuclear weapons. The Mutual Assured Destruction principle by Robert McNamara relied fully on the safeguarding of a considerable nuclear weapon store. America's troop number was increased largely from 500 to 16,000. According to Kennedy, while Vietnam was probably busy in their final analysis of their war, American troops were not around to witness a war lost (Bacevich, 2002). He never came to terms with those who were suggesting the idea of an enclosure.

Kennedy decided that South Vietnamese President needed to be detached from office because he was persuaded that Diem was a hindrance to winning the war. He authorized the coup that resulted in Diem's defeat and killing on November 1, 1963. Cuba became a shame largely of the administration's own making (Ferris, 1995). Kennedy ordered the implementation of a watered- down plan inherited from the Eisenhower Administration to bring down Cuban leader Fidel Castrol. Military advisers guaranteed Kennedy that the projections for success were excellent, and he gave the go-ahead.

In April 1961, Cuban refugees landed at Bahia de Cochinos on Cuba's southern coast. Kennedy's administration's cover story buckled and it became clear that Washington was behind the attempted coup. As he was recovering and coming to terms with the political defeat, he met with Khrushchev renewing his threat to solve the long –running Berlin problem in Vienna. The announcement forced Kennedy to renew his pledge to respond such a move with all means at his disposal including nuclear weapons (Dobson, 2008). In August 1962, the Soviet's and East German's constructed a wall separating East and West Berlin. This provided the Cold War with a touchable manifestation of Iron Curtain.

Kennedy's doctrine had advantages and disadvantages in the Cuban missiles. The doctrine helped to bring about the crisis as Kennedy was so much adamant about preventing anything that appeared to be an increase in communist power (Barston, 2013). He thought that the Soviet's move was not much of a threat to the US, and this led to a much less confrontational approach to the situation. Kennedy's determination was beneficial given that it allowed him to be very firm in his dealings. This made him appear like the winner in the episode.

**Conclusion**

Kennedy's doctrine was aimed at bringing a great change in the United States of America. He was trying hard to leave behind the policy of containing communism and work with the Soviet Union to create a better and less violent world. The hostility of Soviet in Cuba and Berlin changed his mind.

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