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*The 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis and the Yugoslav Press*

*Summary*

Soon after the end of World War II the war alliance of the USA and the Soviet Union was forgotten and the two super powers entered a global geostrategic conflict aimed at gaining world domination. Fidel Castro, constantly concerned over maintaining his regime in the proximity of the hostile USA, and the Soviet Union, interested in its military presence on the strategically crucial territory of Cuba, easily found mutual interest for their alliance. The Soviets transferred to Cuba, besides conventional, also a large quantity of nuclear arms. After the disclosure of nuclear bases in construction, the blockade of the island followed, together with the ultimatum of the USA to the USSR to withdraw its missiles. After several days of tension and the risk of a global nuclear catastrophe, Khrushchev ordered the return of arms to the USSR and Kennedy offered guarantees that the USA would not bring down the Cuban regime. The Yugoslav public followed with great interest the development of the situation on the Caribbeans. Yugoslav press wrote about the Cuban crisis in a biased manner, although not completely partial. It was difficult even for well informed readers to maintain a critical distance as they were flooded with negative comments on the acts of the USA. However, more or less all relevant and available facts were presented. The real issue pertains to the way they were composed and presented, as well as to the significance attached to them. The Cuban crisis was of no direct concern to Josip Broz Tito's regime. It seems, thus, that it is for this reason that we did not have the chance to witness the whole arsenal of disqualifications of the «imperialists» in action. If Yugoslavia had been more directly linked to the developments, or had been in alliance with one of the parties, the reporting would have been significantly different. Complying editors and journalists (with the exception of the newspaper Politika and some of its journalists) were there to fulfill any task required.