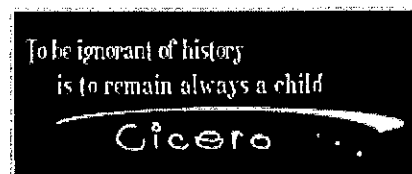




## KENNEDY'S CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS SPEECH



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### John F. Kennedy's Speech About the Cuban Missile Crisis 1962

HistoryWiz Primary Source

President John F. Kennedy made public the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba in this speech to the American people.

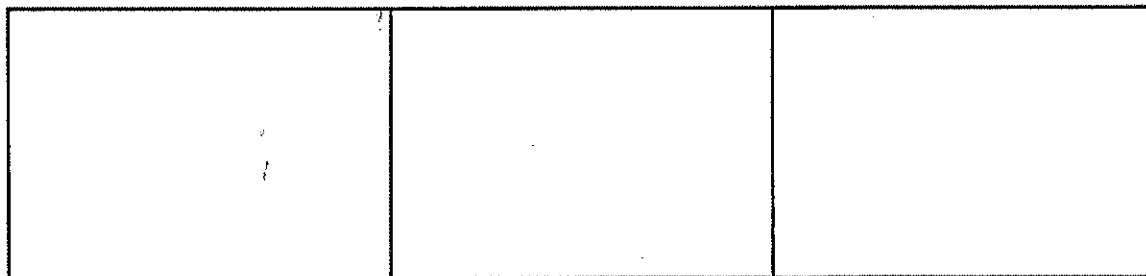
#### John F. Kennedy's Speech on Radio and Television

October 22, 1962

Good Evening, My Fellow Citizens:

This government, as promised, has maintained the closest surveillance of the Soviet military buildup on the island of Cuba. Within the past week, unmistakable evidence has established the fact that a series of offensive missile sites is now in preparation on that imprisoned island. The purpose of these bases can be none other than to provide a nuclear strike capability against the Western Hemisphere.

Upon receiving the first preliminary hard information of this nature last Tuesday morning at 9 a.m., I directed that our surveillance be stepped up. And having now confirmed and completed our evaluation of the evidence and our decision on a course of action, this government feels obliged to report this new crisis to you in fullest detail.



The characteristics of these new missile sites indicate two distinct types of installations. Several of them include medium range ballistic missiles, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead for a distance of more than 1,000 nautical miles. Each of these missiles, in short, is capable of striking Washington, D.C., the Panama Canal, Cape Canaveral, Mexico City, or any other city in the southeastern part of the United States, in Central America or in the Caribbean area.

Additional sites not yet completed appear to be designed for intermediate range ballistic missiles -- capable of traveling more than twice as far -- and thus capable of striking most of the major cities in the Western Hemisphere, ranging as far north as Hudson Bay, Canada, and as far south as Lima, Peru. In addition, jet bombers capable of carrying nuclear weapons are now being uncased and assembled in Cuba while the necessary air bases are being prepared.

This urgent transformation of Cuba into an important strategic base -- by the presence of these large, long-range, and clearly offensive weapons of sudden mass destruction -- constitutes an explicit threat to the peace and security of all Americas, in flagrant and deliberate defiance of the Rio Pact of 1947, the traditions of this nation and hemisphere, the joint resolution of the 87th Congress, the Charter of the United Nations, and my own public warnings to the Soviets on September 4 and 13. This action also contradicts the repeated assurances of Soviet spokesmen, both publicly and privately delivered, that the arms buildup in Cuba would

retain its original defensive character, and that the Soviet Union had no need or desire to station strategic missiles on the territory of any other nation. ...

But this secret, swift and extraordinary buildup of communist missiles -- in an area well known to have a special and historical relationship to the United States and the nations of the Western Hemisphere, in violation of Soviet assurances, and in defiance of American and hemispheric policy -- the sudden, clandestine decision to station strategic weapons for first time outside of Soviet soil -- is a deliberately provocative and unjustified change in the status quo which cannot be accepted by this country, if our courage and our commitments are ever to be trusted again by either friend or foe. ...

Acting, therefore, in the defense of our own security and of the entire Western Hemisphere, and under the authority entrusted to me by the Constitution as endorsed by the resolution of the Congress, I have directed that the following initial steps be taken immediately:

First: To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation and port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back. This quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers. We are not at this time, however, denying the necessities of life as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin blockade of 1948.



Second: I have directed the continued and increased close surveillance of Cuba and its military buildup. The foreign ministers of the OAS, in their communique of October 6, rejected secrecy on such matters in this hemisphere. Should these offensive military preparations continue, thus increasing the threat to the hemisphere, further action will be justified. I have directed the Armed Forces to prepare for any eventualities; and I trust that in the interest of both the Cuban people and the Soviet technicians at the sites, the hazards to all concerned of continuing the threat will be recognized.

Third: It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.

Fourth: As a necessary military precaution, I have reinforced our base at Guantanamo, evacuated today the dependents of our personnel there, and ordered additional military units to be on a standby alert status.

Fifth: We are calling tonight for an immediate meeting of the Organ of Consultation under the Organization of American States, to consider this threat to hemispheric security and to invoke articles 6 and 8 of the Rio Treaty in support of all necessary action. The United Nations Charter allows for regional security arrangements -- and the nations of this hemisphere decided long ago against the military presence of outside powers. Our other allies around the world have also been alerted.

Sixth: Under the Charter of the United Nations, we are asking tonight that an emergency meeting of the Security Council be convoked without delay to take action against this latest Soviet threat to world peace. Our resolution will call for the prompt dismantling and withdrawal of all offensive weapons in Cuba, under the supervision of U.N. observers, before the quarantine can be lifted.

Seventh and finally: I call upon Chairman Khrushchev to halt and eliminate this clandestine, reckless, and provocative threat to world peace and to stable relations between our two nations. I call upon him further to abandon this course of world domination, and to join in an historic effort to end the perilous arms race and to transform the history of man. He has an opportunity now to move the world back from the abyss of destruction -- by returning to his government's own words that it had no need to station missiles outside its own territory, and withdrawing these weapons from Cuba -- by refraining from any action which will widen or deepen the present crisis -- and then by participating in a search for peaceful and permanent solutions. ...

My fellow citizens: let no one doubt that this is a difficult and dangerous effort on which we have set out. No one can foresee precisely what course it will take or what costs or casualties will be incurred. Many months in which both our patience and our will will be tested -- months in which many threats and denunciations will keep us aware of our dangers. But the greatest danger of all would be to do nothing. ...

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Our goal is not the victory of might, but the vindication of right -- not peace at the expense of freedom, but both peace and freedom, here in this hemisphere, and we hope, around the world. God willing, that goal will be achieved.

Thank you and good night.

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**The Cuban Missile Crisis**

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**The Cold War**



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# The Cuban Missile Crisis comes to an end in 1962

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Wednesday, October 28, 2015, 1:33 PM



U.S. President John F. Kennedy reports to the nation on the Cuban missile crisis from the White House in Washington, Nov. 2, 1962. The president told radio and television listeners that Soviet missile bases "are being destroyed." (AP)

*(Originally published by the Daily News on October 29, 1962. This story was written by Michael O'Neill and Frank Holenan.)*

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (News Bureau) - President Kennedy called on Premier Khrushchev tonight to carry out his promised missile pullback "at once" so that the U.S. and Russia could move promptly "to the settlement of the Cuban crisis."

Officials disclosed that the U.S. would insist on a time line in the UN negotiations on pullout details. Informed sources said it should be a "very, very short" period, a matter of days, because some of the missiles already are operational.

In a new letter to the Kremlin leader the President declared that he now believed he and Khrushchev had reached "firm" agreement on the terms for ending an ominous East-West clash that had carried the world to the brink of nuclear war.

In return for a speedy missile pullback in Cuba, under UN supervision, the President said the U.S. would lift the sea blockade and offer Russia assurances against a Cuban invasion.

"I hope that the necessary measures can at once be taken through the United Nations, as your message says," Kennedy told Khrushchev, "so that the U.S. in turn will be able to remove the quarantine measures now in effect."

In a separate gesture to smooth the path to a final settlement the President voiced "regret" that an American plane collecting fallout samples in the atmosphere had slipped into Soviet air space in far northeast Siberia. He promised that "every precaution" would be taken to prevent a recurrence.

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Kennedy's letter was made public less than eight hours after the Moscow radio broadcast a Khrushchev letter agreeing to Kennedy's missile pullout demands. It seemed to mark the beginning of the end of the fateful cold war collision.

Around the world the news brought a sigh of relief despite Administration attempts to ward off any premature victory statements.

Even Kennedy suggested in his letter that a solution was at hand. Underlining this was the fact that Kennedy spent the first afternoon away from his desk since the crisis erupted.

#### Expect Soviet to Cool Off

"Perhaps now, as we step back from danger," Kennedy wrote, "we can together make real progress" toward world disarmament. He appealed particularly for East-West negotiations on ways to curb the spread of atomic arms.

Khrushchev finally yielded to the greatest confrontation of American military might since the cold war began. He apparently accepted the cold reality that the U.S. was ready to go to war to thwart the massive buildup of Soviet atomic power in Cuba.

Nonetheless, Kennedy and his crisis-weary advisers ordered continuation of the blockade and preparations for a direct blow against Cuba to guard against any new sudden switch in Russian policy.

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**DAILY NEWS**  
 NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER  
 5¢  
 Vol. 41, No. 108 New York, N.Y., Monday, October 29, 1962  
 (NEW YORK: Charles and Rayne)

# SCRAP MISSILES IN CUBA FAST, JFK TELLS K



President arrives at White House.



#### They All Hear the Call of Duty

Small photo: 2. In much less going to join the anti-Red but his father, Robert F. Kennedy, is an Air Force aviator. There is one of many thousands who have been called back to active duty, and Scott wants to go with his father. 3. Mr. Spence holds the newspaper in the family's Salt Lake City home. In Washington, President Kennedy called upon Khrushchev to state and his promise to remove missiles from Cuba. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.

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New York Daily News published in October 29, 1962.

(NEW YORK DAILY NEWS)

If the missile pullback finally comes off, officials expect that it will be a major cold war turning point that will make Russia far less aggressive than it has been for the last 17 years.

There was immediate speculation regarding the possible impact of the decision on the political careers of Khrushchev and Premier Castro. Both men - Castro more than his Soviet mentor - presumably couldn't help but be hurt by the dismal result of the Red missile gambit.

#### Kennedy Move Promptly

Kennedy said he was replying immediately to Khrushchev's earlier letter today because of "the great importance I attach to moving forward promptly to the settlement of the Cuban crisis."

"I think that you and I, with our heavy responsibilities for the maintenance of peace," he wrote, "were aware that developments were approaching a point where events could have become unmanageable."

As a result, the President said, he welcomed the premier's missile pullback decision as "an important contribution to peace."

Kennedy praised the efforts of UN Acting Secretary General U Thant and said he was reporting on the latest developments to the Organization of American States, "whose members share a deep interest in a genuine peace in the Caribbean area."

#### We Confess Violation

The President admitted a new Soviet charge that an American plane had violated Soviet territory early today. But he said the aircraft was an unarmed reconnaissance plane merely collecting fallout samples from the Soviet atomic tests.

In his letter to the President, Khrushchev called for American agreement to quit sending reconnaissance planes over Cuba. We already have banned such flights over Soviet territory.

Indications were, however, that the U.S. would reject this as part of the Cuban missile deal. Officials said the only U.S. action would be lifting the blockade and guaranteeing against Cuban invasions.

As the Cuban crisis seemingly moved nearer settlement Kennedy suggested that the U.S. and Russia turn to "great unfinished tasks" to free the world "from the fear of war."

**Would Push Disarming**

"I agree with you," he wrote Khrushchev, "that we must devote urgent attention to the problem of disarmament as it relates to the whole world and also to critical areas."



Photo from October 1962 showing a Cuban Army anti-aircraft battery, enacted during the missile crisis between the former Soviet Union, Cuba and the United States. (RAFAEL PEREZ/REUTERS)

He urged that priority attention be given to curbing the spread of atomic arms and to reaching agreement on a nuclear test ban. But he added that "we should also work hard to see if any wider measures of disarmament can be agreed and put into operation at any early date."

Kennedy called for urgent discussions on these issues "at Geneva or elsewhere."

This sentence spurred some speculation regarding a possible summit, but officials discouraged this. They said nothing like this is in the wind, at least for the foreseeable future.

**Recon Flights to Go On**

In discussing Kennedy's offer of assurances against a Cuban invasion officials noted that the President had already said many times that this country had no intention of invading the island. The only reason for considering an invasion at this time was the presence of offensive Soviet weapons there.

Kennedy was expected to reject any ban on reconnaissance flights over Cuba unless there is a fully adequate ground inspection system ground that guarantees against any Russian missile cheating.

Likewise, officials said that the U.S. would brush aside Premier Fidel Castro's demand for U.S. evacuation of the Guantanamo naval base in Cuba. They considered this and some of Khrushchev's demands to be more propaganda moves than conditions for the missile pullback.

Informed sources made it clear that the U.S. would not demand removal of the more than 5,000 Soviet technicians who have been in Cuba for some months.

The assumption was that most of them will have very little to do if their missiles are hauled back to Moscow.

**Jet Bombers Must Go, Too**

These sources, however, suggested that the U.S. would want guarantees that all offensive weapons - not just the medium and intermediate range missiles - will be removed. This would include the IL-28 jet bombers and any atomic bombs they might be equipped with.

Details of the U.S.- Russian agreement will be hammered out at the UN under the direction of Acting Secretary General U Thant.

They key factor, as far as the U.S. is concerned, is that there must be an effective UN inspection system to provide this country with ironclad guarantees that Khrushchev is carrying out his pledges.





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President John F. Kennedy, right, confers with his brother, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, at the White House in this Oct. 1, 1962, file photo during the Cuban missile crisis.

(AP)

#### **If He'll Stick to Program -**

Officials here, it was learned, were anxious to make sure that Khrushchev's personal negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister V. V. Kuznetsov, sticks to the general terms outlined by the premier in his latest Kennedy letter. They hope there won't be any new conditions that might snag negotiations.

Soviet affairs experts in Washington were vastly intrigued by the flurry of Khrushchev letters, which strongly suggested that the Kremlin was either having trouble making up its collective mind or that there were sharp internal differences of opinion on what to do.

In a private note Kennedy Friday Khrushchev virtually agreed to the same general terms the two sides settled on today.

Then yesterday morning, before the President had a chance to reply, radio Moscow broadcast a second letter demanding a horse trade, a Communist missile pullback in Cuba in return for an Allied missile pullback in Turkey.

Kennedy promptly rejected this in a White House statement and fired off a new letter to Khrushchev applauding the Soviet missile pullback offer and agreeing, in exchange, to lift the blockade and guarantee against a Cuban invasion.

This letter was followed by the new Soviet note today which agreed to all the President's terms.

The first view of the flip-flopping was that it reflected a tug of war between the so-called moderates and warmongers in the Kremlin.

The moderates apparently won out after finally being convinced of America's determination to fight.

#### **No Summit Meeting Soon**

Because of this apparently precarious situation in the Communist hierarchy the Administration was believed to be tailoring its moves carefully to give the moderates all the help they may need to hold to the present missile retreat deal. Hence, Kennedy avoided any premature victory claims.

The feeling was that if the Russian pullback actually occurs, then both sides should swing into some hard negotiations looking toward an atomic test ban and at least a few tentative steps toward disarmament. The hope was that Russia may be more interested now than it has gone to war's edge with the U.S.

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# The Cuban Missile Crisis

Part A: Closely read and annotate both documents in order to answer the following:

In the Speech by John F. Kennedy a series of steps are listed as a means to ensure the security of the Western Hemisphere. Which of these steps are addressed in the second document?

(Cite Document, Page #, and Paragraph #)

[illegible]

For Teacher Use Only 😊

Reading Target: I can cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Assessment Result: \_\_\_\_\_



*'In your opinion, do you think the Cuban Missile Crisis was as big of a deal as they thought it could possibly be?'*

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Writing Target: I can support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant, accurate data and evidence that demonstrate an understanding of the topic or text, using credible sources.

Assessment Result: \_\_\_\_\_

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. A small dark speck is located near the bottom center of the page.

Assessment Result: \_\_\_\_\_