



# THE HISTORICAL UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL CABINET



**Committee:** The Historical United States Presidential Cabinet

**Topic:** Meeting on October 14th, 1962

**Moderator:** Elio Carballo Bonilla

**President:** Gabriela Bustani García

**Assistant Director:** Guillermo Maldonado Martínez

*Dear Secretaries,*

Welcome to MUNterrey 2019 as a member of the Historical United States Presidential Cabinet (HUSPC). As the chair of the committee, we hope you have a very memorable experience, in which you, as secretaries, will be able to develop your knowledge, negotiation, leadership and critical thinking skills. During this simulation you will take the position of one of the members of the U.S. cabinet during John F. Kennedy's presidency. You will need to work together with the rest of the secretaries as a government, in order to solve the various crisis our team has prepared.

The cabinet will be discussing the issues at hand that involve the United States during October of 1962, so we recommend that you come prepared for the debate. Remember to research all related areas and topics so that you will be able to keep and lead up with the discussion. Please keep in mind the specified time period for all your research, and also remember to take your country's and secretary's position at all times and for all decisions. We wish you the best of luck, and we hope you learn and enjoy this experience. If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to contact us at [husc@munterrey.info](mailto:husc@munterrey.info).

*Good luck and see you soon!*

**Moderator:** Elio Carballo Bonilla

**President:** Gabriela Bustani García

**Assistant Director:** Guillermo Maldonado Martínez

**Secretaria General Adjunta de Agencias Especiales de Crisis:**

Karla Osorio Ferrer / [karla@munterrey.info](mailto:karla@munterrey.info)

## Committee Introduction

The United States' (U.S.) government is divided into three branches: Judicial, which takes care of all legal matters with the aid of the Supreme Court; Legislative, formed by the Senate and the House of Representatives; and the Executive, that brings together the President of the country and other workers. The United States Presidential Cabinet (USPC) is the main organism in the Executive Branch. The cabinet was formed in 1787 with the Constitutional Convention when President George Washington was in office. Since then, the main members have included the president, vice-president and various secretaries in charge departments in the U.S. government. According to the United States' Constitution, its main goal is for the president to "require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices.". The USPC is led by a moderator and the President of this United States as the director of the committee. Secretaries must refer to each other by their position (*for example, Secretary of Health, Postmaster General, Vice-President, Secretary, etc.*). Additionally, the topics that will be discussed in the HUSPC will be crisis-based, which means that they may change periodically based on the way problems are addressed. Cabinet members must stay within the specified time frame, as well as avoid any information or data after the time period. The last date that cabinet members are allowed to research is **October 14, 1962**. Research beyond this date will not be allowed.

## Quorum

- **Vice-President (Lyndon B. Johnson)**: It is the second highest position in the U.S. cabinet. They are the right hand of the president and, in case of his absence, the vice-president will take his position.
- **Secretary of State (Dean Rusk)**: Its main focus is on foreign affairs and international relations of the United States.
- **Secretary of the Treasury (C. Douglas Dillon)**: Administers financial and economical decision within the government.

- **Secretary of Defense (Robert S. McNamara):** Manages the militaries (Department of Army, Department of Navy and the Department of Air Force) and defend policies of the country, with its main goal being national security.
- **Attorney General (Robert F. Kennedy):** It is the head of the Department of Justice and aids the President on all legal affairs. As well, he enforces laws and represents the U.S. government in all law-related issues.
- **Postmaster General (J. Edward Day):** Is in charge of the postal service office and supervises all related operations.
- **Department of Postmastery (John A. Gronouski):** Works hand-in-hand with the Postmaster General in all postal service related issues.
- **Secretary of the Interior (Stewart L. Udall):** Manages the protection of the natural resources and the federal land of the country.
- **Secretary of Agriculture (Orville L. Freeman):** This secretary is in charge of the industry related the farming, agriculture, and resources within the United States.
- **Secretary of Commerce (Luther H. Hodges):** Manages and promotes the economic growth of the country, with the goal of increasing it.
- **Secretary of Labor (Arthur J. Goldberg):** Administers the laws regarding the U.S. workforce, wages, employees, unions, and workplace, within more.
- **Secretary of Logistics (W. Willard Wirtz):** The Secretary of Logistics provides the logistical needs for related federal programs.
- **Secretary of Health (Abraham A. Ribicoff):** Manages the protection of the well-being of the American population and provides essential health services.
- **Secretary of Welfare (John W. Gardner):** Works hand-in-hand with the Secretary of Health in order to provide the American people with the protection of its well-being and health.
- **Secretary of Education (Anthony J. Celebrezze):** This secretary is in charge of the education the population receives and has the main goal of improving its quality as well as the number of people who receive it.

## **Topic Introduction**

The United States Presidential Cabinet is in charge of advising the country's president in any decisions related to the government or the United States. It has the main goal of providing the best security and opportunities to the U.S. with the help of its resources (such as the creation of laws without legislative consent). Additionally, cabinet meeting dates may vary, depending on the country's current situation. Within the cabinet, alliances are created, budgets are cut and overall policy morphs along the country, adapting to the situation and moving along with the current crisis or topic.

## **Topic History**

Once the Second World War came to an end, the world went through a lot of changes: The creation of many international organizations, such as the United Nations; The division of Germany into two parts, one controlled by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the other by the allies. However, the most significant change was the creation of a bipolar world. Since 1947, the United States of America and the USSR have been in an on-going competition, known as the Cold War. During 1962, tensions were at its highest between the two nations. Opposing ideologies desperately make an effort to have a superior influence on the world's governmental beliefs. The U.S. sends troops in order to battle and contradict the left-sided ideals of the Soviets, while both potencies economically support external conflicts in order to establish a greater advantage. Not only were they fighting to spread their ideologies, but also for the simple fact of competition between the two states. John F. Kennedy (JFK) establishing the Apollo program in 1961 to place the first human on the moon, disguised the true intention. Placing an American on the moon before the Soviets and as nuclear weapon research is increasing the destructive power of these countries, the future is unpredictable.

## **Guiding Questions**

1. What actions is your department taking in order to address the crises and topics going on during 1962?
2. How are the events up to the investigation date affecting the United States of America?
3. What resources is your department putting forward to support the United States of America?
4. What actions can your department propose in order to break up the tensions between the two countries?
5. Has your department been directly affected by the competition between the USSR.? If so, how?
6. How are the Paris Peace Treaties affecting the current world conflict?
7. What precautions can the country take in order to prevent future actions made by the USSR?
8. How is your department supporting the current space race between the USA and USSR?
9. What resources is your department sending to vietnam to fight the current war in the area?
10. Should the U.S. place more missiles (like the ones they put in Turkey) in other locations? If so, how would this strategy help the outcome of the situation?

## **List of References**

CVCE. (2018). Introduction. Retrieved from <https://www.cvce.eu/en/education/unit-content/-/unit/55c09dcc-a9f2-45e9-b240-eaef64452cae/8d5d4d7e-1da6-494e-8511-f0baae210323>

U.S. Constitution. (2018). U.S. Constitution. Retrieved from [https://www.usconstitution.net/consttop\\_cabi.html](https://www.usconstitution.net/consttop_cabi.html)

## **Recommended Sites**

- <https://www.historyonthenet.com/the-cold-war-timeline-2/>