

Station D: U-2 Incident – Your Task

1. Read the background information on the U-2 Spy Plane incident.
2. Then read the scenario with Nikita Khrushchev, the head of Soviet Union, and notes from your advisors.
3. Decide – Do you prosecute or release the pilot?
Yes or No
4. Write 3 reasons for your decision.
5. Then, check what the real Khrushchev did.
6. Do you think the United States would act differently if the plane was downed over our country?

Station D: As Soviet Leader, how do you react to a US spy plane over the USSR?

You are Nikita Khrushchev, the head of Soviet Union.

It is 1960, and your forces have recently downed a U.S. U-2 spy plane. You have already scored a propaganda coup by forcing President Eisenhower to admit, belatedly, that the plane was on a spy mission. Now you must decide what to do with the pilot, Francis Gary Powers, who sits in a Soviet prison awaiting his fate.

You could release Powers and hope to score propaganda points by claiming the amnesty demonstrates the humane and magnanimous nature of the Soviet government. Or, you could put him on trial and hope to score propaganda points by exposing U.S. espionage efforts.

What do you do?

Station D: Task – 3 Advisors

- Politburo member: Prosecute. It is a great opportunity to demonstrate that the Soviet criminal justice system is more fair and impartial than the West has claimed.
- General: We must prosecute. If we let him go, it will damage morale among our anti-aircraft troops, who have worked so hard to shoot down the U-2.
- Diplomat: Release him. This will gain us even more worldwide prestige. Compared to Washington we will look like saints.

Task: Khrushchev's Real Response

- Francis Gary Powers went on public trial August 17, 1960, on charges of espionage. Powers pleaded guilty, confessing to "a grave crime," and was sentenced to prison for 10 years.
- The trial was embarrassing for Washington, but probably less of a propaganda coup than Moscow had hoped. In the West, it was usually portrayed as a show trial.
- Powers was released to the United States in 1962 in exchange for the Soviet spy Rudolf Abel.

Station E: Marshall Plan

The European Recovery Program, as the Marshall Plan was formally known, offered U.S. aid to nearly all European countries. From 1948 to mid-1952, more than \$13 billion (\$88.2 billion in constant 1997 dollars) was distributed in the form of direct aid, loan guarantees, grants and necessities from medicine to mules.

Station E:

Marshall Plan- Your Task

1. Read the situation and notes from your advisors.
2. Decide – Do you accept? Yes or No
3. Write 3 reasons for your decision.
4. Then, check what the real Stalin did.
5. After reading the section, look at the map and make a list of countries which accepted US aid and those who followed the Soviet Plan.

Task: As Soviet Leader, do you accept American aid?

Situation: You are Joseph Stalin.

It is 1947, and the United States and its allies have just announced the European Recovery Program, also known as the "Marshall Plan."

The initial proposal offers aid to all European nations, even the Soviet Union and its socialist allies. The aid is badly needed: postwar economic conditions are grim throughout Eastern Europe.

Your aides are split: some feel the assistance offered by the Marshall Plan could be helpful, while others view it as a form of financial imperialism.

Your goal is to maintain control of your Eastern European neighbors. If you accept Marshall Plan aid or allow your satellites to accept it, you risk giving the West greater influence in your sphere of authority. But if you reject the program, you risk provoking resentment among your allies. What do you do?

The Three Advisors - Task

- Advisor 1 - Politburo member: The Americans just want to impose their influence on the countries receiving aid. This is an aggressive act! Reject it.
- Advisor 2 – Foreign Minister: We could use the assistance. Our allies could use the assistance. Perhaps this presents an opportunity to forge a more cooperative relationship with the West. Accept the Marshall Plan aid.
- Advisor 3 - Interior Ministry: We do not need this assistance. We made it through World War II, we can withstand the aftermath. We should form our own aid package for our socialist allies and reject the Marshall Plan.

Task: The Real Stalin's Response

Stalin: Rejected the Plan

Initially, the Soviet Union showed some interest in the Marshall Plan, participating in the first round of talks about a European response. But Stalin was suspicious about the Marshall Plan from the beginning. In the end he rejected it and cajoled his allies into doing the same. His decision was signaled in a Pravda article denouncing the European Recovery Program as "a plan for interference in other countries."

To counter the Marshall Plan, the Soviet Union established the Cominform, a Moscow-directed international communist propaganda bureau, and the Comecon, an economic assistance program for Eastern bloc countries.

Stalin's reaction to the Marshall Plan -- and some say the Marshall Plan itself -- contributed to the growing chasm between East and West in postwar Europe. Many historians cite these developments as a major escalation of the Cold War

Station 5: McCarthy Senate Hearings

In the 1940s and '50s, the Cold War was fought through fear and persecution on both sides of the globe. In the United States, anti-communism became strident; those who refused to completely renounce communism and its supporters were considered suspect. In the Soviet Union, fences were raised against the outside world. The Gulag -- the secret government system of labor camps -- housed millions of prisoners

At home, Americans feared communist subversion. Congress revived the House Committee on Un-American Activities. In 1947, the committee investigated America's film industry. Some of Hollywood's best-known actors, producers and writers were called to testify. But 10 witnesses, who became known as the Hollywood Ten, defied the committee's line of questioning. The 10 were imprisoned. Hundreds more in Hollywood, suspected of communist sympathies, were blacklisted -- and unable to find work.

Several U.S. politicians used the Red Scare to their advantage. A State Department official, Alger Hiss, was accused by a former communist of passing secrets to the Soviet Union. Leading the prosecution against Hiss -- who was later jailed for perjury -- was a young California congressman named Richard Nixon.

Fear of communism also brought Republican Sen. Joseph McCarthy into the limelight. During Senate hearings, McCarthy claimed to have lists of communists in the U.S. military, State Department and other government agencies. For months, McCarthy was able to attack people's reputations at will. He eventually fell out of public favor and power -- after he denounced leading Republicans and senior Army officials as communists.

The fate of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg came to symbolize the excesses of the U.S. Red Scare. The couple were convicted of passing atomic secrets to the Soviet Union and sentenced to death. Despite protests that the death sentence against the Rosenbergs -- who had young children -- was unconstitutional, they became the first U.S. civilians to be executed in peacetime for espionage.

Station F: Your Task – McCarthy Hearings

1. Read the situation and notes from your advisors.
2. Decide – What will you do?
3. Write 3 reasons for your decision.
4. Then, check out what really happened.
5. After reading the section, look through the images and write your thoughts about these “witch hunts.”

Task: As Hollywood screenwriter: What would you do?

You are a Hollywood screenwriter.

It is 1947, and you have just been called before the House Un-American Activities Committee to testify about communism in Hollywood.

In the 1930s, you attended a few Communist Party meetings. After learning more about communist ideology and about abuses in the Soviet Union, you long ago abandoned any interest in communism. In fact you consider yourself firmly anti-communist.

But now the committee wants you to name the names of the people you saw at those Communist Party meetings nearly two decades ago. A few of these people are now your friends. And you have already seen what happens to anyone who is identified as a communist before the committee: They have been publicly vilified by the committee and blacklisted (fired and never rehired) by the motion picture industry. But if you don't cooperate, you and your family could face the same fate.

What do you do?

Task: Three Advisors' Opinions

- Your Lawyer: Take the Fifth Amendment, citing your right to avoid self-incrimination. This way you won't have to testify against others, either. The danger of this strategy is you could be charged with contempt of Congress.
- Your Mother: Tell them what they want to know. The committee will get the names of the people eventually, with or without your help. You might as well save yourself.
- Your Agent: You must tell them what you know. If you don't cooperate it will be the end of your career.