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PROGRAM

ABC Nightline

WJLA-TV STATION

ABC Network

DATE

October 22, 1982 11:30 P.M.

CITY

Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT

The Cuban Missile Crisis

It was eyeball-to-eyeball. And I went to bed several times during that week wondering whether the next morning we were going to have a nuclear exchange.

TED KOPPEL: Tonight, the Cuban Missile Crisis, as recalled by the men who dealt with it. Those 13 days in October which began 20 years ago today are described for Nightline by former Secretary of State Dean Rusk, by President Kennedy's National Security Adviser McGeorge Bundy, his special assistant Theodore Sorensen, his press secretary Pierre Salinger, by the U-2 pilot who flew photo reconnaissance over Cuba, by the CIA's photo interpreter who analyzed those pictures. We'll here from the man who was then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and from ABC's John Scali, who acted as secret intermediary between the U.S. and Soviet governments. And analyzing the aftereffect of the Cuban Missile Crisis, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

KOPPEL: This was the time just 20 years ago when the world quite literally seemed to tremble on the brink of nuclear war. It was a time, difficult to remember now, when roughly a quarter of a million American troops were assembled in Florida for the possible invasion of Cuba. It was the first time in the nuclear age that the United States and the Soviet Union came into direct military confrontation. Those 13 days which have come to be known as the Cuban Missile Crisis changed the way that the U.S. and the Soviet Union perceived one another and the reality of nuclear confrontation.

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