



Permanent Mission of Chile to the UN



SAVE THE DATE

*THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE MAYORS FOR PEACE*

Have the honour to invite the

**FIRST COMMITTEE DELEGATES
AND DISARMAMENT EXPERTS**

to a side-event entitled:

**Seconds to Stop the Final Countdown:
the Cuba Missile Crisis in Okinawa**

To be held on
October 28, 2015 13:15-14:30 p.m.
Conference Room 8
United Nations Headquarters, New York

A light lunch will be served from 12:30 – 13:15 near Conference Room 8

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Concept Note

On 31 April this year, an article in Kyodo news revealed that a very dangerous incident occurred at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, the morning of 28 October 1962, on the Island of Okinawa. Specifically:

- An authentic order to launch all missiles was sent out by the commanding officer, a Major, to eight crews each responsible for four Mace B cruise missiles with 1.1 megaton warheads.
- The crews, two at each of four sites, began preparations to launch despite the misgivings of some of the launch officers about the order.
- At the advice of the senior field officer, a Captain, the countdown was suspended at one minute until launch. A request to retransmit the order was made, but the order was retransmitted unaltered.
- Only when directly challenged by the senior field officer did the Major issue a stand-down order.

The author of the article, Masakatsu Ota, was able to cite two crew members regarding these aspects of the incident. Airman John Bordne was one of these men. He has a good deal more to say about the incident, because unlike the other crew members, he was in the launch Control Center with the senior field officer and was able to hear what he was saying to the other launch offices.

Over 50 years after this incident, Mr. John Bordne received a clearance from the Air Force to publish his memoirs which includes a chapter on the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The producer of "The Man who Saved the World" has recorded a video interview with John Bordne which will be screened for the first time at the side event. Mr. Bordne will be answering questions from the audience via video conference.

Featuring speakers

Video interview with John Bordne, former Airman and one of those involved in the incident on Okinawa. Introduced by Christian Ditlev Bruun, producer of "The Man who Saved the World"

Comments by Prof. Alan Robock, Distinguished Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences School of Environmental and Biological Sciences Rutgers University, on the global impact of thirty-two 1.1 megaton explosions over cities.

Question and answer with John Bordne by Skype video-conference

Panel discussion moderated by Jonathan Granoff, Global Security Institute with the participation of Bruce Blair, nuclear security expert and a research scholar at the Program on Science and Global Security at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Daniel Ellsberg, former United States military analyst and Aaron Tovish, International Campaign Director, 2020 Vision Campaign, Mayors for Peace