Stalin was unhappy with Allied plans to rebuild Germany. He tried to close off West Berlin by cutting all road, water and rail links. Berlin was therefore accessible only by air. The British and Americans responded with a huge airlift of supplies and resources to West Berlin

In October 1962 the U.S. Strategic Air Command was placed on DEFCON-2 (Defense Condiiton 2), the highest level of military readiness short of actual war. This program looks at the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis and includes eyewitness testimony as well as analysis by key participatants and includes recently declassified audio tapes and previously secret film and photos.

On the brink of destruction. A 10 minute film on the story of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

'Checkpoint Charlie' was the colloquial name for a crossing point between the former East and West Berlin (Russian and American sectors of the divided city).
Although it first came into being in 1945, after the 1961 erection of the wall it became one of the few crossing points between the two sections of the divided city. It was restricted to military officers and non Germans only.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was the closest the world ever came to nuclear war. The United States armed forces were at their highest state of readiness ever and Soviet field commanders in Cuba were prepared to use battlefield nuclear weapons to defend the island if it was invaded. Luckily, thanks to the bravery of two men, President John F. Kennedy and Premier Nikita Khrushchev, war was averted.