



Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum

Museum: 303 Pearl Street, NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov
(616) 254-0400 fax (616) 254-0386

Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Kristin Mooney, Public Affairs
(616) 254-0374
Donald Holloway, Curator
(616) 254-0378

America and the Cold War Exhibit Opening Exclusive to Grand Rapids

Grand Rapids Mich. . . World War II was the most devastating conflict in history with much of Europe and Asia left in ruins at war's end. Yet, there was no peace. The superpowers of the United States and Soviet Union and their ideologies of democracy versus tyranny competed for prominence on the world stage in a cold war. For over 40 years these nuclear superpowers maintained a standoff and avoided a hot war that could have potentially destroyed the planet.

America and the Cold War opens to the public on January 22 and remains on display through June 13, 2010. Revisit this tumultuous time in history through documents and artifacts collected by the exhibit team at the Ford Museum. **The media is invited to preview *America and the Cold War* on Tuesday, January 19 at 10:00 am.**

Highlights include:



The Electronic Test Officer aboard the Enola Gay replaced three green safety plugs with red arming plugs to activate Little Boy, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. This original safety plug is accompanied with a spare red plug taken on the mission (Courtesy of Clay Perkins Collection).



Desk plaque awarded to the crew members of the Soviet SA-2 missile battalion that shot down Francis Gary Powers U-2 spy plane in 1960 (Courtesy of Francis Gary Powers Jr. and The Cold War Museum – www.coldwar.org).



A scale model of Apollo-Soyuz presented to President Gerald R. Ford by cosmonauts Aleskei Leonov and Valeri Kubasov in the Oval Office on September 7, 1974 (From the collections of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum).



Developed in the early 1950s, the Nike Ajax served as the United States' first operational supersonic anti-aircraft missile system. The U.S. military intended to use them as the last line of defense against Soviet bombers (Courtesy of the Selfridge Military Air Museum).

- The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed by the U.S. Congress after American war ships were attacked by North Vietnamese gunboats in August 1964. The Resolution gave President Lyndon Johnson unprecedented power to wage war in Vietnam, a war that would last for nine years (Courtesy of the National Archives and Records Administration).



Bogdan Gromm sculpted this piece, entitled “Diplomatic Panda,” in 1973 on the first anniversary of President Nixon’s historic trip to Communist China (Courtesy of the Richard Nixon Presidential Library & Museum).

There is also a wide range of programming scheduled in conjunction with *America and the Cold War*. Kicking off the exhibit will be *Inside the Cold War: CIA and KGB Perspectives on Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m.*, with former CIA operative Peter Earnest and former KGB agent Oleg Kalugin. In February, renowned author **Mark Updegrove** will examine the role U.S. Presidents played in the Cold War. The Museum will host **Hank Meijer** in March, focusing on Senator Vandenberg’s role in the Cold War. For exact dates and more information visit the web at fordlibrarymuseum.gov.

The Gerald R. Ford Museum is open 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily. It is closed New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Admission is \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for senior citizens, \$3.00 for 18-6 years, and free for those 5 and under. For information please call (616) 254-0400 or visit us on the web at www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov.

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