Confrontation with Communism:  
Chronology 1945-1964

1945  
July - first explosion of atomic bomb  
July - Potsdam conference  
November - Communists win Yugoslav elections

1946  
February - arrest of Klaus Fuchs leads to exposure of “atom spy” ring; George Kennan’s “Long Telegram” warns of Soviet expansionism.  
March - Churchill’s “Iron Curtain” speech at Fulton, MO.  
May - East/West confrontation over Azerbaijan and northern Iran  
September - Bulgaria becomes a People’s Republic  
September - Archbishop Stepinac on trial in Yugoslavia  
October - Two British warships mined by Albanians in “Corfu Incident”  
November - Communists represent largest element in governing coalition in France

1947  
January - Communist-dominated coalition wins Polish elections  
March - Truman doctrine proclaimed  
May - Communist domination established in Hungary  
May - French Communist Party goes into opposition  
May - US House Committee on Un-American Activities begins investigation of Hollywood  
June - George Marshall calls for economic aid to Europe  
Fall - wave of labor unrest in France splits union movement between Communist and non-Communist factions  
October - HCUA hearings of “Hollywood Ten”  
US National Security Act creates CIA

1948  
February - Communist regime in Czechoslovakia  
March - Czech Foreign Minister Masaryk dies mysteriously  
March - Soviets reject four-power control system in Germany  
March - Rumania a People’s Republic  
March - US Congress approves Marshall Plan  
April - Communists defeated in critical elections in Italy  
June - Berlin Airlift begins  
June - Yugoslavia expelled from COMINFORM  
June - Communist leader Gottwald becomes President of Czechoslovakia  
June - mass purges and arrests in Albania and Hungary  
July - Leaders of US Communist Party convicted under Smith Act for advocating overthrow of government  
August - Whittaker Chambers accuses Alger Hiss  
October - Communist led miners’ strike in France  
December - Hiss indicted  
December - arrest of Hungarian Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty

1949  
January - COMECON formed  
February - Cardinal Mindszenty convicted  
April - NATO Treaty signed  
May - Berlin blockade lifted  
May - German Federal Republic (West Germany) in existence  
May - Communists win general elections in Hungary  
September - Soviets detonate their first atomic bomb  
October - People’s Republic declared in China  
October - German Democratic Republic declared  
October - Communists defeated in Greek civil war

1950  
January - Alger Hiss convicted of perjury, in second trial
February - Senator McCarthy’s speech warning of massive Communist subversion in the US government
June - outbreak of Korean war
November - China intervenes in Korean war

1951
April - General Douglas MacArthur relieved of command of Allied Forces
May - US tests partially successful fusion bomb at Eniwetok Atoll
May - British diplomats Burgess and MacLean defect to USSR

1952
October - Britain tests atomic bomb
November - US explodes first successful hydrogen bomb at Eniwetok (“Mike” test)

1953
January - Senator McCarthy chairs US Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
March - death of Stalin
June - anti-Communist rising in East Berlin
June - Rosenbergs executed in US
July - armistice signed in Korean war
August - first Soviet hydrogen bomb detonated
October - McCarthy committee begins hearings into US Army

1954
January - John Foster Dulles declares policy of “massive retaliation”
March - US explodes 15-megaton fission/fusion bomb in the “Bravo” test at Bikini atoll
March - US administration attacks work of McCarthy and Roy Cohn
May - Fall of Dienbienphu ends French war in Indo-China
June - Crucial confrontation between Senator McCarthy and Joseph Welch begins discrediting of McCarthyism
July - Vietnam partitioned
August - US passes Communist Control Act, outlawing CPUSA
September - Southeast Asia Treaty Organization formed
December - US Senate votes to condemn McCarthy

1956
February - Khrushchev’s secret speech to Soviet XXth Party Congress
October - riots in Poland
October/November - Hungarian uprising

1957
May - British explode hydrogen bomb
August - Soviets test first ICBM
October - Soviets launch Sputnik

1958
US and Britain declare moratorium on nuclear testing

1959
January - Castro takes power in Cuba

1960
February - French explode atomic bomb
May - U2 incident disrupts Paris summit conference

1961
April - Failed invasion of Cuba ends at Bay of Pigs
August - Berlin Wall erected

1962
April - USA resumes nuclear testing
October - Cuba missiles crisis

1963
August - nuclear test ban treaty signed

1964
October - Chinese test atomic bomb