

TBSRJMUN XXI

Historical Security Council



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER TO DELEGATES	3
COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION	4
TOPIC A: De-escalating the Cuban Missile Crisis (1960)	5
a. Background information	6
b. Current Situation	9
c. Past UN Actions	10
d. Major Bloc Positions	11
e. Timeline of Events	13
f. Definition of Key Terms	15
g. Further Research	16
h. Guiding Questions	17
i. Works Cited	18
TOPIC B: Addressing the Threat of Communism in the Guatemalan Civil War (1966)	15
a. Background information	20
b. Current Situation	23
c. Past UN Actions	24
d. Major Bloc Positions	25
e. Timeline of Events	27
f. Definition of Key Terms	28
g. Further Research	29
h. Guiding Questions	30
i. Works Cited	31

LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear Delegates,

We are delighted to be serving as chairs for this year's TBSRJMUN Historical Security Council! Our goal is to mediate the debate and aid you, our delegates, in reaching diplomatic solutions to the issues at hand. We are presenting you with this study guide to provide background information and enhance your research in order to have an informed debate.

This year's HSC will focus on two conflicts that occurred during the Cold War: Addressing the threat of communism in the Guatemalan civil war and Deescalating the Cuban missile crisis. The former will focus on the conflict between the leftist rebel group in Guatemala and the Guatemalan government. The latter will focus on de-escalating the Cuban missile crisis in order to avoid a potential catastrophic nuclear war. Capitalism vs. Communism is at the heart of this conflict and a peaceful resolution between the USA and the USSR is crucial for peace.

We are truly excited for this conference and hope to host a great debate! If you have any concerns, questions or inquiries please feel free to contact us! See all of you in September!

Sincerely,

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Committee Description

The Security Council is one of the six main committees of the General Assembly of the United Nations developed following the end of WWII on the 24th of October, 1945. Its main role is to maintain international security and peace under the UN Charter. The committee is composed of 15 countries, five of them being permanent - part of a group known as the P5: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China.

The other countries follow a rotation according to their relevance in regards to current global affairs. The P4 countries hold the power to veto a resolution if they believe that a clause in the UN Charter is not being followed, which means that, regardless of a majority vote, the resolution does not pass, as a veto cancels any other motion made by another delegation. However, do keep in mind that delegates representing P4 nations are allowed to veto only one resolution during the entire conference. The Security Council determines the existence of a threat to peace or what is considered an act of aggression. It calls upon the nations of a dispute to settle it through peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. The Security Council can also resort to imposing sanctions or even authorise the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Delegates, be aware that in the Historical Security Council you are expected to remain completely within the time period allotted for each topic - this means you cannot bring up evidence if it does not 'exist' yet. Security Council resolutions as a whole have worldwide implications, therefore it is expected that delegates attempt to find peaceful outcomes that positively impact the world, through their debating skills.



Nikita Khrushchev, Fidel Castro and John F. Kennedy, the three leaders in charge of the Missile Crisis

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Topic A:

De-escalating the Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

Background Information

Introduction

Considered by many to be the most intense part of the Cold War, the Cuban Missile Crisis is about as close to a nuclear war as humanity has ever been. After the rise of Fidel Castro's government in Cuba, the country became affiliated with the USSR, turning to them for economic and military support. In the midst of the Cold War, a Soviet ally only 90 miles from Florida's shores caused extreme tension between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev's governments.

Historical Context

The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the end of World War II in 1945 and the fall of the USSR in 1991 in which the United States of America and the Soviet Union clashed for politico-ideological influence around the globe, separating it into the "Western" and "Eastern" Blocs. Due to the utilisation of nuclear weapons at the end of World War II, nuclear power became the basic threat of any armed conflict that involved the USSR or the USA. During this time period, economic ideologies such as that of Capitalism vs Communism came into play, being one of the primary reasons for aligning with either the Western or Eastern Bloc. In addition to this, proxy wars, conflicts fought between groups of less powerful nations instigated by the interests of larger powers, usually the USSR or USA, were abundant and utilised to not only gain zones of influence around the globe but demonstrate the winning side's strength. The Vietnam and Korean Wars are some examples of proxy wars fought during the Cold War. In 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis was at the height of the Cold War, and a newly-founded communist government in a Caribbean nation, Cuba, was extremely threatening to the United States.

Rio Treaty

The Rio Treaty, officially named the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR), was a treaty signed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which created a partnership between almost all countries in the Americas. This treaty highlighted that an attack against one of the signatories symbolised an attack against all, and there would be regional cooperation in any national security affairs. This treaty was a way to diminish the influence of communism in South America, as the signing countries agreed to peaceful settlements of disputes and collective defence, and guaranteed not to interfere in each other's internal affairs. Some signatory countries include Brazil,

the United States, Mexico and Argentina. Cuba was an original participant but had its membership revoked in 1962.

Contributing Factors

The main factor that contributed to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 was the establishment of a communist regime in Cuba. During the last days of President Dwight D. Eisenhower's administration, the US Congress voted in favour of retaliating against Castro. After this vote, the United States cut off sugar purchases from Cuba and later all exports except food and medicine. In one of the final feats of the Eisenhower administration, all diplomatic ties between the US and Cuba were severed.

Relations between the United States and Cuba became even more hostile with the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961. Approximately 1,500 anti-Castro Cuban exiles invaded the Bay of Pigs with the intention of executing Cuban President Fidel Castro. The invasion was financed by the United States and US-made bomber planes and weapons were utilised. The invasion started on April 15th, and by April 19th the last stronghold had been captured by the Cuban military. The invasion's failure was crucial towards the development of the crisis as a whole.

After the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Cuban government was scared of another attempted attack from the Americans and turned to the Soviet Union for support. The USSR, in turn, was very keen on aiding a fellow socialist country. Hence, Cuba and the Soviet Union signed multiple trade deals, with the USSR providing great military and financial support to Castro's regime. The most crucial agreement that came from this, however, was that the USSR would provide Cuba with nuclear weapons under the condition that the deal remained secret until the missiles were fully operational.

Important Figures

- **Dwight D. Eisenhower**

Dwight D. Eisenhower was the 34th president of the United States and his administration was one in power at the time of Fidel Castro's takeover. More importantly, however, he was a general, and a crucial adviser to John F. Kennedy throughout the entire crisis. General Eisenhower was briefed on all of the latest developments of the Missile Crisis and managed to use his previous military and political skills to help the US diplomatically work through the crisis.

- **John F. Kennedy**

Kennedy was the 35th president of the United States. In the first two months of his administration, he authorised the Bay of Pigs invasion, which was carried out with the help of the CIA. Kennedy handled the Cuban Missile Crisis and managed to reach diplomatic solutions with the Soviet Union. Despite the high tensions and stakes, and this being perhaps the closest humanity has been to a nuclear war, he handled the situation calmly and without compromising American pride. The latter was one of the things that made him very popular amongst American citizens.

- **Fidel Castro**

In 1959, Fidel Castro overthrew Fulgencio Batista and became a communist dictator in Cuba. Following the failed Bay of Pigs invasion, he created a strong relationship between the USSR and Cuba after asking for military and financial aid from the Soviets, which was keenly provided. This, in addition to his ideologies, which did not match with those of the United States, caused a major deterioration in US-Cuba relations. Castro claimed to be a Marxist and his eagerness to partner with “non-aligned countries” and fondness of guerrilla warfare formed the militaristic part of his political beliefs.

- **Nikita Khrushchev**

Nikita Khrushchev, the leader of the USSR during the Cuban Missile Crisis, saw an opportunity to challenge the United States in the midst of the Cold War when Fidel Castro took over in Cuba. Following the failed Bay of Pigs Invasion and the deterioration of DC-Havana relations, Khrushchev began building a strong alliance with Castro’s Cuba, aiding them financially and militarily. Being positioned 90 miles from the US coast, Cuba was a crucial strategic ally for the Soviets. After the setting up of nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy, Khrushchev sent nuclear missiles to Cuba with the intention of negotiating the removal of Jupiter nuclear missiles from Turkish and Italian soil. Khrushchev solved the missile crisis in a diplomatic way, he worked through one of the toughest situations humanity has seen.

Current Situation

The date is October 23rd, 1962, John F. Kennedy has just given a public announcement declaring the naval blockade and the high tensions with the USSR. The world is on edge, there is a real fear that this can escalate into a full-blown nuclear war. There are Soviet ships approaching the blockade, and there have been no major public efforts by either side to de-escalate the conflict. There are private, backchannel communications between the United States and the Soviet Union in an attempt to reach a peaceful resolution but, at the moment, none has been found.

The world anxiously awaits the Soviet response to the naval blockade, as a violent one could mean the beginning of a nuclear catastrophe. The Jupiter missiles placed in Turkey and Italy pose a major threat to the USSR and the nuclear missiles placed in Cuba pose an even larger threat to the USA.

Aside from the national security they seek, both sides attempt to spread their respective economical ideologies, capitalism and communism, whilst “protecting” the world from the opposing ideology.

Past UN Actions

❖ U Thant plea for peace and diplomatic efforts

U Thant, the United Nation's Secretary-General at the time, had private discussions with both John F. Kennedy and Nikita Krushchev, in an attempt to solve the issue peacefully. Thant urged the two to reach diplomatic solutions and find a peaceful way out of this conflict, as he was deeply concerned with the hostile situation the world saw itself in and committed to de-escalating the crisis. On October 23rd, 1962, the Secretary-General delivered a plea for peace to the UN's General Assembly. He made a personal request to the Soviet Union and the USA to take a step back and prevent a nuclear war.

❖ Emergency Special Session

On October 23rd, 1962, the United Nations held an emergency special session to discuss the Cuban Missile Crisis. Different UN members had the opportunity to share their views on the topic and what they thought would be the best solution. This special session increased international awareness of the topic and further informed what the consequences of such a violent outcome would have on the world. Humanitarian pleas were made by peace advocates and diplomatic solutions were suggested.

Major Bloc Positions

United States of America

The United States has a firm position and will not easily shift its mindset. The USA is open to peaceful negotiations but will not give up the immediate removal of Jupiter missiles. The United States works strongly to gain worldwide disapproval of the Soviet Union's actions in Cuba. The United State's goal is to restrict communism and its influence. Starting with the Americas, more specifically Cuba, and countries physically close to the USSR, such as Turkey, the United States wants capitalism to prevail and the immediate removal of any missiles posing a national security threat.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union believes that the placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba is fair, as the Americans have placed their own in Turkey and Italy. Having a communist ally close to the United States is crucial for the USSR's efforts in the Cold War and the placement of the missiles in Cuba is also a way to help deter any possible American attacks on the Cubans. Above all, the USSR's goal is to spread the communist ideology, whilst attempting to dethrone the USA as one of the world powers. The USSR also seeks national security assurance, anything posing a threat to the nation shall serve as a negotiation point.

Cuba

Following the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Cuba seeks protection granted by the USSR. The communist government of Fidel Castro is viewed as a threat to the US government and has caused significant issues for Cuba. Fidel Castro's government stands strongly with the Cuban revolution and its belief in Cuba's sovereignty. A mix of defiance towards the USA, loyalty to the USSR, and national security concerns are what drives Cuba throughout the crisis.

Turkey

Turkey is an important NATO member throughout the Cuban Missile Crisis. The country's location, near the USSR, has made it so that it became an important asset and missile base for the United States. Turkey supports the United States and allows it to store Jupiter missiles inside its territory. Turkey seeks the security assurance that it gains from being a NATO member and an American ally. Furthermore, the Turks seek protection from potential Soviet aggression and from the threat of communism. Turkey seeks a peaceful resolution in order to prevent an escalation of the conflict, which might have catastrophic consequences for the Middle East.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom backs the United States throughout the conflict. Above all, the UK looks for a peaceful and diplomatic solution. As a NATO member, the country looks to keep the protection provided by the organisation and supports the capitalist ideology endorsed by them. Proving its loyalty to the United States and to the capitalist mindset, British intelligence agencies use technology to provide valuable information to the United States, especially concerning the location of missiles in Cuba. Unlike other NATO allies, the UK is on high military alert throughout the entirety of the conflict. The United Kingdom's location, relatively near the USSR, causes the country to have a strong desire for peaceful solutions, as an armed conflict could be extremely detrimental to the country's national security.

Timeline of Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1959 | Fidel Castro overthrows Fulgencio Batista and becomes the new Cuban leader. He is a dictator, and his communist beliefs are one of the main causes of the deterioration of the relationship between the US and Cuba. He is one of the main reasons for the Cuban Missile Crisis |
| 1960 | The Soviet Union and Cuba start a relationship, creating economic and military ties. The United States imposes a trade embargo on Cuba and Cuba nationalised its foreign banks. |
| 1961 | As one of his final acts as president, Dwight D. Eisenhower completely cuts off diplomatic ties between Cuba and the USA. |
| 1961 | John F. Kennedy is elected as the 35th president of the United States, replacing Eisenhower. |
| 1961 | In the Bay of Pigs Invasion, 1,500 Cuban exiles collaborate with the American government to remove Fidel Castro from power. The invasion fails, and within 4 days the Cuban military diminishes the invading forces. In order to prevent further attacks, Cuba contacts the USSR for further military and financial aid, which is keenly given. |
| April 1962 | American missiles in Turkey become fully operational, they are well within the range of the USSR and will become an important point of negotiation throughout the crisis. |
| October 14-15, 1962 | An American U2 spy plane captures photo evidence of Soviet missiles being constructed in Cuba. This is the mark of the beginning of the Cuban missile crisis. |
| October 16, 1962 | John F. Kennedy holds an emergency meeting with military and political leaders, a group that will be known as Excomm. After this meeting, the USA sets up a naval blockade of Cuba, as opposed to bombing the Soviet missile sites. |
| October 22-23, 1962 | Kennedy gives a public speech where he addresses the crisis and announces the naval blockade. It is made evident that any attack launched from Cuba would result in US retaliation. |
| | Nikita Krushchev, the Soviet leader, claims the presence of the |

missiles is solely for defence purposes and to defend Cuba against the attack of an aggressor.

October 23, 1962

Our committee begins.

Definition of Key Terms

❖ **Nuclear Arms Race**

The Nuclear Arms Race refers to the competition between the USSR and the United States for greater nuclear power. The two nations had a power dispute, and they used nuclear arms to threaten and show off their power.

❖ **Nuclear Proliferation**

Nuclear Proliferation refers to the spread of nuclear weaponry beyond the world powers and originally weapon-owning countries of the time.

❖ **Naval Blockade**

A method that one country uses to restrict access of products, goods and other ships to another country's coast.

❖ **Excomm**

Executive Committee of the National Security Council, a group of high-ranking officials in the US government established by JFK during the crisis.

❖ **Brinkmanship**

A dangerous diplomatic strategy of driving your opposition to the brink of a catastrophic event in order to push them to back down.

Further Research

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyArUh8eqJ0>
 - a. Video of JFK calling general Eisenhower to update him on the crisis

2. <https://youtu.be/G9ozf4-lt0w>
 - a. Public announcement by JFK where he officially addresses the crisis and publicly declares multiple steps that will be taken. Some of these steps include a military quarantine of Cuba and the naval blockade.

3. <https://www.cbc.ca/news2/interactives/tl-cuban-missile-crisis/timeline/timeline.html>
 - a. Great timeline with key points of the crisis (keep in mind our committee begins on the 23rd of October, 1962, therefore any events after that date “have not happened” yet)

Guiding Questions

- ❖ Which of the two world powers does your delegation's views align best with?
- ❖ What is your delegation's mindset on nuclear weapons and their role in international politics?
- ❖ Geographically, how could your country pose as a strategic point for either of the two sides?
- ❖ How fixed is your country's economy and mindset? Are your people easily influenced by either of the two world powers?

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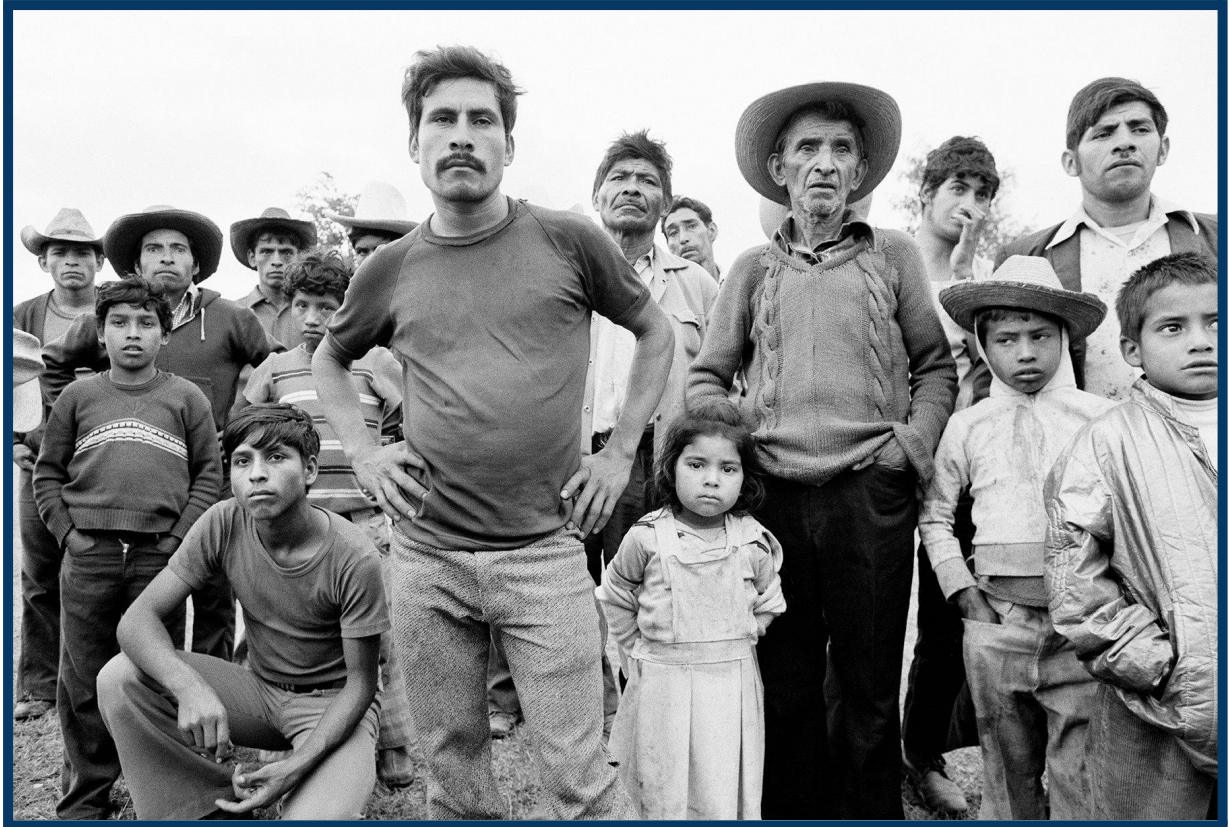
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Nickelsburg, Robert. "Witnessing Dignity Amid Death in Guatemala's Civil War." *The New York Times*,
[www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2017/11/29/blogs/witnessing-dignity-amid-death-in-guatemalas-ci
vil-war.html](https://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2017/11/29/blogs/witnessing-dignity-amid-death-in-guatemalas-civil-war.html) . Accessed 17 Aug. 2023.

Topic B:

Addressing the Threat of Communism in the Guatemalan Civil War (1966)

Background Information

Introduction

The Guatemalan civil war was fought from 1960 to 1996 between the Guatemalan government and leftist rebel groups. The war was largely based on issues with unfair land distribution stemming from interference from foreign corporations and a small percentage of the population owning most of the arable land.

History

In 1523, Pedro de Alvarado, a Spanish conquistador, sailed to Guatemala. The Europeans were substantially more technologically advanced than the local people at the time, which allowed the Spaniards to take over the whole area by 1540.

The locals were then converted to Christianity (mainly catholicism), giving the Church and the Spaniards much power over Guatemala and its population. Since then, the social division became embedded in Guatemala's society, having European Spaniards at the top of the Guatemalan social hierarchy and the indigenous population at the bottom. With time, this societal model prevailed, leaving a long-lasting legacy in Guatemala to this day.

In 1821, Guatemala gained independence and then became a part of the First Mexican Empire, then joined the United Provinces of Central America in 1823, following the First Mexican Empire's dissolution.

In the late 1800s, coffee and other crop plantations gained prominence as the main source of Guatemalan income for the minority Spanish-descendant population, Criollos. These plantations took up American interests in the 1890s in Estrada Cabrera's regime. This leader invited the American cooperation United Fruit Company to utilise Guatemalan land to grow huge amounts of bananas.

Guatemalan Revolution

Following Jorge Ubico's dictatorship between 1931 and 1944, the period between 1944 and 1954, known as the *Revolution* or the *Ten Years of Spring*, was a golden age for Guatemala's representative democracy. Before this period, Guatemala was mostly dominated by authoritarian rulers who fought for profits within the coffee plantation industry. President Manuel Estrada Cabrera (1898-1920), having granted

great liberties to the United Fruit Company in terms of land and labour, displaced many indigenous people. Later, President Jorge Ubico (1931-1944) implemented harsh labour regulations and a police state.

After many student protests and the formation of labour organisations, Ubico was forced to resign. Yet, he still appointed his own three-member military committee to run in his stead. The military committee was then overthrown in the *Guatemalan October Revolution*, which called for open elections. After winning the elections, Juan José Arévalo (1945-51) implemented a successful literacy campaign and free election process though with communist parties banned. His successor, Jacobo Arbenz (1951-54), initiated a land distribution campaign, *Decree 900*, where large swaths of unused land were retaken and compensated for and given to poor farmers. Nearly 500,000 people benefitted. Nonetheless, the American United Fruit Company lost land and thus lobbied the U.S. government to remove President Arbenz from power.

US Coup d'Etat

In 1954, the CIA orchestrated a coup d'état in Guatemala with the aim of instituting a more right-leaning president, as, in the midst of the Cold War, the USA was worried about communist influence in Latin America. Codenamed *PBSuccess*, the operation deposed Arbenz and instituted military dictator Carlos Castillo Armas (1954-57). Training 480 men to accompany him, the CIA launched Armas on the 18th of June, 1954, in conjunction with a naval blockade, air bombings, and propaganda. The CIA retroactively launched a campaign monikered *PBHistory* searching for evidence of Soviet, and therefore communist, influences over Guatemala during the previous regimes.

The Guatemalan Genocide

The Mayan people in Guatemala are all considered the same race who were othered by European-descended Criollo Guatemalans. Thus, leading to the systemic repression of the Mayan people, the poorest sector of the population. This culminated in inadequate land distribution, more authoritarian regimes, and the massacre of the population. This reached genocidal levels in the Guatemalan Civil War, beginning with the Armas regime, and further continuing with US-backed candidates.

The Civil War

The war began on the 13th of November, 1960, after a left-wing militant group revolted against the then-US-backed President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes (1958-1963). From 1960 to the 'current' period of 1966, thousands were killed and 'missing', with 92% of civilian executions perpetrated by the government. No exact figures are known for the number of people that were killed during this period nor during the entire war. Though it is known that the majority killed were people of Mayan origin.

Current Situation

Former President Carlos Castillo Armas was assassinated in 1957. A chain of short lasting presidents and military leaders succeed him ending in President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes. His regime was fraught with corruption scandals and social turmoil, growing into the guerilla group MR-13. A coup against President Fuentes due to claims that he was going 'soft on communism' resulted in the instatement of President Enrique Peralta Azurdia (1963-1966).

Under Peralta Azurdia's administration, the constitution of Guatemala was suspended, the congress completely dissolved, and the Communist Party (PGT) was banned. His government also funded the creation of *death squads* to execute unruly citizens.

In 1965, a new constitution was approved and elections were held, though only with the two available parties. In the current year, 1966, on March 3rd and 5th, military intelligence and police invaded three houses in Guatemala City, arresting and disappearing 28 unionists. One of the largest disappearing events in Latin American history.

General elections were held in Guatemala on 6 March 1966. After no candidate received 50% or more of the national vote, Julio Cesar Montenegro was elected President by Congress on 5 May. In the elections, the Revolutionary Party won 28 of the 54 seats. And despite terrible historical odds he faced, left-of-centre Mendez, a former law professor who was not of military background but a civilian, was successfully elected and sworn in as President of Guatemala. Our conference will occur following this, from the 6th of May.

Past UN Actions

The Arbenz government pursued diplomatic means to try to end Castillo Armas's invasion. Arbenz's largest diplomatic initiative was in taking the issue to the United Nations Security Council. On June 18, 1954, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister petitioned the council to "take measures necessary... to put a stop to the aggression", which he said Nicaragua and Honduras were responsible for, along with "certain foreign monopolies which have been affected by the progressive policy of my government".

The Security Council looked at Guatemala's complaint at an emergency session on June 20. The debate was said to be lengthy and heated. The USSR was the only country to support Guatemala. When the US and its allies proposed referring the matter to the Organization of American States, the Soviet Union vetoed the proposal.

Guatemala continued to press for a Security Council investigation; the proposal received the support of Britain and France, but on June 24 it was vetoed by the US, the first time it would do so against its allies. The US accompanied this with threats to the foreign offices of both countries that the US would stop supporting their other initiatives. The UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld called the US position "the most serious blow so far aimed at the United Nations". A fact-finding mission was set up by the Inter-American Peace Committee; the US used its influence to delay the entry of the committee until the coup was complete and the military dictatorship installed.

Major Bloc Positions

USA

The USA is the main rival to Guatemalan democracy and its leftist government. Though this is a civil war, it would not have begun without actions taken by the US. Due to their ties with United Fruit Company, the USA is against liberal land distribution policies. During the war, at least 1552 Guatemalan military officers were said to have been trained in the USA. Along with this, the US gave approximately 33 million dollars in aid to Guatemala's right-wing government. Internationally, they are still heavily involved with the Cold War, with events such as the controversial Vietnam War and the bygone Korean War.

Guatemala

This bloc will represent the Guatemalan current military government. This aligns with US interests for the most part, especially in economic terms but due to a more liberal president, a more democratic and less militaristic approach is promised. Yet, leniency is limited as with the ongoing war, the guerrilla left cannot be tolerated by this government. Though it should not be explicitly mentioned, it is useful to keep in mind that the 'White Terror' - forced disappearances, torture, ext... actually intensified under Mendez's regime. The war was still far from over and though this government is willing to compromise, it is not willing to lose. It is still distinctly anti-communist and economically US-leaning.

Cuba

Following the Cuban revolution of between 1953 and 1959, in which leftist insurgents fought to overthrow their own US-backed dictator, Fulgencio Batista (1952-1959), the 1960s marked the start of leftist Cuban-Guatemalan relations. This happened after the 1952 coup d'État, in which Batista intervened in an election, establishing a dictatorship. Later, in Fidel Castro's regime (1959-2008), strong ties with the USSR were established, and events such as the Cuban Missile Crisis meant that Cuba supported the Guatemalan left during the Guatemalan Civil War. Guatemala was heavily inspired by the events in Cuba and by the success of the left.

Argentina

In Argentina, the 1950s and 1960s were marked by frequent coups d'État and an economic boom in the 1960s. Following the 1950s Peronist government, in which Argentina focused heavily on foreign policy, especially with the US, Argentina fell into hyperinflation. The 1960s saw an increase in anti-Peronist and anti-communist sentiments, leading to the coup d'État of 1966, in which the military took over. All this indicates Argentina's position as a supporter of the Guatemalan right.

USSR

At the height of the cold war, the USSR's ideology was diametrically opposed to the US and therefore opposed to the right-wing Guatemalan government. Having just experienced the Cuban Missile Crisis, Soviet relations with Latin America were strong though not necessarily growing. In 1964, Leonid Brezhnev replaced Nikita Khrushchev as Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, implementing a doctrine that followed an interventionist policy consisting of stepping in anywhere where a socialist rule was seen as 'under threat'. Thus, as the socialist policies of the left attracted Guatemala to Marxism, it also attracted them to the Soviet Union. Although no direct links with the USSR existed, the Soviets stood up for Guatemala in UN meetings and supported the rebels' claim.

Timeline of Events

June 22, 1944	Dictator Jorge Ubico is deposed.
1944	The Guatemalan revolution begins.
June 18 - 27, 1954	The United States of America's Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) orchestrated a coup d'État on President Jacobo Arbenz, replacing him with military leader Carlos Castillo Armas.
1954	A UN emergency meeting takes place in which the USSR vetoes the resolution proposed. (<i>link number 6 below</i>)
July 26, 1957	President Carlos Castillo Armas is assassinated.
November 13, 1960	The Guatemalan Civil War begins.
March 31, 1963	President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes is deposed.
September 15, 1965	The Constitution of 1965 was adopted.
March 6, 1966	Guatemalan General Elections took place and Julio César Méndez Montenegro entered office.
March 6, 1966	A total of 28 unionists disappear in Guatemala City.
May 5, 1966	The Constitution of 1965 entered into force.
May 6, 1966	Our committee begins.

Definition of Key Terms

❖ **Police State**

A totalitarian order of government that surveils and monitors their citizens to ensure they act in accordance with the current dogma.

❖ **CIA**

The Central Intelligence Agency is an American establishment aimed at gathering foreign intelligence and acting upon it.

❖ **Coup d'État**

A government takeover, especially by violent and illegal means.

❖ **Criollo**

Someone with European Spanish descendance.

❖ **Maya**

Someone who is native to certain areas of South and Central America.

❖ **Unionist**

A member of an organisation that engages in collective bargaining with an employer to protect workers' economic status and working conditions - especially, in this case, relating to land rights.

Further Research

1. Report of the Commission for Historical Clarification, Conclusions and Recommendations:
<http://hrdag.mcclister.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/CEHreport-english.pdf>
2. CIA PBHistory Report: www.cia.gov/readingroom/document/0000920013.
3. Timeline of Guatemala's Civil War:
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Guiding Questions

- ❖ What was your delegation's role in the Cold War? What side were they on?
- ❖ How does your delegation feel about land redistribution policies?
- ❖ What is your delegation's trade relationship with Guatemala?
- ❖ What benefits does a Guatemalan left/right-wing government bring to your delegation?
- ❖ To what extent does the conflict in Guatemala affect your own domestic affairs?
- ❖ Can your people be influenced by the happenings in Guatemala?

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