



FCMUN VIII

At Mount Holyoke College

March 27th - March 29th

The Cuban Revolution

Letter from the Director

Greetings Delegates!

My name is Kaila Cantens and I will be your crisis director for the following weekend. I am a sophomore at Mount Holyoke College and an environmental studies major with a concentration in politics, policy and economics and a double major in philosophy. I play defense on Mount Holyoke's ice hockey club team and I spend the rest of my free time going on adventures and finding cool new things to do throughout the five colleges.

I began my interest in Model UN in high school where I was involved and competed for the mock trial and model congress groups for three years. In my first year of college I was a chair in the Syrian Joint Crisis Committee in last year's FCMUN. I was also a delegate for NYUMUNC's Columbia Crisis Committee. This past semester I was selected to go to UPMUNC and was awarded a verbal commendation in the Peace of Westphalia historical committee.

The reason why I chose the Cuban Revolution as the committee I wanted to dedicate my efforts to is because I identify very strongly with Cuban culture. My grandparents were exiled from Cuba during the first wave of refugees to Miami. Their lives changed forever and their influence made me aware of my ancestry. After taking a class on Cuban history I was inspired to take what I learned and mold it into a passion. I hope that you will learn and fall in love with the history as much as I did during the coming weeks in preparation for this committee.

Hope to see you soon!

Kaila



History of the Committee

Today, the government of Cuba, and the land it guides, occupies a complex and uncertain place within the international community. The target of sanctions, embargos, friendly deals, and malicious attacks, the large island nation continues to act as a lightning rod in discussions over government, human rights, and justice. It was not always thus.

Over sixty years ago, the brutal dictator of the country, Batista, found himself within a firestorm of idealism, violent revolt, and Marxism. The country was engulfed in a military revolution, and, when the dust cleared, the world was forever changed. In Batista's place stood a Communist government, helmed by names that echo in history: Fidel and Raul Castro, Che Guevara, Frank Pais. There was a newly born nation, one that would rise to trouble the minds of the high and mighty in Moscow, Washington, and beyond. It stood, not only as an example of one of the most effectively fought revolutions in history, but as a glimmering example of the possibilities of radical social justice, individuals daring to move beyond the chains of capitalism, corruption, and poverty. Cuba, in its rebirth, spoke to the world of potential, of dreams, of what might be accomplished if only willed by the people.

Since that time, a great deal has occurred to quash that potent birthground of change and growth. Mired in dictatorship, police brutality, and corrupted ideals, Cuba is a shadow of what it could have been, a ruined socialist utopia that has long since ceased to be relevant. Over the years, the glowing city upon a hill faded to only the faintest spark. The world looks away from Cuba.

Yet, it did not have to come to pass. Revolutions and what follow after are delicate affairs, and the thousands of components that came together to form the Cuba of today could easily have shifted, writing a very different story. Here, within the Cuban Revolution Committee, we believe the story is in need of a radical rewrite. Here is the chance to build the Cuba that should have been, that is, if you have the courage and intellect to answer the call.

The Cuban Revolution Committee is a non-conventional historical committee. Thus, we have taken the liberty to change certain historical chronologies in order to actualize a cabinet where all characters are present in the same place and time. Revolutions and times of social unrest are muddled and confusing eras, with groups and persons frequently acting without coherence or collaboration. Those who should be on

the same side act at odds, while those collaborating often do so without proper communication. By placing all characters within the same time and place, the potential for action is created. All that remains is to exploit such conditions. This is our hope.

Gifted with the unique skills and talents that each character brings to the table, revolution is in the air. The socialist government that everyone desires is at our fingertips. Cuba may yet be raised to the heights it aspires, the envy of the world, the model for all reform, the beacon guiding the unfreed masses to the better life just beyond this one. We are not there yet, however.

In our ways stands a cruel dictator, the entire military infrastructure of the nation, and thousands of civilians not allied to our cause. Over two thousand kilometers of ocean separate us from the land we aim to free. Upon arriving, we shall be greeted with guns, public executions, with hatred and disdain and ignorance. Accepting this responsibility, we must understand that many will die. No fight is without costs, and the costs shall be heavy. Those we sit at the table with, plotting freedom, may not be alive come the new year. Innocent civilians will find only bullets to greet their hopes. Cuba must bleed if it is to be freed, and we may be called to bleed for the land we love. In return, however, come the end of this committee, the end of this revolution and what comes after, we may be able to stand, heads held high for having served the people of this world in the most honorable way we know how. We may yet establish the most bounteous socialist nation that the world has ever seen. It is up to us.

Yet, first, we must learn. Many of our numbers do not hail from this island, and those that do might yet remain ignorant of the colorful history of their homeland. It is essential to understand the pre-revolutionary history of Cuba in order to fully comprehend and act upon the cultural and political zeitgeist of the country during the 1950s and 60s. Only through our comprehension of the complex past of this place might we take the steps towards its eventual betterment. Those who do not understand what came before might yet find themselves living it again. Let us begin.

What would later become known as Cuba was discovered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus, an explorer in the employment of La Corona de España. Of course, indigenous tribes had occupied that land for untold centuries, so, in this sense, “discovery” only implies the first contact of Western culture with the large island. From this point onward, Cuba began to follow the path traditionally followed by islands within the Caribbean that came under the sway of European colonialism. Following the violent subjugation of native populations, Cuba began plantation-style production of sugarcane and tobacco, using primarily African slaves imported starting in 1527. The governor, a representative of España, ruled out of Havana, the capital still today, eventually overseeing over a million slaves and hundreds of thousands of native Spaniards.

Over time, however, the star of the colonialist powers began to wane. After two hundred years of rule, cracks began to appear in the power of the European masters. A slave rebellion in 1793 in Saint-Domingue, which was later to grow into the Haitian Revolution, sent over 30,000 white refugees to Cuba. In 1844, the Year of the Lash, as it was known, many thousands of Afro-Cubans, both slave and free, were tortured, executed, and exiled to quell slave revolts. Change was in the air.

In 1868, this culminated in the first war for independence from España, commonly known as the Ten Years War. Despite its good intentions, the revolt was doomed to defeat, and 1878 marked the Pact of Zanjón, which formally ended the uprisings. Revolt continued with the Little War of 1879 and eight years later the slave trade was abolished within Cuba. Reforms occurred slowly, but, as time raced onward, it became abundantly clear that no smaller measures would be accepted. The Cuban people demanded independence, and they would have their way.

Under the leadership of national hero, Jose Martí, along with Antonio Maceo and Calixto Garcia, rebellion began anew in 1895, resulting in a full scale war of guerilla fighters, aided by allies, against Spanish military and political forces. However, even under the sway of canny and dedicated leaders, the revolutionary fervor failed to materialize into success. The Spanish army suffered serious blows, but by 1898, the Cuban dissidents were hard pressed to continue, especially with the tragic death of Jose Martí. The fighters needed assistance. They needed the United States. They got their wish.

In 1898, the U.S.S. Maine, an American battleship anchored in Havana Harbor to protect American interests, exploded into flames and sank. Over 75% of the crew was killed and the U.S., already at a diplomatic standoff with España, reacted furiously. Popular American sentiment blamed Spanish troops for deliberate sabotage, and the U.S. and España ran upon a collision course. The Spanish-American War was declared, with rebellious Cuban allying themselves with the United States. The war, running for only ten weeks, resulted in the decimation of Spanish troops. Madrid surrendered, and by December of 1898 all Spanish troops had departed the island. Cuba, gloriously free for a brief moment, quickly found itself the property of the United States, along with the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

The Platt Amendment stipulated that, per the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Cuba, the U.S. would maintain ultimate control over Cuban political affairs. It wasn't until the Cuban Constitution of 1940 that the amendment was completely repealed in an effort for the US to ameliorate relations with Cuba, which had since deteriorated under the sway of a dictatorial president, Gerardo Machado. Machado departed in a bloodless coup in 1933, but his rule paved the way for political instability that would topple Cuba

over the edge into true independence. All that is left of the amendment and American influence now is the army base at Guantanamo Bay.

The Constitution of 1940 was a monumental event in Cuban history, deemed one of the most progressive documents that existed at the time. This constitution provided protection for a wide variety of issues pertaining to family, culture, property, and labor, radically altering Cuban society and paving the way for reforms that would push Cuba ahead in the 20th century. Armed with such a framework, the 1940's and 50's became a prosperous time. US cooperation and tourism helped flourish the Cuban economy while the country's "good neighbor" policy towards Cuba, meant the US was Cuba's biggest customer for all its exports, consisting primarily of sugar and tobacco. The island also saw an increase in gambling and underground drug trafficking activity that was primarily used to accommodate tourism from the US. All in all, much of this time was considered a Cuban Golden Age, where the country saw its independence bloom into prosperity and cooperation with the international community. The foundational document of the Constitution opened new doors for the Cuban people, and their spirit and determination pushed them into the arms of success. But storm clouds were gathering. Batista was coming, and Cuba would find itself, once again in the arms of a dictator, sowing the seeds of revolution.

Ruben Fulgencio Batista was born in 1901 from parents of mixed races. In 1921, he joined the army and he worked his way through the ranks to become a military tribunal stenographer with the rank of sergeant by 1932. By 1933, the sergeant held much of the military under his influence, and he aimed to use such power. Even with the huge influence of the United States, many in Cuba feared the increase of liberal thinking within the population, including Fulgencio. Communism lurked around the corner, the Soviet Union spreading its tendrils even to Latin America. Neither Batista nor the US wanted to release power from Cuba, fragile as its political structure was. In response, Batista led his first uprising, known as the "Revolt of the Sergeants" in 1933. The entire army fell in line behind the man, and Batista found himself Chief of the Military. With this new self appointed power, Batista began to appoint presidents and rule from the background, a shadow leader of the country, solidifying Cuban and American interests. This culminated the coup d'état of 1952, when Batista seized the presidency seat right from under the current president, Carlos Prío Socarrás. Supreme in power with the backing of the United States, Fulgencio Batista became the brutal dictator of the Cuban state, quashing dissent and hunting down socialism in all its forms. The Cuban age of expansion and friendship had ended, and Batista reigned supreme. Supported by the military and huge swaths of the population, it appeared this was Cuba's fate. Yet socialism grew, and the communists and revolutionaries of the world turned their eyes towards Cuba with hope and anger. President Batista had to be stopped.

In the Oriente Province of Cuba, a certain Fidel Castro was born. Hundreds of miles away in Argentina, Che Guevara was radicalizing. The revolution was coming, and all of Batista's military and politics aims could not prevent the coming conflict. So we stand today.

This committee will begin in 1955, the year Fidel Castro and Ernesto "Che" Guevara meet for the first time. Batista has reigned supreme for three years, and change is beginning. After the failed violent revolt at the Moncada Barracks on July 22 of 1953, where all but a few dissidents were killed, Fidel among the survivors, Che's presence amongst the revolutionaries, revitalizes the movement, allowing for reformation and progression. Fresh from efforts in South and Latin American, Che's meeting of Fidel, along with other revolutionaries in Mexico prompted the true revolution to begin. So do we begin with such a meeting, with a coming together of the forces of socialism in unity against Batista and his capitalist supporters in the U.S.

The Moncada Barracks attack was not a victory, resulting in the killing, imprisonment, and exile of those involved, but what unfolded afterward sparked not only interest but support for the insurrectionary movement. This committee is composed, not only of original fighters, those who stood at Moncada and elsewhere to fight, but those leaders of organizations newly rallied to the cause. The committee members bring a huge array of powers, influences, and resources to the table, all united in their stand against the rule of Batista, dedicated to the establishment of a new Cuban socialist government.

Of course, historically, such a meeting of powers did not occur. This is a liberty, and one freely acknowledged. The members of the committee shall travel together on this journey, regardless of history. This does not imply a lack of independence, only the physical connection that binds all members together. We stand as united individuals, and as individuals, our choices are our own. Each members is utterly free to behave as they see fit, following their conscience, interests, and motivations as the committee journeys to a new and, hopefully, Batista-free future. We are bound together by socialism, by hope and revolution, by our commitment to the betterment of Cuba. So begins the Cuban Revolution Committee.

A word of warning, however, may yet be said. As noted, revolutions are tricky times, and the opportunities and twists of fate presented in the wake of such events may twist even the most noble soul. As members, we are committed to socialism, but the paths followed by individuals may not always parallel the group. Revolutions breed lies, breed violence, breed change, and this revolution is no exception. Take care, as we climb towards our goal, for those who stand beside each other may yet ignore their comrade's voice and listen only to their heart. We hope for unity, but the world is fickle and assassins may be found even in Cuba. The siren call of power acts upon us all, so beware.

We hope for unity, and we hope for success. The goal is straightforward. Lead the revolution, take back Cuba, and overthrow the corrupt and illegitimate government now poisoning our beloved island. If you should be so skilled as to accomplish this goal, it is up to you to establish the kind of government that the people of this land would be proud to call their own. Ruling involves its own challenges and sometimes it may be easy to revolt, but not to make sure another revolt does not occur with you as the target. Governments, like revolutions, are subject to change, and, should the committee establish an effective government, the challenges of a country within this world shall exert themselves. The Soviet Union, United States, and all of Latin America wait to know the fate of Cuba, and its fate may change their actions substantially. If the committee should rule Cuba, they must choose the best path for this island nation, with its millions of inhabitants, to follow.

Nothing is certain. Nothing is safe. We are living in brave new times, when old things must pass away and a new dazzling future is growing. You, the members of this committee are the hope, are the spark that shall ignite Cuba and perhaps the world. The way is dark, but have faith. Have faith and fight. Fight and win. Do not disappoint us.

¡Viva la Revolución!

Background

Fidel Castro started to plan to revolt against the Fulgencio Batista regime in 1952, almost immediately after Batista took power. The battle at the Moncada Barracks on July 22 had been a miscalculated attack on the regime and was not necessarily victorious for either group. On one hand the attack failed and many including Fidel were imprisoned, and on the other hand the attack had been a moment in which started the spark of the revolution that would eventually boil over. In prison, Fidel took advantage of his in order to become his own lawyer and wrote “History Will Absolve Me”. This speech was his defense in court that he eventually wrote and when published was read all throughout the country. This was the start of the revolution and what inspired hundreds to follow him. Batista gave the prisoners from the Moncada attack amnesty and were exiled. When they were released from prison they fled to Mexico. In Mexico they met Ernesto Che Guevara and began to make preparations for the long journey ahead.



Committee will begin in the summer of 1955 after the prisoners from the attack on the Moncada Barracks are released from Cuba and exiled to Mexico. The committee's main objective is to organize a revolution strong enough to overcome the Batista regime. After this objective has been accomplished the committee must survive as a strong socialist government with the aid of other socialist powers without giving in to the US



capitalist system.

This is a close up map of the area where Fidel Castro and the other Granma expeditionaries had landed. This was their first landing after setting out to Cuba from Mexico. Historically, they had been greeted by Batista's army and the Granma expeditionaries proceeded to fall back into the Sierra Maestra. "Zona liberada" means the



liberated zone and the Bayamo was where Frank Pais had started to gather support.

This is a map of Cuba outlining how the revolutionary movement moved from Mexico to the Sierra Maestra and into the rest of the island until their final victory in Havana. Although this was the historical route taken this does not have to be followed in committee.



This is a map of Cuba that very clearly outlines the major cities of the island.



Characters

1. Raúl Chibás (age 39) is revolutionary who lead the Cuban People's Party and worked with Fidel to overthrow Batista. Primary aims of his party included an end to government corruption, economic independence, an establishment of a national identity of Cuba, and social reforms. He ran for election and came in third before Batista coup.

2. Juan Almeida Bosque (age 28) is a revolutionary who worked with Fidel and Che. He fought on the Moncada Barracks attack, was imprisoned, and exiled to Mexico. He was also one of 12 to survive the landing back at Cuba. There he famously yelled "no one here gives up!" He was the commander of the Santiago column of the military. He was also an afro-Cuban which became a symbol of possible unity and equality.

3. Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz (age 29) was a commercial Pilot who became head of Revolutionary Air Force before and after the revolution. He was instrumental in smuggling weapons and ammunition from Costa Rica and Florida.

4. Carlos Franqui (age 34) is an artist and writer who became a professional organizer at age 20, ceasing his university education. He was an unaffiliated leftist who joined Fidel and was head of the underground newspaper, *Revolucion*, as co-editor. He was discovered and jailed and tortured by police but eventually returned as the head of the paper. Consistently associated with artists and writers, meeting with famous people like Picasso after the revolution.

5. Haydée Santamaría (age 32) is a guerilla and revolutionary who fought with Fidel at the Moncada Barracks and was jailed. After her release became one of the founding members of the 26th of July Movement and fought in the women's battalion, the Mariana Grajales Platoon. After the revolution founded an organization that continues to give voice to Latin American dissidents to this day. (Banna)

6. Melba Hernández (age 34) is a fellow guerilla and revolutionary who fought on the Moncada Barracks and was jailed. She was instrumental in disguising fighters in uniforms and was a great help as a medic on the battle field. Headed the women's prisons after the revolution and served as ambassador to Vietnam and Cambodia. She became one of the first four members of Fidel's cabinet following the revolution. She helped to found the Cuban Communist Party.

Gustavo Arcos (age 29) attended law school with Fidel and was at the Moncada Barracks attack where he suffered a gunshot wound that partially disabled his leg and left him with

lifelong pain. After being pardoned, he spent the next decade gathering aid and weapons throughout Mexico, South America, and the United States. He became ambassador of Belgium after revolution

7. Juanita Castro (age 22) is Fidel and Raul's sister. She believed in the revolution and helped to fund for the armed effort, buying weapons and going to the US to gain aid. Disagreed with Community influences in Cuba and defended her brother, Ramon, in conflicts over agrarian reform. defected to the US due to family issues between her brothers. She disagreed with the direction Fidel was leading the revolution and became a CIA agent and informant.

8. Fidel Castro (age 29) is the leader of the Cuban revolution who organized armed resistance to and the overthrowing of the Batista government. As an educated lawyer, communist, and socialist supporter, he led the Moncada Barracks attack, and was jailed where he famously wrote "History Will Absolve Me" (a revolutionary document which incited people to revolution), and organized the revolt against Batista from Mexico. Became prime minister of Cuba following the revolution. (Banna)

9. Raul Castro (age 24) is Fidel castro's brother and prominent revolutionary. Throughout the revolution he was assigned greater and greater responsibilities and led several prominent operations instrumental in total victory for rebellion forces.

10.Che Guevara (age 27) Argentine revolutionary, guerilla, political theorist, and Marxist. Radicalized in latin america, Che became second in command of Cuban forces during the revolution. Fought through the revolution and commanded vast forces. One of the 'faces' of the revolution along with Fidel. (Banna)

11.Manuel Pineiro (age 22) founded the July 26th Movement and was promoted by Fidel to head of major sections of the revolutionary forces. he acted as head of security and surveillance forces throughout the revolution and was in charge of integrating disparate elements of the revolution.

12.Camilo Cienfuegos (age 23) is a revolutionary from an anarchist spanish family involved in the initial invasion from Mexico. He historically joined Fidel and Che in the Sierra Maestra mountains where he led one of the three main fighting forces, capturing key territory and breaking Batista's hold on the country. A key military strategist and leader.

13. Frank Pais (age 21) was the founder of the ANR (Acción Nacional Revolucionaria), ARO (Acción Revolucionaria Oriental) against batista and FON (Frente Obrero

Nacional). He was very well acquainted with the sugar workers conditions. The ANR group primarily specialized in propaganda, sabotage and action, and finance. The group M-26-7 lead by Pais began to organize in Bayamo in order to begin its focus on el Oriente.

14. Jose Antonio Echevarria (age 23) was the head of the student movement. He was described by many as anti dictatorship and nationalistic. He was very in favor of overthrowing military caudillos and was one of the first to fight against colonialism in Asia and South America. He was also President of the University Student Federation.

Parliamentary Procedure

The nature of this committee is a historical crisis so, unlike a UN general assembly committee, each delegate will be representing a person in history that was involved in the making of the Cuban revolution. Thus, at times, the plan of action will closely follow historical events. Other times, wild and unorthodox encounters shall occur, strongly departing from real events. Success of revolution or effective governance is not guaranteed, and delegates may find themselves in alternately advantageous or terrible situations.

The flow of committee will be as follows: the committee will begin in Mexico and the initial plan of action will be to strengthen the revolution, plotting how to overthrow the Batista regime. Debate will consist of a few major topics that address the universal goals of the committee, such as logistics, funding, and manpower of the revolution. Along the way, the committee will also be distracted, hindered, or aided by crisis updates. These crises will frequently be time sensitive or require bold action, forcing delegates to make radical choices quickly. Elements of time are to be determined by the chair and present staff with consequences occurring for indecision. Crises may also take the form of persons of interest who may either present new information or require interaction.

Technical aspects of debate such as speaking time will be voted on by the committee and structured by the chairperson. Moderated caucuses shall be the main structure of debate and although unmoderated caucuses are technically available to the committee the chair will look very unfavorably towards a motion to an unmoderated caucus. Directives will be introduced with at least four signatories. Those directives that are addressing single crisis updates will be passed by a simple majority while directives addressing everything else will need a two thirds majority. The distinction of each category shall be determined by the chair. Motions will be necessary to open debate, introduce directives and other forms of communication such as press releases to be made public. There will be two different types of notes: in committee notes will be for each

delegate's personal communication with another delegate and crisis notes that will be addressed to crisis. Crisis notes are used to access personal resources (such as money, contacts, etc), contact those outside of committee (such as funders, spies, etc), and make general decisions outside the scope of the committee.

Veto power shall not exist, but may be conditionally bestowed upon delegates pending events within the committee. Veto power shall exist within the context of particular roles, which may be bestowed or revoked by the general committee. Such powers shall be explicitly bestowed with all parties knowledgeable about such occurrences.



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