

**Background guide**  
**Historical Security Council**  
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Sergio Zapata

Adriana Celada

Pablo Francisco Moreno

## **Topic A: Addressing The Bay of Pigs Invasion**

On November 25th 1956 a group of wealthy and educated young men led by Fidel Castor and Ernesto Guevara , sailed from the Mexican port of Tuxpan towards the Sierra Maestra, located in the Eastern portion of Cuba. Fed by the promises of an egalitarian society and sponsored by several leftist spanish, soviet, mexican and cuban intellectuals and politicians, they planned to settle in the mountains in order to organize a proletarian Revolution that would rise in the shape of a Guerilla War; which eventually fulfilled its complete control of the island (Díaz Villanueva, 2015).

Although most of them were quite un experienced and disorganized, their guerrilla tactic became succesful on January 1st 1959 , due to the fact that the Cuban Army back then was left relatively unarmed. Having relied too much on the Monroe Doctrine since its independence from Spain, the Cuban government thought that the U.S. would be prone to send military help to ensure its stability. However, they didn't count on the fact that said doctrine was destined to protect Cuban sovereignty from foreign invaders, not to be used against civilians, who were after all, the key fighters on guerrillas (Britannica, 2023).

### **Historical Context**

Once the capital city of Havana was taken by the revolutionaries, international investors, mainly Americans, fled the island but left behind many of their assets: factories, stores, plantations, etc. Everything was expropriated by the revolutionaries, meaning a severe violation to individual property rights, which were and still are highly valued by the American government and society. As a punishment, the United States embargoed the island, meaning companies and nations wishing to trade with Cuba would be banned from trading with the United States.

However, The assets of American investors were not the only aspect of the Revolution that severely concerned the American government, but the fact it was developing during, ironically speaking, one of the hottest periods of the Cold War, and because of the recent political inclinations of the revolution, it was evident that, sooner or later a considerable approach with

the Soviet Union would take place. This meant that for the first time the United States would have a socialist and soviet allied country, not only in the Americas, but just 90 miles from Key West, its southernmost territory (Britannica, 2023)

## **Organisms**

During this whole period of tensions that meant the development of the Cold War , the United Nations's most important organisms such as the International Court, the Security Council and the General Assembly became very active, not only making sure the decolonization process was taking place peacefully, but also trying to avoid post colonial political tensions developing into large scale conflicts due to the indirect intervention of either the Soviet Union or the United States.

Officially speaking , the issue was mostly kept away from the Security Council because of the obvious political tensions presented by its two main permanent members, so it was the General Assembly who took charge of evaluating the development of the conflict. Its main fears could be traced back to the times of the League of Nations, when through indirect involvement of the Allies and the axis powers as “international brigades” , the Spanish Civil War reached such levels of violence that led it to be known as “The rehearsal of World War 2” (Cannon and Mamaux, 2008)

The fears of the Assembly became a reality when on April 15 it was proved that a group of Cuban Rebels had failed an attempted air attack against the Cuban air forces. That same day in the evening, Raul Roa, the Cuban ambassador in the UN accused the USA for having sponsored this action. Officially, the United States denied its involvement in the situation, but later on in the session, it was proved that the CIA had been training the rebels during the previous months in American territory( Britannica, 2023)

The alternative scenario of our committee is set to take place during April 17 and 18 1963, that means, the days between the failed air attack and the failed military invasion.

**Delegate positionment:**

The goal of this Historical Security Council is to take action regarding the alleagued air strike towards Cuba, and join forces in order to prevent this situation from developing into a more serious international issue. Delegates in this committee are expected to discuss the different factors that are involved in this tense situation, as well as all the possible alternatives to bring back geopolitical stability to the Caribbean region . It is important also for participants to take into consideration that most political struggles of the context are interrelated at large scale within the Cold War context; meaning that international diplomacy and the position of countries involved are highly influenced by the diverse international alliances and interventions originated in this Post-war era.

However, it is important to always keep focus on the topic and avoid the debate from turning into the classical confrontation of capitalism versus socialism, although arguments from both systems can be used as long as they are pertinent for the committee's goal.

The delegates are urged to make sure the debate discusses a wide variety of perspectives leading to historically plausible resolutions to be presented to the Security Council. As previously stated

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## **Topic B: Addressing the institution of Apartheid on South Africa (1961)**

### **Introduction**

Back in 2010, international attention once again turned towards South Africa. For many of its inhabitants it seemed like a message of their god, proving to them that their nation was predestined towards a bright future, fed with economic growth and social stability. Far beyond the power of a Soccer World Cup, the international community was also celebrating one of the most important steps humankind had taken against racial segregation: just 16 years before, the country had banned the controversial “Apartheid” and now South Africa was ready to project itself as a socially integrated nation. But, What is the Apartheid? Basically, it is the name used mainly by historians and politologists, and renown supranational organizations like the UN (1963) to refer to a series of legislations centered on social segregation that were put in practice and kept until 1992 in South Africa ( Britannica, 2023). On its origin, it was presented as part of a strategy to make sure every racial minority in the country had access to “fair” representation (Thomas & Rogers) . However, since non african people only made up the 21% of its population, it soon became evident Apartheid was in reality favoring the white minority (popularly known as Afrikaner) in detriment of the non white population’s basic political and social liberties (Reedy, 2023).

### **Historical Context**

The origin of the situation can be traced all the way back to the Early Modern Age. The region we know as “Cape Of Good Hope”(contemporary South Africa) has been one of the most valuable strategic territories for international trade and western colonialism, ever since the Portuguese created their global empire back in the 15th Century (Green, 2017). Its location as an intermediate port between the Western European and East-Asian trading routes, made it one of the most disputed territories in the entire planet, having been “discovered” firstly by the Portuguese, one century later acquired by the Dutch through the VOC ( Dutch East India Company) and finally, administered by the british until it fully achieved its independence back in

the 1940's. In addition, part of its western territories belonged to the Zulu empire and several Xhosa tribes, who until 1910 defended very fiercely their lands, and meant a very significant obstacle for the homogenous consolidation of a Western European colony in South Africa.

All the previously mentioned particularities, led South Africa to develop a very singular colonial and independent history by its own, which eventually led to one of the most violent expressions of racial discrimination we've faced in recent history: The Apartheid. Ever since Apartheid was formally established in 1952, until its previously stated dissolution, non white people were banned not only from getting involved in any aspect from the political life of their country, but also weren't allowed to be property owners, neither using the same spaces as whites, such as banks, public transportation facilities, public offices, buildings and open spaces (Thomas & Rogers)

### **Analysis**

In a quite superficial way, the Apartheid is often identified as an extreme case of “hate” and “white racism”(UNESCO, 2018). However, the situation is more complex than any superficial political slogan found in mass media can describe, so in order to reach a fructiferous debate, it is important to consider the different factors that in a lesser or greater extent led to this deplorable case of discrimination. Among them we can highlight the following:

- Calvinist cultural background: This interpretation of christianity is renowned for fostering important values related to economic development and financial stability, such as saving, investing and hard work (Weber, 1905). Unfortunately, an alternate negative interpretation of its “predestination” dogma, led mainly Dutch, but also many british settlers to believe it was acceptable to discriminate black african people since “they were not chosen by god for salvation” and thus, didn't deserve to get involved in the territorial administration of South Africa
- Lack of Dutch political administration: During the 17th and 18th Centuries South Africa became one of the preferred retirement destinations for ex workers from the VOC, company who owned and administered directly the colony, instead of the Dutch government. However since it was mostly focused in the control of South-East asian markets(Bakula, 2023), the VOC allowed

South african settlers to appropriate and develop their lands in a quite permissive form, similar to the way in which the U.S. government promoted the “colonization of the west” during the second half of the 19th Century.

Eventually, in a similar way British settlers started calling themselves Americans in “The New World”, Dutch descendants in South Africa started calling themselves “Afrikaner” and considered they were the only legitimate owners of the South African territory. They began establishing local legislations to avoid the participation of non white people in the political, cultural and economic life in South Africa.

- Dutch and British political rivalry: In contrast with the VOC, during the 19th century the British empire considered it was essential to re-organize all the territorial issues the colony had carried from its Dutch colonial past. In addition, it portrayed itself as the main promoter of Liberalism and considered that all citizens of a country had the right to move freely on it, and participate in electoral processes as both runners or voters(Thomas & Rogers, 2012). However, since the acquisition of South Africa by Great Britain took place in the middle of the Napoleonic wars, it was surrounded with a lot of controversies, which eventually led to a full scale series of confrontations between the British and the Afrikaner, known as the “Boer wars” (Britannica, 2023). Considering this background, the Afrikaner population grew very critical towards anything related with the British administration, including their proposed universal suffrage. Many complain this measure would take European people to a considerable political and social disadvantage in contrast with the native african population that considerably outnumbered them. Through this argument and the will of avoiding future problems with the Afrikaner, the British administration respected most of the divisions and racial centered legislation created previously, and prevailed until 1948 (Thomas & Rogers).

### South African factions

Once South Africa reached its full independence in the 1940's the Afrikaners took advantage of their previous culturally and socially privileged position, and through the creation of the “Nationalist Party” they enforced nationwide most of the segregationist legislations that had been

present since the Dutch administration( Reedy,n.d). Although they faced opposition from most British origin South Africans, they ended up favoring of Apartheid considering it was the fairest alternative for the governance of the newly born country. The system was presented as a way in which whites and non whites could have the same opportunities and representation, coexisting in two separate countries within the urban and rural spaces of South Africa (Thomas &Rogers)

The decision led to an instant upraise of many social and political factions, being led mostly by the African National Congress, a political party whose main goal since its creation had been enduring the entry of non-whites to the local political system. Among its leaders there was Nelson Mandela (Thomas &Roger)

Although the mere intention of the ANC was to lead non violent protests, violence arouse on March 21st 1960 in Sharpeville, when local police shot to death around 69 people during an alleged peaceful protest against the implementation of the "Pass laws" which pretended to severely control the transit of non whitest through South African territory. The whole situation led to the arrest of more than 1000 participants and the banning not only of ANC, but also the Pan African congress PAC, another organization emerged from ANC which was based on socialist and nationalist ideologies.

### **Organisms & member positioning**

The Sharpeville massacre caught the attention of the entire international community, including the United Nations. On April 1st 1960, after a three day long session the Security Council condemned the repression led by the South African government in Sharpeville, the nature of Apartheid, and urged its government to bring back harmony (UN Security Council, 1960) . Later on, during its session of November 1962 the international community through the same organism condemned the apartheid once again. Finally on August 7th 1963 a third session was called in which the members of the Security Council agreed on not sending any kind of weapon nor military support to the country, as well as taking away any kind of aid or investment that could represent an income for the South African government.



Our sessions are taking place during December 14 of the same year, when the Security Council was called once again in order to keep up with the development of the situation. Historically speaking there was not a significant advance towards a more peaceful approach regarding the situation in South Africa, except for the fact that most countries agreed to continue to avoid sending any kind of aid to its government.

Because of this, it will be essential to explore alternative humanitarian measures instead of Apartheid in order to deal with the aforementioned complex racial division in South Africa, which also is present to a greater or lesser extent in most British ex-colonies, including the United States itself.

For position taking, delegates should consider the following:

- The Cultural heritage Of Anglo Saxon countries. Most of their history is similar to South Africa's
- The perspective of the Dutch government at the time regarding the decolonization process and the British administration of colonial South Africa
- The political positioning of your country within the Cold War context
- The relation of your country with other colonialist powers with historical presence in Africa, mainly France, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain
- The relation of your country with any Supra-national or international organization that was related to, or interested in getting related with South Africa
- In the resolution of the aforementioned

#### Conclusion

The chair expects this debate to be deep and reflective, where delegates explore the diverse perspectives regarding this extreme case of racial segregation, always making sure to evaluate their implications, trying to reach a conclusion that can give light to an alternative less violent development of the Apartheid's history.

Regarding the access to information delegates are encouraged to avoid consulting any kind of information referring to events or resolution that happened after the December 1963 meeting



Since the topic is very closely related to the IB History Diploma topics, this committee is expected to be mixed, having high quality delegate interventions from last grade CCH students and BAB e alumni.

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