



Joint Crisis Committee

Chairs:

Zachary Alfaro

Arnav Patel

Rene Reyes

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

We want to welcome all of you to the Joint Crisis Committee for the MIT Model United Nations 2021 Conference. Although it is quite unfortunate that we will not be together in person, we are nonetheless excited to work together regarding the conflicts that occurred in Latin America during the Cold War.

We are honored to be chairs of the JCC during this conference. Arnav is a senior studying mechanical engineering interested in applying sustainability to business, policy, and law. Zachary is a senior studying Finance and Political Science interested in intersecting finance and policy. Rene is a Junior studying Mathematics and Computer Science, interested in applying cryptography and machine learning to high-impact areas such as health care and policy.

This guide is meant to provide you a very brief and non-exhaustive background of the issues at hand. We expect that each one of you will conduct your own outside research to ensure that together we think more creatively, find better solutions, and create a productive atmosphere for your fellow delegates. You should prepare for your position to the best of your ability and defend the interests of that position throughout the conference. We expect position papers to be sent through the submission form on the MITMUNC website.

Finally, and most importantly, we hope that MITMUNC is an enjoyable experience for you all. We know the virtualness of the conference is not ideal, but together, we are sure that we can create an informative and fun experience for everyone. We are still confident that all delegates will be able to learn more about international relations, practice communication and negotiation skills, and develop strong relationships even through the virtual medium. It is important that we all remain flexible, open, and understanding throughout this process.

Please submit your Position Papers in the following Google Form -

<https://forms.gle/yAUkc24ssW9R8z4L8> .If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to mitmunc-cold-war@mit.edu. We look forward to working with all of you.

Your JCC Chairs,

Zachary Alfaro

Arnav Patel

Rene Reyes

History

It is June 15th, 1955 - a year after Guatemala's regime change and a month after the founding of the Warsaw Pact.

Introduction to the Cold War

After World War II ended, the United States and the Soviet Union became the new world's new international super powers. The United States, a nation rooted in capitalism and individualism, formed a stark contrast to the communist and authoritarian rule of the Soviet Union. Both nations intended to extend their influences and their beliefs throughout the world, and in the late 1940s, tensions started to grow, leading to the [Cold War](#).

In 1949, a series of major events occurred that heightened tensions. The Soviet Union tested their [first atomic bomb](#), in response to which the United States revealed plans to develop even deadlier weapons of mass destruction, including the hydrogen bomb. The arms race had begun, and the United States and the Soviet Union started to explore the possibilities of long range missiles, space as a military frontier, and most importantly, positioning of allies and their own influences across the world. In other areas of the world, China was one of the first major nations to fall to the Communists when [Mao Zedong took control](#) to create the People's Republic of China. The Soviets also declared the founding of the [German Democratic Republic \(East Germany\)](#) during the same month. On the other hand, the United States fortified their alliances with the founding of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization](#) (NATO) as a means to block Soviet influence in Europe.

The 1950s [began with the Korean War](#), a bloody war between Soviet-backed North Koreans and USA-backed South Koreans. Although this proxy war did not escalate to a full blown World War 3 between Soviet and American forces, the Korean war could spell the beginning of many more proxy wars in years to come.

Recently, the Soviet Union signed onto the [Warsaw Pact](#) of 1955 with numerous other allies to pursue its own interests in Europe and beyond.

Interference in Latin America

While much of the world watched the issues in Europe and Asia, Latin America was beginning to feel the tensions in their own countries between capitalist and communist forces.

In the aftermath of World War II, Latin American countries pushed for more economic power in international trade, autonomy in their own economy, and investment in their own infrastructure. Many Latin American countries emphasize [import substitution industrialization \(ISI\)](#), hoping to bring production of important goods back to their own homelands rather than being dependent on the developed Western world.

The spread of political and economic thought throughout the world resulted in various leaders of [different ideologies rising to power](#) in the 1940s and early 1950s, many of whom established dictatorships, although some were democratically elected. The world is now curious about how Latin America will develop - into a stronghold for neighbors to the north or a frontier establishment for the powerhouse across the Atlantic.

There have been reports that both the United States and Soviet Union are starting to influence politics in Latin America. In 1954, Guatemalan military officer Colonel Carlos Castillo Armas [took power](#) from the democratically elected president of Guatemala, President Jacobo Arbenz. President Arbenz had been a strong critic of the power of the United Fruit Company, a United States-based banana company that had taken control of the economy and government in the country. There have been rumors that the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helped Colonel Armas take control by providing resources, intelligence, and weapons.

In Cuba, President Fulgencio Batista refused to give up power in 1952 when it was apparent he was going to lose the election. Fidel Castro, a rising figure in the Cuban politics, [began the revolution](#) to wrestle control from Batista in 1953. The war is ongoing, with rumors that the Soviet Union is monitoring the situation closely - there are talks that Fidel Castro could become an important asset for the Soviet Union.

Other countries in Latin America have begun feeling the need for regime and institutional changes - whether that is an effect of American or Soviet influence is left to be determined.

Task at Hand

In response to the new events in Latin America, both the United States and the Soviet Union have called their own secret meetings in June 1955 with various leaders of Latin America. Although both parties are aware of the other's existence, no one knows who is attending each other's meeting. The results of each of these committees has the ability to shape the world for generations to come.

Timeline and Rules

As a note of clarification, some of your positions may not exactly follow historical timeline. Assume your interests remain the same independent of where you fit on the historical timeline during this conference - try to defend your position as you would if the timeline fit your respective position rather than the one given to you. For example, if your character was a leader of a country in the 1980s, assume their position and interests are the same in 1950. You may have to adapt certain aspects of your country's role in the world between the time periods - feel free to be creative. We understand there might be some confusion!

Please operate under the assumption that you are unaware that your political opponent is at the other committee's meeting. You can remain suspicious and try to determine whether your rival is at the other committee's meeting, but at the beginning of the conference please operate under the assumption that you are unsure.

Positions and Portfolio Powers - USSR

Ivan Serov - Head of the KGB

Serov became the head of the KGB after Stalin's death, and had previously worked with Khrushchev in Ukraine. The KGB was the Soviet Secret Police, so this delegate should be familiar with the role of Soviet Intelligence during the Cold War. Although we are shifting the timelines, the delegate should also research how the KGB handled dissent during this period, as well as foreign interventions they carried out in places such as Afghanistan. Within the committee, this delegate can

play a key role in decisions involving espionage and general intelligence that can help make strategic decisions about how to intervene in Latin America.

Vyacheslav Molotov - Minister of Foreign Affairs

Molotov became a prominent member of the Communist Party during Stalin's regime, but his relationship with Stalin deteriorated throughout the years and he lost the position in 1949.

Nonetheless, he was reappointed after Stalin's death. This delegate should read about his stances with respect to De-Stalinization, which was one Khrushchev's main missions and could be a divisive factor within the committee. More generally, the delegate should be familiar with Soviet foreign policy during this era, which includes actions such as the Molotov Plan to help rebuild nations in the Eastern Bloc. Within the committee, this delegate will play a key role in how the USSR handles relationships with foreign leaders, as well as its presence in other countries.

Arseny Zverev - Minister of Finance

Zverev became Minister of Finance in 1938 under Stalin's rule, and was a member of the Politburo until Stalin died. This delegate should study financial policies during and after Stalin's rule since they are one of the ministers who carried over. Zverev will help guide the committee's decisions regarding financial policy, and how to best defend the USSR's economic interests through foreign intervention in Latin America. Furthermore, this delegate can help advise foreign leaders on how to shape their economies to follow the Soviet model as a major component of spreading communism to that region.

Georgy Zhukov - Minister of Defense

Zhukov was a key military figure in the USSR, and participated in decisive victories during the Second World War. Due to his popularity, Stalin saw him as a threat and demoted him, but after Stalin's death, he was able to gain the role of Secretary of Defence through his support for Khrushchev. He participated in the Potsdam Conference and actually had a good relationship with Dwight Eisenhower, now president of the US. This delegate will be crucial to Soviet military tactics, and should be familiar with Soviet military structure and actions throughout the Cold War. Zhukov can also provide guidance to the Latin American leaders in how to best maintain, or obtain, power through these means.

Dmitri Shepilov - Editor-in-Chief of *Prava* (Official Newspaper of the Communist Party)

Shepilov became head of the Propaganda department of Pravda in 1946, and then became editor-in-chief of this official newspaper in late 1952. Therefore, this delegate should be very familiar with Soviet propaganda throughout the Cold War, as well as some of Shepilov's positions and relationships within the Communist Party. Furthermore, this delegate will be able to provide expertise on two important ways to use propaganda: how to give a positive spin to any actions taken in Latin America, and how to spread communist propaganda in all of these Latin American countries. Propaganda was a very powerful tool during the Cold War, and this delegate should be prepared to use it to the USSR's advantage.

Juan Peron - President of Argentina

Peron was an Argentine general and became president in 1946 as a member of the Labor Party, but shortly created his own Justicialist Party. The United States saw his economic policy as a cover for spreading communism to Latin America, so relations with the US were severed. As a result, this delegate will be a key player for the USSR to keep American influence out of Latin America, given

Peron's well-established government. This delegate will be able to provide the committee with valuable insight into the region, as well as make important decisions that can help strengthen Soviet grasp of Argentina.

Tomas Borge - Revolutionary Leader in Nicaragua

Tomas Borge's father served as one of Sandino's deputy commanders, and from a young age he participated in efforts to fight against the Somoza dictatorship. As a university student, Borge is very involved in Marxist groups with other revolutionaries such as Carlos Fonseca, who are trying to form a liberation front to fight against the Somozas (in real life, this liberation front would become the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN)). Since we are shifting the timeline for this JCC, this delegate should study the FSLN as well as the power struggle against the US-backed government that happened in the 1970's. Based on this, this delegate's role in the committee will be to provide the USSR with insight into Nicaragua, and use their support to catalyze a revolution that occurs sooner than what historically would have happened.

Salvador Allende - President of Chile

Allende was elected in 1970 after unsuccessfully running for the presidency three times before. He was a committed member of the Socialist Party of Chile. As president, he sought to nationalize industries and improve the living standards of the working class. He was opposed by the right-wing parties in the Congress and judiciary. This delegate will work with the USSR and support other left-wing groups in Latin America.

Joao Goulart - President of Brazil

Goulart was vice president when the then-president Janio Quadros resigned. Congress was reluctant to recognize Goulart as president until the Congress tried to change to a parliamentary system of government with many presidential powers being transferred to the new post of Prime Minister. Voters rejected this referendum and Goulart was able to attain full presidential powers. This delegate will be aligned with the USSR and any other groups dedicated to helping the working class.

Che Guevara - Guerilla Leader in Bolivia

Guevara was an Argentine Marxist revolutionary who assisted many different revolutions in many different countries. After witnessing the 1954 Guatemalan coup that was assisted by the CIA, Guevara solidified his Marxist ideology and hatred of the US. He was close with Fidel Castro as he assisted with the Cuban Revolution. His last campaign was fought in Bolivia, where he was eventually captured and executed. This delegate will have wide appeal amongst communist/socialist groups and will align themselves with the USSR.

Fidel Castro - Revolutionary in Cuba

Castro was a Cuban Marxist revolutionary who led the Cuban revolution, along with his brother Raul and Che Guevara. He eventually successfully overthrew the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista and became the Prime Minister and eventually held many more titles. He transformed the Republic of Cuba into a one-party communist state. He gained the attention of the US who tried to overthrow him at the Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961. He was also at the center of the Cuban Missile Crisis. This delegate will be aligned with the USSR and will throw their support for any Marxist causes and revolutions happening in Latin America.

Raul Castro - Revolutionary in Cuba

Raul Castro is the brother of Fidel Castro and helped him overthrow Fulgencio Batista in the Cuban Revolution. He helped his brother lead Cuba and to this day is still regarded as the de facto leader of Cuba. He helped shoot down a Lockheed U2, leading to the only fatality of the Cuban Missile Crisis. With Fidel, this delegate will be aligned with the USSR and will give support to any Marxist causes and revolutions in Latin America.

Jacobo Árbenz - President of Guatemala

Árbenz led a revolution against the repressive government of Jorge Ubico, a US-backed dictator. He won the 1950 presidential election, taking office in 1951. He implemented many progressive social policies, notably an agrarian reform law that expropriated large unused land holdings with compensation and redistributed the land to poor agricultural laborers. Because of a US-backed coup led by Carlos Castillo Armas, Árbenz resigned to avoid a full scale invasion. This delegate will be aligned with the USSR as Árbenz was still active after the coup, traveling to the USSR and Cuba after being invited by the Castro government.

Gustavo Rojas Pinilla - Leader of ANAPO Party in Colombia

Pinilla served as President of Colombia from 1953-1957 after a peaceful coup. He ran for president in 1962 and 1970, with his result being declared invalid in 1962 since he was a former coup leader and being the runner up in the controversial 1970 election. His loss spurred the 19th of April Movement (M-19). This delegate will not have formal ties to the USSR as the ANAPO party opposed the abolition of private property. However, if the delegate chooses, they can gain a lot from formally aligning with the USSR.

Juan Bosch - President of the Dominican Republic

Bosch was the main opposition in exile to the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. After Trujillo was assassinated, Bosch returned to the DR and became the country's first elected president. He was in office for seven months until he was overthrown in a coup. He became a prominent Dominican writer and became interested in Marxism. He was friends with Fidel Castro but stopped short of labeling himself either a communist or Marxist. This delegate will align themselves with Cuba through personal relations but not necessarily the USSR, unless the delegate so chooses.

Positions and Portfolio Powers - USA

Delegates will form a part of a special committee consisting of President Eisenhower's cabinets as well as strategic leaders in certain Latin American countries. The goal is to coordinate actions in Latin America in order to protect US interests and stop the spread of communism.

Allen Welsh Dulles - Director of the CIA

Appointed by President Eisenhower in 1953, Dulles is the first-ever civilian to serve as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He oversaw the Guatemalan Coup of 1954, and is very interested in how US Intelligence can stop the spread of communism into Latin America. This delegate should be very familiar with everything that is within the reach of the CIA, as well as any actions carried out by the agency regarding communism before 1955. Although, for this JCC, we are shifting the real Cold War timeline to include events that happened much later, reading about the CIA involvement in coups that happened in Chile, Brazil and Argentina in the 1970's will be extremely useful. Knowledge of these will help the delegate bring proposals on how to interfere in these countries to the table. His brother, John Dulles, is the current Secretary of State.

John Foster Dulles - Secretary of State

John Dulles was appointed as Secretary of State by President Eisenhower in 1953, and is the brother of CIA director, Allen Welsh Dulles. He was a legal counsel at the 1919 Paris Peace Agreement, helped draft the United Nations Charter, and served as a delegate to the UN General Assembly. As Secretary of State, John Dulles helped instigate the 1954 Guatemalan Coup. Being in charge of the State Department means that this delegate is in charge of US diplomacy, so they should be familiar with US Foreign Policy during the Cold War, particularly regarding Latin America.

George M. Humphrey - Secretary of the Treasury

Humphrey was a highly influential member of Eisenhower's cabinet, and was the first Republican Treasury Secretary in 20 years. He was previously president of the M.A. Hanna Company, which acquired interests in Latin American mining companies during his tenure in this position. This delegate should be familiar with US economic policy throughout the Cold War, and how Latin American governments could affect the US' economy. Particularly, financial decisions such as stockpiling certain materials, some of which might be imported from these countries, could be extremely relevant and influential.

Charles Erwin Wilson - Secretary of Defense

Wilson and Eisenhower had a goal of reorganizing the military and reducing the military budget, which had been inflated due to the Korean War. This delegate will have a very important position when it comes to US National Security, and should be extremely familiar with US Military Strategy during the Cold War. Another topic that may be of particular interest is nuclear weapons, since these played a major role in tension between the USSR and the US.

Oveta Culp Hobby - Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare

This department was created during Eisenhower's presidency, which made Oveta Culp Hobby the first-ever Secretary of it. During the Second World War, she served in the military and was director of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. This delegate should be familiar with social security and education policies around this time, and how these may come into play within the specific Cold War context. Particularly, they should think about how propaganda and spin can come into play when making decisions about all three of these areas.

Jorge Videla - Military Leader in Argentina

Jorge Videla was a military leader in Argentina, mostly known for playing a key role in the military coup of 1976 and leading a ruthless military dictatorship until 1981. Although we are shifting the timeline, this delegate should be familiar with Videla's political stances, as well as his actions leading up to the original coup and while he was in office. It may also be beneficial for the delegate to study the *Revolucion Libertadora* of 1955, which was another military coup against the Peronistas. This delegate will serve as the US' proxy in Argentina, and can help influence military decisions as well as provide valuable intelligence.

Anastasio Somoza - President of Nicaragua

Somoza came to power after a power struggle with the communist forces of Sandino in the 1930's, and then served on-and-off as both dictator and president. Despite his non-democratic practices, the US supported his government as a stronghold against communism in the region. Therefore, this delegate should be familiar with the history of the Nicaraguan power struggles between Somoza and communist groups. Furthermore, this delegate will help provide the US with information about Central America, and serves as a well-established anti-communist government.

Augusto Pinochet - Military General in Chile

Pinochet was a military general in Chile who led a coup against President Salvador Allende with the support of the CIA. After deposing Allende, he led Chile as a dictator from 1973-1990. Once he took power, he dissolved the Congress of Chile, suspended the Constitution, and began a persecution of alleged dissidents. This delegate will work with the USA in order to curb any possible socialist/communist revolutions.

Auro de Moura Andrade - Senate President of Brazil

Andrade was the Senate President when Joao Goulart became president. He was the main architect for congressional support of the coup. Even though Goulart was still in Brazil, Andrade declared the Presidency vacant and moved to install a new president.

René Barrientos - President of Bolivia

Barrientos came to power in a 1964 coup of the then-current president of Bolivia. As president, he was fiercely anti-communist and facilitated the training of anti-communist soldiers. Because of this, he was popular with the US. He eventually faced Che Guevara's rebels and defeated them, leading to Guevara's execution. He was popular with most citizens, including the poor, until one of his ministers outed his administration of working with the CIA, leading to him losing support amongst the general public. This delegate will be aligned with the US but will walk a tightrope trying to please all the citizens of Bolivia.

Fulgencio Batista - President of Cuba

Batista rose to power in the 1933 overthrow of Carlos Manuel de Céspedes y Quesada, then serving as President of Cuba from 1940-1944 and instating the 1940 Constitution of Cuba. He ran for president in 1952 and staged a military coup against President Carlos Prío Socarrás before the election when it was clear that he would lose. He was eventually deposed by Fidel Castro in 1959. This delegate will be aligned with the US as a very close ally as Batista allowed US citizens to gain control over the sugar industry in Cuba.

Carlos Castillo Armas - National Liberation Movement Leader in Guatemala

Armas sought to overthrow the elected government of Juan José Arévalo and then the government of Arévalo's successor Jacobo Árbenz. After a failed attack on Guatemala City, Armas reached out to the US for help, eventually receiving it. He then led a rebel group into Guatemala to overthrow Árbenz with the help of US aircraft, eventually receiving Árbenz's resignation. This delegate will be aligned with the US, obvious through the US-backed coup. They will be dependent on the USA as Armas plunged the government into debt and corruption.

Misael Pastrana Borrero - President of Colombia

Borrero served as President of Colombia from 1970-1974. The election of 1970, which Borrero won, was criticized as being fraudulent where Borrero was losing until a nationwide communications system failure occurred and when the system was brought online again, Borrero was suddenly leading. While not being completely aligned with the US, Borrero was a conservative who defeated the more progressive Gustavo Rojas Pinilla. This delegate will be more closely aligned with the US but not have any direct ties, unless they so chose to.

Joseph Donald Reid Cabral - Triumvirate President of the Dominican Republic

Cabral became president after the overthrow of President Juan Bosch. Cabral was in power for two years until an uprising in the name of former President Bosch overthrew Cabral. The US then invaded the DR in favor of Cabral, ending the uprising. This delegate will be aligned with the US and have the military backing of the US.

Manuel Noriega - Military Leader of Panama

Noriega was the Military Leader of Panama from 1983-1989, ruling over the country with a brutal dictatorship. He curbed the freedom of the press and made sure that he had a strong military. He was an ally of the US as he was used to sell weapons to the Contras in Nicaragua. The US became skeptical of Noriega when news stories were published saying that Noriega was working with Fidel Castro. Furthermore, he was accused of working with drug smuggling networks whose drugs would eventually reach the US. The US eventually invaded Panama and deposed Noriega. This delegate will be aligned with the US but will be a maverick, always able to play both sides.