

The Cuban Revolution: Batista's Loyalists



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LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Delegates, Club and Team Advisors, Parents, and Any Other MUNers,

It is my esteemed privilege to welcome you all to DMUNC XXI! My name is Maeve Parasol, and I am honored to serve as your Secretary-General for the 21st DMUNC. On the weekend of May 18th-19th, 2024, delegates will have the opportunity to engage in fruitful debate and cooperation, and hopefully, make lifelong connections.

As a senior, this will be my final DMUNC. DMUNC has truly been a tremendous part of my life. It has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life. It has both consumed and enriched the last two of my life immensely. I have never felt as much pride and joy as I felt at last year's DMUNC, seeing all of you debate, discuss, and become the leaders of tomorrow that our world so sorely needs. I am hopeful for the future because of young people like you who have taken an active role in shaping our world. From the bottom of my heart, thank you all so much for allowing me to see you all flourish.

I have long been part of Model UN. I attended my first Model UN conference in 7th grade and quickly fell in love with MUN. Never before had I been challenged to think, collaborate, and problem-solve in such an engaging manner. It truly opened my mind to politics and how I could grow up and hopefully help make the world a better place. Doing Model UN eventually set me up to intern in multiple political offices and find a passion for local politics. Next year, I will have the honor of serving as a Capital Fellow and working as a Legislative Aide for a California State Senator. I am beyond excited for the opportunity I have been given and am eternally grateful to Model UN for opening those doors for me. I say all of this for the delegates out there who find themselves inspired by Model UN and have a desire to change the world for the better: let Model UN be a way to learn important skills that can help you do that!

Last year, I had the honor of serving as the Secretary General of DMUNC XX and the year before that as the Director General of DMUNC XIX. With two DMUNCs under my belt, I feel confident that my experience and passion will help make DMUNC XXI the best DMUNC yet! However, none of this would be possible without the hard work of the CONSEC and staff members who have worked tirelessly for DMUNC XXI. Running DMUNC is in *no way* a one woman job and I am eternally grateful to every single DMUNC staff member and especially to my Director General Claire Mitchell who has stepped up in unimaginable ways. Thank you Claire, CONSEC, head chairs, crisis directors, and all the DMUNC staff.

Delegates, we are all so excited for you to enjoy this weekend. I encourage you to read through your committee background guides thoroughly and formulate collaborative resolutions. I look forward to the thought-out and pioneering innovations that each of you will bring forth to your respective committees. Finally, I wish you all luck on your journey!

Carpe Diem,



Maeve Parasol | Secretary-General

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LETTER FROM THE CRISIS DIRECTOR

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to DMUNC XXI! I'm Joel Szakmeister and I am honored to be your crisis director for the Batista's Loyalists half of The Cuban Revolution joint crisis committee. I'm extremely excited to see where debate takes this committee and how delegates delve into each topic and respond to each crisis, as the decisions made by this body will change the Caribbean, and possibly the world, forever.

A little bit about myself, I'm a recent college graduate with a degree in Political Science, a concentration in American Politics, and a minor in Public Affairs. This is my seventh time working as a chair or crisis director at a Model United Nations conference. My MUN experience started in August of 2017 at College of the Canyons, where I needed 4 more units to maintain status as a full time student, so I signed up for the Model United Nations class. I was at the time completely unaware that the Model United Nations "class" was actually a nationally ranked team that traveled and competed, and I only took the class because I thought it looked fun in that one episode of Parks and Rec. It actually was fun, so I stuck with it for my last year there and chaired for my first time at COCMUN 2018. After transferring, I was extremely happy to be able to continue competing, to get to meet a whole new group of amazing people through MUN and to continue learning and growing through the program. Over the past few years, Model UN has taught an immeasurable amount about the world, its issues, and possible solutions to them. It has also taught me important lessons about leadership and problem solving. When I'm not busy with work and MUN, my hobbies include playing video games, leading my fantasy sports teams to soul crushing defeat, and creating March Madness-style brackets for crowded presidential primaries.

I was very lucky to get the chance to participate in over two dozen incredibly interesting and exciting committees while I was in MUN. I got to impeach Nixon as Ted Kennedy in a Watergate Senate, I got to raid Europe as a son of Ragnar Lothbrok in a Vikings committee, and I even got to experience a Red Dead Redemption committee as Arthur Morgan. Some of my favorites during my MUN career were historical crisis committees. The way that they breathe life into historical events I had only ever read about always fascinated me, and there are few historical periods as turbulent and interesting as the 20th century. The delicate struggle between the two superpowers following World War II provides an excellent arena for delegates to show their skills in making the complex environment, rapidly developing technology, and increasingly connected world work for them. I look forward to reading your notes and helping your arcs come to life. As always, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions. We're always here to help!

Joel Szakmeister | Batista's Loyalists Crisis Director

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LETTER FROM THE COORDINATING CRISIS DIRECTOR

Delegates,

Welcome to DMUNC's Cuban Revolution Committee! My name is Maeve Parasol and I will be serving as both the Secretary General of DMUNC XXI and your coordinating crisis director. This means I will be coordinating joint crises between both the rebels and the loyalists. I am a UC Davis senior majoring in History and International Relations with a minor in German. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 21st annual UC Davis Model United Nations Conference. I am excited to work with you all on this committee as your Crisis Director.

You can find out a little more about my general Model UN experience in the Letter from the Secretary General above. (Congratulations, you get two letters that no one actually wants to read!) Honestly, I am almost more excited to be CDing this committee than I am to be the Secretary General. For so long, I have the top down, general work of running a conference. I am so excited to share my passion for Cuba and the crisis directly with the delegates of this committee.

I have been a crisis delegate since I was 12 years old. I remember being thrown in the deep-end when I did my first ever Model UN committee as a crisis about the 1960s cold war (fitting!). Despite the confusion, I had the time of my life and even managed to win my first award with an honorable mention. Since then, I have competed in various crises, on the east coast in high school and then here on the west coast in college. I also had the honor of crisis staffing the Historical Crisis Committee at SCVMUN 53 this February. I hope that my experience with crisis staffing, years of MUN, and my immense love and passion for Cuban history will make this an amazing committee.

This committee has been a dream of mine for years. I am currently writing— and will have finished by the time this committee occurs!— my senior thesis on the relationship between US media and Fulgencio Batista's second regime. I have been fortunate enough to visit Cuba twice. Most recently in February 2024 where I went to the Cuban National Historical Archive in Havana and conducted research for my senior thesis. I think Cuba's history is incredibly interesting and relevant to the world. As one of the last remaining communist nations in the world, it managed to stay communist despite being only 90 miles away from the US! Whatever you think of Castro or Batista, the success of the Cuban revolution changed not only Cuban history, but world politics immensely.

I am so excited to see your characters come to life as you work on solutions to complex issues and topics. Creating a successful revolution is hard work, but I am confident you will all rise to the task.

See you all soon!

Maeve Parasol | Coordinating Crisis Director

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD CHAIR

Esteemed Delegates,

Bienvenidos a DMUNC XXI! I am honored to serve as your chair for the Batista's Loyalists side of the Cuban Revolution JCC. I am an alum of UC Davis and graduated with a degree in International Relations and Economics. During my senior year, I served as the Secretary-General of the Model United Nations at UC Davis team. I have been doing Model UN since my freshman year of college and have competed and staffed numerous conferences throughout my MUN career. When I'm not doing MUN I like to take pictures with my film camera, curate the perfect spotify playlist, and hike!

The Cuban Revolution was a pivotal moment in world history, in this committee you will be acting as advisors to President Batista. The committee begins in January of 1957, so while you do not possess the power to change the past — you will have the unique opportunity to alter the course of history to produce an outcome more favorable to President Batista and his loyalists. You will be tasked with ensuring that President Batista maintains his rule of Cuba while quickly quieting the murmurs of a revolution. I'm looking forward to seeing lively debate, creative crisis arcs, and robust directives. I am also eager to see how you interact with the other side of the JCC and how you utilize your unique portfolio powers to influence the outcome of events in both committees.

I can't wait to meet you all in May and if you need anything before then, please do not hesitate to reach out to Joel or me.

Un saludo,

Kaela Buenaventura | Head Chair

She/They

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CUBAN HISTORY PRE-1952

Spanish Rule of Cuba

Spain began its colonization of Cuba in 1511 and would remain in control of the island until the Cuban War for Independence in 1898. Spanish rule in Cuba was built on a foundation of slavery. By 1827, a population report showed that enslaved people accounted for over 40 percent of Cuba's population. Enslaved people in Cuba primarily worked on sugar and coffee plantations, with sugar being Cuba's major cash crop, accounting for 74 percent of the island's export earnings in 1860.¹



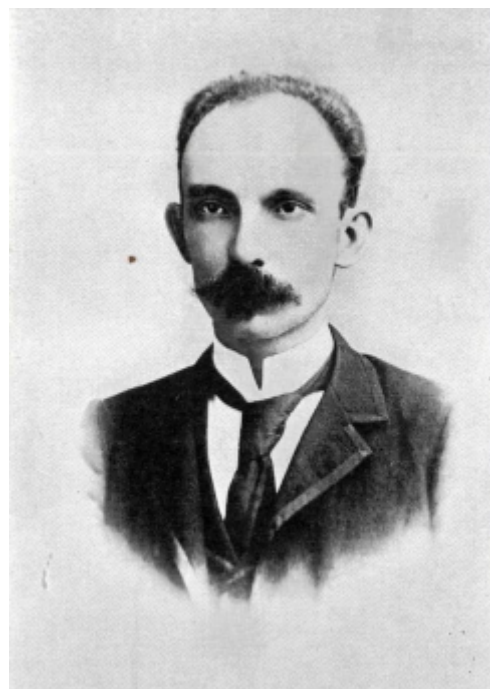
Map of Cuba before 1959

This reliance on sugar would ultimately lend itself to the US's decades long economic dominance over Cuba. In 1877, a whopping 85% of Cuba's total exports went to the US. This would ramp up in the 20th century as Cubans increasingly lost control over their own land and economy to the US. By 1907, 60% of rural property in Cuba was owned by foreigners, a large portion of which were Americans. With this, the Americans expanded their reach into the critical

¹ Simons, *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*, 107-127

economic sector of the sugar industry and eventually gained an effective monopoly. The amount of sugar mills would shrink significantly going from over 2000 in 1860, to 207 in 1899, to a mere 163 in 1929. As of 1926, 63% of Cuba's yearly sugar harvest came from just 75 American owned mills. In 1952 when Batista's second regime would begin, US companies would control 48% of Cuban sugar production.²

Cubans did not simply accept their status as a Spanish colony and long vied for independence from their conquerors. Many uprisings and rebellions took place throughout Spanish colonial rule without success. One of the longest– as well as the direct predecessor and foundation to Cuba's eventual independence– was the Ten Years' War (1868-1878). It was during this war that the Cuban national hero José Martí (1853-1895)– who was and continues to be a major influence on Cuban politics and culture– initially rose to prominence. After the conclusion of the Tens Years War in 1878, the Spanish government exiled Martí. Not to be deterred from his mission for a free and independent Cuba, Martí moved to New York where he spent 15 years advocating for that mission from abroad. In 1895, Martí went back to Cuba and along with others began what would grow into the Cuban War for Independence. Martí vehemently opposed the US, believing that the threat of possible US annexation of Cuba “represented the greatest threat to the island's independence.” On the eve of his death, Martí wrote that his only goal in life had been freedom for Cuba and to stop the US from



Jose Marti (1853-1895)

² Simons, *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*, 115; Ferrer, *Cuba: An American History*, 191-193; "Cuban Coup: U.S. Investors, Businessmen seen Faring Better Under Batista Regime." *Wall Street Journal*, Mar 11, 1952.

controlling Latin America. Martí died in 1895 during a skirmish with Spanish forces, but his legacy has lived on as major inspiration to Cubans in their fights for independence. Any successful revolution will likely have to pay credence to Martí's ideals, genuinely or not.³

The Spanish-American War and US Involvement in Cuba

Martí's dire warnings about US involvement in Cuba began to come to fruition shortly after his death. The US became involved in the Cuban War for Independence in 1898. In fact, the US became so involved, that the Cuban War for Independence has been pulled under the umbrella of the Spanish-American War. Prior to their military involvement on the island, the US made it clear that it wanted to control Cuba. With Congress even directly claiming not long before its military intervention that "[the US] government has persistently asserted its right to control the ultimate destiny of Cuba." Attempting first to achieve this with money rather than manpower, the US attempted to buy the island from Spain, but was denied. Upset and strongly seeking a way to gain overseas colonies to catch up to the might of European nations, the US looked for some other way to gain control over Spain's colonies.⁴

As though on a silver platter, the perfect opportunity arose in February 1898. The *Maine*— a US ship sent to Cuba on a peace mission— suddenly exploded, killing 262 people. To this day, there is no definite answer as to why the *Maine* exploded, however, the US did not let a lack of evidence slow it down. The US government officially blamed Spain for the *Maine*'s explosion and used the loss of American lives as an opportunity to declare war on Spain. Thus, the US became involved in the Cuban War for Independence, with Spain agreeing to end its sovereignty over Cuba before the end of 1898. Even though the majority of the war had been waged by Cubans— with historians mostly agreeing that Spain likely would have surrendered even without

³ Simons. *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*.

⁴ Simons. *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*.

US involvement– the US’s convenient swooping in at the last moment made the Americans the deciders of Cuba’s fate.⁵

It was Americans– not Cubans– who negotiated the surrender of Spain. The US did not make Cuba a territory of the US– unlike with the Philippines and Puerto Rico– but they made sure they had major influence over the island. As the answer to how and by whom the next century of Cuban government would be structured began to emerge, the US made sure to use the influence they had fought for. Cuban leaders met to form a new Cuban constitution, only to be rebuked by the US, who refused to recognize Cuba’s sovereignty or withdraw its military presence on the Island unless its demands were met. Despite resistance, Cuba was forced to accept the Platt Amendment. This amendment forced Cuba to lease land to the US for naval



Future President Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Riders after a 1898 Battle in Santiago.

bases (primarily Guantanamo Bay), barred them from taking on any debt, and gave the US the right to intervene militarily in Cuba “for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate for the protection of life, property, and individual liberty.”⁶

The US ended its military occupation of Cuba– which had continued since their intervention in the Spanish-American War– in 1902. However, the US did not hesitate

⁵ Simons. *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*.

⁶ Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Cuba Embodying the Provisions Defining Their Future Relations as Contained in the Act of Congress Approved March 2, 1901; 5/22/1903; Perfected Treaties, 1778 - 1945; General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11; National Archives Building, Washington, DC.

to invoke the Platt Amendment soon after that. In 1906, the Liberal Party began to revolt against the elected conservative government. The revolution quickly spread through the island. US President Teddy Roosevelt, expressed that he was “so angry with that infernal little Cuban republic that I would like to wipe its people off the face of the earth.” Roosevelt sent officials to attempt to mediate the situation between the two parties. However, after no progress was made within three days, US naval forces arrived at the shores of Santiago. A week after that, the Cuban President resigned and handed over control of Cuba’s treasury to the Americans. The US would continue to occupy Cuba for another three years.⁷

Years of Corruption

Any Cuban president from then on would require explicit support from the US to stay in power. During the 1921 Cuban election, Sumner Welles, who would eventually become FDR’s Secretary State, wrote a memorandum from the US State Department which listed the attributes a Cuban president should have such as “amenability to suggestion of advice which might be made to him by the American legation.” Luckily for US investors, American legations primarily followed the will of US businesses. In 1925, General Gerardo Machado Morales took office in a mostly honest election after having gained the genuine support of the Cuban people over the incumbent. Coincidentally, he also “enjoyed intimate connexations with United States corporate interests.” Overtime, Machado became more authoritarian, causing his genuine democratic support to slip away, which he responded to with further repression. However, it took until 1933 when the US determined that Machado had become hurtful to US economic interests to finally step in. Sumner Welles arrived in Cuba and indirectly stoked fears of the Cuban army of another US invasion due to the instability of Machado. The Cuban army followed through, with Machado being overthrown in August 1933. Later, a Cuban army official would confirm that

⁷ Ferrer, *Cuba: An American History*, 198-205.

“the ‘sole purpose’ of the army uprising ‘was the avoidance of American intervention.’” To Welles’s displeasure, Ramón Grau San Martín would rise to power following the coup. Grau represented everything the US hated, going as far as to revoke the Platt Amendment. This was largely symbolic as the US did not agree to the revocation from their end. The FDR administration, unwilling to invade Cuba yet again, knew they needed some way to remove Grau from power. To this end, the US began to cultivate a relationship with a certain military man: Colonel Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar.⁸

The US government gave Batista their full support. In a private conversation between Welles’s and Batista, the ambassador informed the colonel that he was the “the only individual in Cuba today who represented authority.” Along with the carrot, Welles also produced the stick, making it clear to Batista that he had to stage a coup against if he wanted himself and Cuba to avoid the wrath of the US. On January 15th, 1934, Batista staged a coup against Grau. The colonel then installed President Mendieta; the US would recognize Mendieta’s authority within five days of the coup.⁹

Mendieta’s presidency was a facade, with Batista being the true authority behind the scenes. From 1934 to 1940, four different presidents including Mendieta would hold office, all of whom would be controlled by Batista. In 1940, a select group of Cubans, who possessed a range of political beliefs, assembled to draft



Fulgencio Batista

⁸ Simons, *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*, 227-254.

⁹ Simons, *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*, 254.

a new constitution. The new constitution wrote about the goals of “universal suffrage, free elections, political and civil liberties”, yet did not include any methods of enforcement for said goals. What it lacked in tangible amendments in its professed ideology, it made up for in explicit permissions for the government to suspend these same constitutional rights for up to 45 days if the government believed there was a ‘security’ risk. Once the constitution was ratified, Batista decided he was ready to run for office against the recently returned post-exile Grau. In what appeared to be a fair election to the public, Batista beat Grau with 55% of the vote to Grau’s 40%, with the remaining votes going to the communists. Batista would stay in power for most of WWII. During this time, he would be a strong ally to the US, giving them “unprecedented rights over Cuban territory. [...] Rights over Cuba that Americans had not enjoyed since the US occupation of the island some four decades before.” In 1944, Batista felt confident that he would be reelected to the presidency. However, this was unfounded, as Grau swept the elections, clearly winning. Batista had no choice but to step down.¹⁰

Despite their opposition, one thing united Batista and Grau: corruption. Batista stepped down from the presidency as a rich man, with nearly \$20 million. He acquired much of his wealth through moving funds from government buildings to his own wallet via his vast urban property holdings. Not to be outdone by his rival, Grau misappropriated, with formal charges for this crime, \$174 million. This corruption was embedded in every part of Grau’s administration as the term *gangsterismo* became heavily associated with it. With his corruption so blatantly obvious to the Cuban people, Grau lost power to Carlos Prío in 1948. Little changed though, as Prío, who was also part of the *Auténtico* party and very friendly with Grau, was also largely seen as corrupt. The corruption once again became so obvious, that *Auténtico* once again replaced their candidate, with Carlos Hevia running in their stead instead for the scheduled June 1952

¹⁰ Simons, *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*, 255-256.

elections. However, there would never be a June 1952 presidential election in Cuba. Instead, Batista would do as all good sequels do and recreate the magic of his first regime by once again performing a military coup in March 1952.¹¹

BATISTA TAKES POWER AGAIN

Cuba had elections planned for June 1952, with Batista among nine candidates running for president. However, at the time of the coup there were only three competitive candidates for the election: Batista, Carlos Hevia, and Roberto Agramonte. December 1951 polling had shown Batista in third place out of these candidates. Hevia was running for the *Auténtico* party as Prío's successor, while Agramonte ran as a successor to Eduardo Chibás, who had committed suicide on air in summer 1951. The only other political coverage about Cuba during this time was an



Batista celebrates after his successful 1952 military coup

announcement that the US and Cuba had signed a military aid pact.¹²

On March 10th, 1952, Batista took control of the Cuban government in a military coup. Having maintained his connections from his time in the army, he had their full support. The coup was a quick and quiet affair, lasting a mere one hour and seventeen minutes, with only two casualties. Under Batista's command the

¹¹ Thomas, *Cuba, or, The Pursuit of Freedom*, 736; Simons, *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro*, 255-258.

¹² Hy Gardner, "Coast to Coast." *New York Herald Tribune*, Mar 03, 1952; Associated Press. "Cuba's Presidential Campaign Kicked Off." *Miami Herald*, Mar 2, 1952; Ferrer. *Cuba: An American History*. 270; "Cuba and US Sign Aid Pact" *Miami Herald*, Mar 8, 1952; "9 Candidates in Race for Cuban President." *Atlanta Daily World*, Mar 04, 1952.

army blocked any paths out of Havana and “took over bus and train depots, banks and government offices, radio and television stations.” President Prío swiftly fled the country and by March 11th Batista had canceled the upcoming elections. Within two weeks, the US government officially recognized the Batista government. The day the story of Batista’s broke in the US media, it made headlines in almost every major newspaper, with articles ranging from either light critiques of Batista to unabashed support.¹³

Batista claimed that his reason for his coup was to protect the Cuban people from *another* coup being planned by Prío. According to the strongman, he was informed by someone close to Prío that the man had planned his own coup for mid-April, fearing his own election loss. However, there is little evidence to truly support these claims with historians agreeing that in large it was a false justification by Batista in order to take power. Batista quickly used powers granted to him by the 1940 constitution to silence Cuban media and other opposition to him. After the US declared their support for him, his grip on power seemed at least momentarily secure in the eyes of his government and the international community. However, this security would have its foundation rocked when some youthful revolutionaries and their leader Fidel Castro attacked a military barracks in Santiago.

THE JULY 26th REVOLUTION AND THE TRAIL OF CASTRO

On July 26th, a young rebel named Fidel Castro and his allies attempted to take over the second largest army installation in Cuba, the Moncada barracks in Santiago. Although the rebels managed to kill thirty-three soldiers in their attack, it was ultimately an enormous failure. Subsequently, the Batista government quickly captured Castro and his allies. While Castro would later use this attack on the Moncada barracks as a rallying call for his revolution— called the July

¹³ Ferrer, *Cuba: An American History*, 270-271.

26th Movement– it was famous prior to that due to Batista’s quick limiting of constitutional guarantees and his government’s brutal response to the rebels.¹⁴

Historians describe the Batista government’s response as “the largest mass killing of prisoners [in Cuba] since the War of Independence.” Television reporter Carlos Franqui – a far left supporter of the student protests who would eventually join Castro’s revolution– was in Santiago after the attack to



The Rebels being arrested after the failed Moncada Barracks attack

report on an unrelated student protest. Upon arrival at the military base, Franqui asserts he was greeted with the corpses of sixty to seventy rebels hanging from the barracks. By his own account, Franqui photographed and filmed evidence of this brutality, only to be fired by the owner of the television channel he worked for– whom he believed to be a strong Batista supporter– when he presented this evidence to be aired.¹⁵

Some of the surviving rebels, primarily Haydée Santamaría, claimed that survivors such as herself and those killed by the Batista government were brutally tortured. Santamaría alleged that her arms were burned with lit cigarettes and that immediately after her arrest she was presented with the gouged-out eye of her brother and an intimate body part of her boyfriend, both of whom had also joined in the attack. Castro extended this claim further by declaring that all of the rebels whom Batista’s soldiers had murdered directly after the attack “were buried

¹⁴ Ferrer. *Cuba: An American History*, 278-280

¹⁵ Guerra, Lillian. *Heroes, martyrs, and Political Messiahs in Revolutionary Cuba, 1946-1958*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2018. 122-129

with[out] their eyes, their teeth, their [intimate parts].” These accounts of torture present the dominant narrative about the Batista government’s treatment of the rebels. However, some historians have questioned the accuracy of these accounts. Both Santamaría and Castro would contradict themselves in later accounts. Additionally, fellow rebel Ignacio Fiterre contended that Santamaría confided in him that her boyfriend had been tortured but admitted that she had “exaggerated the mutilation story.” Fiterre explained that although some of his co-conspirators were beaten, the arresting soldiers “did not have time for organized torture, what they did was simply murder them.” The dubiety of the claims of torture may help partly explain why there were not any news media accounts or images of Batista’s response to the Moncada Barracks Attack at that time; however, it may be equally as likely that if such brutal torture as Santamaría and Castro claimed did occur, that the Batista government prevented any evidence from being released.¹⁶

Regardless of the extent of the government’s brutality against the rebels, it is clear that more than the number that died in the initial attack were murdered by the government in vengeance without judicial hearings. Rebels given a trial did not receive a genuine due process as the Batista government swiftly suspended constitutional guarantees for 90 days. Batista also incarcerated thirty political leaders in a single sixteen- by ten-foot cell and did not



Haydée Santamaría’s mug shot following the Moncada Barracks attack

¹⁶ Antonio Rafael, de la Cova. *The Moncada Attack: Birth of the Cuban Revolution*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2007. 165; Guerra. *Heroes, martyrs, and Political Messiahs in Revolutionary Cuba*, 128-129; Ferrer. *Cuba: An American History*, 279.

notify their relatives of their location for nearly a week. A notable part of these sweeping repressions was Cuban print media being censored within two days of the attack. This meant that only in the US did the Moncada Barracks Attack make headlines.¹⁷

Following the July 26th attack, the rebels that survived the initial attack or the purge from Batista's army were put on trial. One of these men put on trial was Fidel Castro. Castro, having been educated as a lawyer at the University of Havana, decided he would represent himself. The trial itself had a predetermined outcome, Castro was always going to be found guilty. But he used this opportunity to show the Cuban people his passion for Cuba and his persuasive abilities. In a theatrical feat while representing himself, having been given the traditional robe given to lawyers, Castro would "don it when he assumed the role of lawyer, and shed it when he reverted to that of defendant."¹⁸ This also gave Castro unlimited time to talk, and talk he did. In a four hour long speech, Castro denounced the crimes of the Batista government, discussed how Cuban



Castro leaving the courthouse after his famous speech

history was one of triumph against tyranny, and declared "Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me." Castro was ultimately sentenced to 15 years in prison.¹⁹

Castro was imprisoned with his fellow revolutionaries. He would end up being released in 1955

after Batista approved broad clemency for political opponents. Castro spent his imprisonment

¹⁷ Guerra. *Heroes, martyrs, and Political Messiahs in Revolutionary Cuba*, 129-131.

¹⁸ I just think this is hilarious - your crisis director

¹⁹ Ferrer. *Cuba: An American History*, 280-287.

reading. Specifically, he focused on reading about revolutions. He read about the French Revolution, the famous Latin American liberator Simón Bolívar, and eventually the Russian Revolution. Castro found himself specifically drawn to the writings of Vladimir Lenin and Karl Marx. Reportedly, he spent six straight hours without a break reading Lenin's *State and Revolution*. He also took the time to educate his fellow imprisoned revolutionaries. He essentially ran a school, spending hours every day with his comrades lecturing on history, philosophy, and ideology. By the time Castro and his companions left prison, the fire of their revolutionary ideology had been stoked, not snuffed like Batista may have hoped for.²⁰

BATISTA TIGHTENS HIS GRIP

While Castro and his allies gained revolutionary fervor in their prison cells, Batista used the Moncada Barracks attack to tighten his grip on power over the island. On August 6th, 1953 Batista furthered his repression of any opposition by issuing Decree Law 997. This decree “prohibited citizens from ‘disobeying’, ‘harming’, or even ‘disparaging’ the 1940 Constitution.” This further promoted Batista’s rhetoric that he was restoring order to Cuba, a narrative which had stuck to since his coup the year prior with his vow to end gangstaism in Cuba. In terms of media censorship, the decree banned what it called propaganda— defined as “word of mouth”— from essentially every possible media format. It also prohibited defaming any Cuban or foreign government officials. The punishments for disobeying this decree were severe, sentences ranging from harsh fines to anywhere from three months to three years of jail time. Practically, this banned Cuban media from speaking out against the government. While Batista would ultimately end the suspension of constitutional guarantees after 86 days, the decree was only fully repealed

²⁰ Ferrer. *Cuba: An American History*, 282-291.

on May 3rd, 1954 in an attempt to increase support prior to the November election. Batista would ultimately win that election.²¹

CURRENT SITUATION - LOYALISTS

Another year, another fear. This committee will begin on January 1st, 1957. You have received reports that the Sierra Maestra mountains have become a haven for rebels led by Fidel Castro and his allies. The rebels' dense terrain and guerrilla tactics have made it incredibly difficult for your forces to locate and eradicate them. This has led to an uphill battle for the government, with the country's future hanging in the balance.

Adding to the complexity of the situation is the involvement of the United States. While the Americans still support Batista, their stance could change if they perceive that Batista's hold on power is slipping or their economic interests are threatened. The US does provide weapons to the Batista government under the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (IATRA), but these can only be used for defensive purposes and with US approval. So far, the US has refused to intervene to help Batista against the rebels publicly. This means that the government will have to look for alternative sources of weapons funding or find a way to circumvent these rules *without* getting caught.

Despite these challenges, the Cuban economy is booming, and wages are at an all-time high. However, this prosperity is only enjoyed by a select few, creating a growing discontent among the working class, who feel left behind by the rising tide. The political landscape is equally tumultuous, with Batista nearing the end of his four-year presidency. As per the Cuban

²¹ Guerra. *Heroes, martyrs, and Political Messiahs in Revolutionary Cuba*, 132; González, Patricia Calvo. "Visiones Desde Dentro. La Insurrección Cubana a Través Del Diario de La Marina y Bohemia (1956-1958)." *História (São Paulo)* 33, no. 2 (December 2014): 346–79; Iglesias, Juana Marta León. "Evolución de Las Ideas Filosófico Penales En Cuba El Código de Defensa Social y Otras Normativas Penales (1938-1958)." *Revista de Historia del Derecho* 45 (July 2013): 111– 140.

Constitution, he is ineligible to run again, meaning he must put forward a successor to run in his place. This has led to speculation and uncertainty, with many wondering who will be chosen to lead the country in the coming years.

Additionally, Cuba is a state of emergency in terms of healthcare. Massive inequalities persist amongst the wealthier urban Cubans and the poorer rural Cubans. Cuba has the highest ratio of hospital beds to the population of anywhere in Latin America, yet 80% of them are located in just Havana. Cuba has a high ratio of doctors to civilians, ranking above Britain both and France, but the vast majority are in major cities. Inequalities in healthcare are so vast that in the rural population: 80% of children have some sort of intestinal parasite, 13% of the population has had typhoid and 14% have had tuberculosis, only 11% of farm workers drink milk, and rural infant mortality is at a whopping 10%. Additionally, only $\frac{1}{4}$ peasants are able to regularly afford eating meat, eggs, and fish, making the rural population considerably malnourished. On the bright side, the island has the lowest infant mortality rate in all of Latin America and the third lowest mortality rate in the whole world. This immense inequality has further driven the rebel cause as they recruit people from the ranks of disgruntled and hurt rural farmers.

Luckily due to Batista being a former military general, he has the full support of the armed forces. This could be extremely beneficial if used correctly. However, there are two important things to keep in mind: First, that it is essentially impossible for the army to get to the rebels directly. The Sierra Maestra mountains are far too dense and the rebels are experts at moving and hiding in their thick forests. Second, while Cuban media has been pretty sufficiently repressed, any clear use of the military to harm or hurt people will likely spread throughout Cuba. While Batista is not the most popular, he does have some legitimate support from the

populus. The older crowd especially remembers him as the man who saved them from former Cuban Dictator Machedo and led them during WWII.



The Sierra Maestra Mountains, where Castro and his Rebels hid

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER - LOYALISTS

- 1) How does one fight a war where they cannot access the enemy?
- 2) How will this committee deal with the US's business interests?
- 3) How will this committee find weapons to fight the rebels, when they cannot use the weapons provided by the US?
- 4) Who will run for Batista in the 1958 presidential election?
- 5) How will Batista protect the populace from the rebels' vicious attacks?
- 6) How will the committee navigate Batista's clear connections to organized crime while also maintaining at least a veneer of economic legitimacy?

LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - LOYALISTS

Note: Your DMUNC Committee Chair will be playing this role:

Fulgencio Batista - President of Cuba

Fulgencio Batista is the current president of Cuba after winning the 1954 presidential election. He overthrew the previous government in 1952 via a military coup. Batista was previously Cuba's president from 1934-1944 after a US mandated military coup and was a revered military general before that. He currently has a tight grip over the country and the loyalty of everyone in this committee.

Delegate Positions

Note: In order to create a fair balance of committee positions and powers, some delegates have additional portfolio powers that were not historically related to their character. This is due to a lack of accessible information on the makeup of the Batista government in 1957. It will be noted

if your position was not truly in that position historically. If you have any questions about your position, feel free to email dmunc.sg@gmail.com.

The following are the characters that delegates will assume during the committee in alphabetical order.

Andrés Rivero Agüero - Minister of Education

Andrés Rivero Agüero was born into an extremely poor family in eastern Cuba. However, Agüero had immense determination, he taught himself how to read at 16, got a high school education solely through his own efforts, and obtained a law degree from the University of Havana. Eventually, Agüero was elected to the city council of Santiago de Cuba where he became the leader of the Liberal Party. Through this political work, Agüero met Batista. The two men came from similar backgrounds and became fast friends. Batista would appoint Agüero to be his Minister of Agriculture during his first regime. Inbetween Batista's two regimes, Agüero practiced law and writing via his political commentary for multiple magazines. Once Batista came back, Agüero was a primary organizer for Batista's United Action Party. After Batista's coup, he was elected as a Senator from Pinar del Río Province which he still serves as. Additionally, he is currently Batista's Minister of Education and subsequently a member of his cabinet. As Minister of Education, Agüero oversees all levels of education in Cuba, creates the national curriculum, and oversees the nation's teachers.

TLDR: Agüero is a long-time friend of Batista, a Senator, and the Minister of Education.

Jose "Pepin" Bosch - President of Bacardi Rum

Jose "Pepin" Bosch is the President of the world famous Bacardi Rum company. Pepin married into the famous Bacardi family when he married his wife Enriqueta Schueg Bacardi, daughter of Enrique Schueg, one of the founders of Bacardi Rum. It is Pepin who is credited with having saved the family business from financial ruin during the Great Depression. He is known for having expanded Bacardi even further onto the international stage with his savvy business decisions. But Pepin is more than just a businessman. It was Pepin who served as Carlos Prío's minister of finance and helped fix some of the massive corruption and gangsterism from Prío's government. As such, Pepin is viewed by the public as a savvy businessman, with his talents extending to work in both the private and public sectors. Notably, Pepin may be the most neutral man in this committee. His number one goal is keeping Bacardi rum under his family's control. However, he is not particularly close to Batista. Instead, the two share an uneasy alliance, with the strongman not quite forgiving him for having previously assisted his political rival.

TLDR: Pepin owns Bacardi rum, was previously Cuba's Minister of Finance, and cares solely about the success of his family business.

Eulogio Cantillo - Chief of the Joint Staff

Eulogio Cantillo was a young military prodigy. He graduated from the Cuban Military Academy with High Honors and quickly rose through the ranks of the military. Although Cantillo did not participate in Batista's 1952 coup, he currently sits as the Chief of the Joint Staff for the Batista government. This makes him the highest ranked military officer in Cuba besides Batista himself. As such, Cantillo's command comes second only to Batista, giving him immense influence and control over Cuba's national army. Interestingly, rumors have been floating around as to whether he could have sympathy for the rebel guerrillas. While Cantillo vehemently denies

these rumors, they could prove to be valuable connections for the committee if the rumors are true.

TLDR: Cantillo is in charge of the military, but may have rebel sympathies.

Alberto del Rio Chaviano - Minister of Urban Development

Note: Rio Chaviano was not the Minister of Urban Development in reality, but will be for the purpose of this committee. Other information in this description or found in your own research that is historically accurate is still true and applicable here.

Alberto del Rio Chaviano is a brigadier general as well as the Minister of Urban Development and subsequently a member of Batista's cabinet. Rio Chaviano was the chief colonel of the Moncada Barracks during the Rebels (in)famous July 26th, 1953 attack. His military prowess led to him gaining the nickname "Jackal of the East". Due to his successful defense of the Moncada Barracks, Batista granted him control of police forces in the Oriente province which includes the Sierra Maestra mountains where the rebels are stationed and Cuba's second largest city, Santiago. Recently, Batista has appointed Rio Chaviano to serve as Cuba's Minister of Urban Development. As Minister of Urban Development, Rio Chaviano oversees the creation of housing and other urban services in Cuba. Notably, rumors have begun to swirl that Batista has been increasing his personal wealth via the reappropriation of public funds meant for urban housing developments to his own pockets. If this were true, Rio Chaviano would likely be an important factor in Batista's ability to do that.

TLDR: Rio Chaviano was the commander of the Moncada Barracks during the July 26th attack, is the Minister of Urban Development, and controls police forces in Eastern Cuba.

Bob Considine - US Journalist

Bob Considine is a loyal American citizen who detests communism. He has been a journalist for over two decades and helped launch multiple newspaper companies in the US. In 1952, Considine wrote an article warning the American public of the danger Cuba could pose were it to turn red, work with the Soviets, and have access to nuclear weapons. Considine has interviewed Batista personally multiple times and been a personal guest at his home. He is quite biased in favor of Batista and is as close as a foreign reporter could be to the strongman. Considine essentially functions as Batista's voice to the American people. This is important, as the US government has been shown to be swayed by public opinion. Additionally, US media is far more free and spread internationally than Cuban media. Meaning what Considine reports will be seen by not only the US but the world as legitimate information from Cuba. Considine is also an avid sports fan, especially with tennis.

TLDR: Considine is a well-known American journalist who has personally interviewed Batista multiple times, loves tennis, and hates communism.

Mirta Díaz-Balart - Philosopher

Mirta Díaz-Balart is the daughter of prominent Cuban politician, fellow committee member, and current Minister of Transportation Rafael José Díaz-Balart, the younger sister of fellow committee member and current Minister of the Interior Rafael Díaz-Balart, and the older sister of the up and coming painter and actor Waldo Díaz-Balart. Mirta was a philosophy student at the University of Havana and has considerable knowledge on both moral and political philosophy. While studying, she met and fell in love with a young Fidel Castro. The two married one month following the birth of their son Fidel Ángel Castro Díaz-Balart in 1948. However, the

two divorced in 1955 during Castro's prison sentence for the July 26th, 1953 Moncada Barracks attack. Mirta was granted sole custody of their now eight year old son, whom Castro only briefly reconnected with prior to the beginning of his revolution. Last year, Mirta married Emilio Núñez Blanco, the son of fellow committee member and member of the UN Security Council Emilio Núñez Portuond. She is also an employee of the Minister of the Interior under her brother. While Mirta may have initiated the divorce of her ex-husband Castro, her reasoning for that is unclear. She still has considerable influence over the revolutionary leader both personally and via their son Fidel Jr.

TLDR: Mirta is well-educated, from an extremely well-connected family, the mother of Fidel Castro's only (legitimate) child, and an influential employee in Cuba's Minister of the Interior.

Rafael Díaz-Balart - Minister of the Interior and President of the Cuban House of Representatives

Rafael Díaz-Balart is the son of prominent Cuban politician, fellow committee member, and current Minister of Transportation Rafael José Díaz-Balart, the older brother of fellow committee member and Fidel Castro's ex-wife Mirta Díaz-Balart, and the older brother of the up and coming painter and actor Waldo Díaz-Balart. Rafael is both the President of the Cuban House of Representatives and the Minister of the Interior in Batista's cabinet. As of 1957, Cuba is still technically a democracy and requires approval from both the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass new legislation. However, in reality Batista approves or disapproves legislation and both chambers follow suit. Nevertheless, Rafael has immense influence over the House of Representatives as its president which can be leveraged. Additionally, Rafael is also Cuba's Minister of Interior and consequently a member of Batista's cabinet. As the Minister of the Interior, Rafael oversees the nation's internal affairs such as: public security, civil registration and identification, public order, supervision of regional and local governments, conduction of elections, and public administration and immigration.

TLDR: Rafael is the President of the (currently mostly hollow) Cuban House of Representatives and is the Minister of the Interior. He is also a member of the powerful and influential Díaz-Balart family.

Rafael José Díaz-Balart - Minister of Transportation

Note: For the purpose of this committee, he will be referred to as José Díaz-Balart as to not confuse him with son and fellow committee member Rafael Díaz-Balart.

Rafael José Díaz-Balart was born in Santiago de Cuba. He studied law at the University of Havana and became a municipal judge in the city of Palma Soriano, a city located in the province of Santiago de Cuba. Eventually, José would be elected mayor of the town of Banes in eastern Cuba and later a member of the Cuban House of Representatives. Throughout all of this, he has maintained a law practice which now operates outside of Havana. José is the patriarch of the Díaz-Balart family. He is the father of fellow committee member and current Minister of the Interior Rafael Díaz-Balart, fellow committee member and ex-wife of Fidel Castro Mirta Díaz-Balart, and the up and coming painter and actor Waldo Díaz-Balart. He is also the Minister of Transportation and consequently a member of Batista's cabinet. As the Minister of Transportation, José oversees Cuba's national infrastructure, transportation, and public works. He is in charge of air, rail, public, and maritime transport, as well as in charge of infrastructural

projects and public works such as building roads, community centers, and other publicly funded works.

TLDR: José is the patriarch of the Díaz-Balart family, owner of a popular law firm, and Minister of Transportation in Cuba.

Fermina Lázara Batista Estévez - Daughter of Batista

Fermina Lázara Batista Estévez was born in 1935 as the product of an affair between her mother and Fulgencio Batista. Although unwilling to publicly and officially acknowledge her due to his position, it is an open secret that Batista loves his illegitimate daughter dearly. Batista supports her financially, allowing her to attend the University of Havana where she is studying veterinary sciences. She is very popular and influential on campus due to her charming personality and the open-secret of who her father is. When not studying or socializing, Fermina spends her time volunteering at animal shelters in Havana. She is the leader of a student volunteer group at the University of Havana that works with animals. She also has strong connections with local charities throughout Cuba due to her work.

TLDR: Fermina is the illegitimate– and favorite– child of Batista. She is supported by him financially and spends the time she has free from university doing charity work, primarily for animals.

Mariano Faget - Head of the Bureau of Repression of Communist Activities

Note: His last name is pronounced Pho (like the noodle) - jet. [Here](#) is a link to a pronunciation video.

Mariano Faget is the Head of the Bureau of Repression of Communist Activities, also known as BRAC. BRAC was founded by and receives funding from the United States CIA with the goal of stopping communist activity in Cuba. However, in reality, BRAC functions as the secret police of Cuba and conducts various clandestine operations to silence Batista's political opponents and keep the strongman in power. Faget and BRAC are strongly anti-communist, partly out of necessity to continue to receive foreign funding. Faget is known for being quite brutal. He famously ordered his agents to fire upon student protesters during a 1955 student demonstration against Batista leading to several students being wounded, including Rebel Committee member Camilo Cienfuegos. Faget first gained fame as a Nazi Hunter during the second half of Batista's first regime in the midst of WWII. During the war, he was the chief of the Office of Investigation of Enemy Activity. This was a counter-espionage group that targeted Nazis and Fascist agents in accordance with Cuba's strong alliance with the US against the axis powers during the war.

TLDR: Faget is the leader of the secret police agency called BRAC and is known for being brutal. He has experience in counter-espionage and receives funding for BRAC from the United States CIA.

Arthur Gardner - US Ambassador to Cuba

Arthur Gardner is the US Ambassador to Cuba. Gardner was one of US President Eisenhower's earliest supporters. Gardner originally met the future president during WWI after he enlisted as a private. Eisenhower was a major at that time and the two became close under the stresses of war. After WWI, Gardner became a partner at the investment firm Anderson & Gardner located in Detroit. Following this, Gardner worked as an assistant to the US Secretary of Treasury. When Eisenhower announced his run for president, Gardner quickly backed him financially and proved other forms of support. As a thank you, Gardner was made the

ambassador to Cuba beginning in 1953. Gardener and Batista are extremely close. So much so, that Gardner has been known to actively obstruct the release of information to Washington that is critical of Batista. At one point, he was even asked to resign, only to personally beg Eisenhower to allow him to stay. Gardner strongly believes that Castro's rebellion is backed by the Soviets. As such, he has been urging Eisenhower to get involved on Batista's side. However, these efforts have not proven fruitful. Popular opinion in the US is that Castro does not have Soviet connections at this time. Batista and Gardner have lunch together once a week to discuss various topics ranging from personal to political. Gardener is by far Batista's biggest advocate to Washington and a major ally to the strongman.

TLDR: Gardner is the US Ambassador to Cuba. He is close to both the Cuban President and the US President.

Doctor José Jordan - Minister of Health

Note: Jordan was not the Minister of Health in reality, but will be for the purpose of this committee.

Doctor José Jordan has recently been appointed as Batista's Minister of Health, making him a part of his cabinet. Jordan is a nationally renowned doctor especially in the fields of nutrition and pediatrics. Coming from an impoverished family within Cuba, Jordan rose through the ranks of high class society, obtaining his medical license from the U.S., all as a result of his vast intellect and knowledge of all things medical related. Upon returning to Cuba from the U.S, Jordan quickly distinguished himself as a leader in the healthcare sector, advocating for improved access to medical services and pioneering innovative approaches to public health challenges within Cuba's impoverished. Seeing as Cuba's healthcare system is incredibly unequal especially within the impoverished population, Batista decided to make Jordan the Minister of Health through his vast education and popularity amongst the medical world. Despite coming from humble beginnings Jordan is an ambitious and altruistic person who finds sympathy within the impoverished class due to living a similar lifestyle. However, since Batista has put Jordan under such a critical position where the lives of many of Cuba's impoverished depend on his ability to provide proper aid, Jordan must ensure that he does his job well and utilizes his powers as the health minister to help the underprivileged class. If he fails to do so, the peasants and rural folk will almost certainly turn against a government who cannot support them properly. Overall, Jordan has control over all of the hospitals in Cuba, access to renowned doctors and scientists, and deep knowledge of Cuba and healthcare as a whole.

TLDR: Being the Minister of Health, Jordan can help in creating health policies, building and running new medical infrastructures, and generally regulating healthcare across Cuba.

Meyer Lansky - Mafia Leader

Meyer Lansky is a Cuban mafia leader who has cultivated close business ties to Batista and the local Cuban government. Coming from a U.S. immigrant family, he slowly advanced into the crime world and is now well known for how he expands organized crime influences into legitimate businesses. He invests heavily in Cuban casinos, hotels, and nightclubs attracting many American tourists while simultaneously generating significant revenue for the Cuban economy. Through financial bribery, arrangements, and political connections, Lansky has cemented himself as a prominent member of Batista's arsenal. By enabling direct access to high ranking officials and politicians, he is able to shape policies and regulations that benefit his gambling enterprise. Lansky is a pragmatic and adaptable person who pursues opportunities that maximize his interests the most while primarily operating from the shadows. His large financial

contributions to the Cuban government and his vast connections within the political inner workings of Batista's regime have made him a dominating force that won't easily be deterred.

TLDR: Lansky has vast financial resources, various political connections, and heavy monopolization over the gambling and entertainment industries within Cuba.

Julio Lobo - Sugar Broker

Julio Lobo was born in Caracas, Venezuela to a Jewish father and a Catholic mother. At a young age his family moved to Havana where he would grow up. He would later study in the US and marry into the Montalvo family, who are long-time Cuban aristocrats. Right after graduating from college in the US, Lobo used the trading business he inherited from his father to broker the most lucrative sugar deal at that point in history at \$6 million dollars. He quickly turned this into a massive empire. As of 1957, Lobo alone controls 10% of Cuba's entire sugar trade for an estimated net worth of over \$200 million USD, which is the equivalent of \$1.8 billion USD in 2020. With sugar being Cuba's largest economic sector and the nation being the largest exporter of sugar in the world, this makes Lobo a very rich and influential man. Lobo is also a *strong* believer in capitalism. He primarily uses the money from his capitalistic enterprises to collect art. He has the largest collection of Napoleonic memorabilia outside of France.

TLDR: Lobo is an extremely wealthy sugar plantation owner who loves capitalism and Napoleonic memorabilia.

Anselmo Alliegro y Milá - President of the Senate of Cuba

Anselmo Alliegro y Milá was born in Cuba to Spanish and Italian parents. His parents both kept a close connection to their homelands, and Milá would often visit as a boy. As such, he has cultivated connections in Europe. Milá is the President of the Senate of Cuba. As of 1957, Cuba is still technically a democracy and requires approval from both the House of Representatives and the Senate to pass new legislation. However, in reality Batista approves or disapproves legislation and both chambers follow suit. Nevertheless, Milá has immense influence over the Senate as its president which can be leveraged. He also has other political experience, having previously been the Minister of Commerce, Minister of Housing, and Minister of Education at various points.

TLDR: Milá has connections to Europe and is the President of Cuba's Senate.

Marta Fernández Miranda - First Lady of Cuba

On one beautiful spring day, Marta Fernández Miranda was riding her bike through the Cuban countryside. Suddenly, a man on a motorbike accidentally ran her off the road, sending her tumbling into the nearby grass. The man quickly stopped his motorbike and went to help her. When their eyes locked, the man instantly fell for her beauty and grace. That man was Marta's future husband, Fulgencio Batista. For years, Marta was forced to remain as his mistress. However, after Batista's divorce, the two married. They spent the first few years of their marriage in Miami, living in a house off the Floridaian coast. After the coup, Marta became Cuba's new first lady. During her time as First Lady, she has focused on two things: art and God. Marta is an art lover and convinced her husband to build the National Art Gallery, which she is now the president of. Cuba's National Art Gallery is new but with an ever expanding collection of pieces from around the world. Additionally, Marta is an extremely devout Catholic. Recently, she has begun to have intense dreams that feel spiritual to her in nature. In an attempt to make sense of these visions, Marta has commissioned the creation of a 20 meter tall statue of Jesus. The project has broken ground in Casablanca, Habana and is located near Castillo de los Tres

Reyes del Morro, a famous castle and fort dating back to the 16th century on the Havana waterfront. Marta is adored by Batista and has immense sway over her husband, with whom she shares four children.

TLDR: Marta is the first lady of Cuba and a devout Catholic. She is the president of Cuba's National Art Gallery and has recently begun to have vivid dreams she believes are spiritual.

Jorge García Montes - Prime Minister

Jorge García Montes was born in New York City while his father was in exile during the Cuban War of Independence. Once the war ended, Montes and his family moved back to Cuba. Montes studied law at the University of Havana. He served as a member of the Liberal Party of Cuba for 20 years. Montes currently serves as a Senator and the Prime Minister of Cuba. Although the role of Prime Minister is mostly a facade, with Batista having true control, Montes still has sizable influence over governmental functions as Prime Minister. During his free time, Montes enjoys writing and reading historical books. As such, he has begun a chronicle of the going-ons in Cuba he hopes to one day publish.

TLDR: Montes is a long-time Liberal Party member, current Prime Minister, and is writing a historical account of the events in Cuba.

Arturo Sosa Palacios - Minister of Labor

Arturo Sosa Palacios currently serves as the Minister of Labor for Batista's regime and is subsequently a member of Batista's cabinet. Having prior education in politics and law, Arturo joined Batista's Cabinet with strong knowledge of the local labor issues, and likewise has assisted in establishing order amongst the various labor disputes created by the Cuban working class. He plays a key role in formulating and implementing policies aimed at maintaining labor stability and supporting the interests of the regime and private employers. He is most famous for his approach to resolving labor disputes which involves promoting mutual cooperation between stakeholders who heavily influence the industrial landscape of the nation. Following the mentality of Batista's regime, his policies favor the authoritarian government and the ruling elite concerning job opportunities and salary negotiation. As such, he has further exacerbated existing inequalities within Cuban Society. Arturo is a shrewd loyal man who completely supports the Batista regime despite heavy criticism from outsiders. He is extremely knowledgeable about the complexities within Cuban politics concerning the disparity between the working and elite class.

TLDR: Palacios is the Minister of Labor and has vast knowledge of implementing policies within the socio-economic landscape of Cuba. He is also skilled in negotiating disputes between workers and their employers, to the benefit of Batista's regime.

Emilio Núñez Portuond - Member of the UN Security Council

Emilio Núñez Portuond is the son of the formerly powerful politician General Emilio Núñez Rodríguez. Rodríguez was the vice president of former Cuban President Menocal and was the governor of Havana. Even though Portuond came from such an important father, Portuond forged his own path. He graduated with a law degree from the University of Havana and served as an envoy to Panama, Peru, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg during Batista's first regime. He oversaw the 1940 Constitutional Convention of Cuba as the Secretary and temporarily served as the Minister of Labor in 1954 and has maintained connections to that ministry. Currently, he is Cuba's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and is a member of the UN Security Council. The UN Security Council cycles through a different

President, chosen from the members of the Security Council, every month. As such, Portuond served as President of the UN Security Council in September 1956 and is slated to serve again in September 1957. He is well-known for his excellent handling of the September 1956 Hungarian uprising as the UN Security Council President. He is also the father-in-law to Fidel Castro's ex-wife Mirta Díaz-Balart.

TLDR: Portuond is Cuba's UN Representative and a member of the UN Security Council.

Colonel Antonio Blanco Rico - Chief of Military Intelligence Service & Secret Service

Colonel Antonio Blanco Rico is the Chief of Military Intelligence within Cuba and is a large part of Batista's secret service. Originally a part of the military, Rico held various positions within the establishment, rising exponentially through the ranks until he obtained the rank of colonel. Due to his merits and long experience in the military, Batista entrusted him with his current role of Chief of Military Intelligence. Under this role, he gathers information on potential threats to Batista's regime. Simultaneously, Rico was also invited to join Batista's secret service and acts as his primary safeguard while maintaining internal security within the nation against foreign and rebel enemies. As such, he plays a crucial role in safeguarding Batista's regime against internal and external threats. Rico is a disciplined and loyal member of Batista's arsenal and proved himself to be so through his actions of political repression amongst the public while monitoring suspected revolutionists and dissidents who could jeopardize Batista's presidency.

TLDR: Rico is the Chief of Military Intelligence and a huge part of Batista's Secret Service. This means that he has the power of Cuba's military intelligence as well and direct access to Batista's inner circle.

Gustavo Cuervo Rubio - Chief of National Police Force

Gustavo Cuervo Rubio currently serves as the Chief of the National Police Force for Batista's government. He originally served as an unsuccessful candidate for vice presidency during the election of 1936. Although he served as the Foreign Minister during the Ramón Grau administration, he quickly threw his support behind Batista following the strongman's coup, due to perceiving Batista's newfound presidency as a way to provide a more advantageous path for his career. Prior to his role in Batista's regime, he worked in both law enforcement and military service. His expertise in security matters have made him a trusted ally of the strongman and a key figure in the regime's security apparatus. Rubio is a shrewd opportunist, who carefully calculates and works with whoever is in power and brings him the most worth, regardless of party affiliation. As a high ranking official of the security sector, he is well known for cracking down on political opposition, suppressing government protests, and overall ensuring that loyalty and structure are maintained amongst the Cuban people towards Batista's regime. Rumors are floating around that Rubio's methods are barbaric and promote authoritarian rule. His heavy repression of political protests has raised outcry from many native Cubans. Overall Gustavo is a high ranking official in Batista's regime and works hard to enforce his high position via his loyalty to the regime.

TLDR: Gustavo is the Chief of the National Police Force known for his intense repression of political opposition. He has power over local law enforcement, access to Cuban intelligence information, and control over Cuban security forces.

Frank Sinatra - American Singer

Frank Sinatra is an extremely talented American singer who is known all around the

world for his distinctive vocals and interpretive songs. Growing up in an Italian American family in Hoboken, New Jersey, Sinatra began singing in orchestras in the 1940's and ended up becoming a full fledged internationally famous artist by the 1950s. Although Sinatra is primarily known for his influence in the music industry, he is also known to have ties to mafia members, especially within the Cuban entertainment scene. Performing in many entertainment venues such as casinos, nightclubs, and hotels in Cuba, Sinatra has cultivated many ties with local mafia leaders such as Meyer Lansky himself. Sinatra has supported Batista's regime by using his fame to consistently bring in tourists with frequent performances in Cuba. These have also made him lots of money, allowing the singer and Batista to mutually benefit from the strongman's open policies on nightlife and tourism. Sinatra is a charming and passionate man who has maintained an important yet secretive position within the mafia scene of Cuba. Although Batista does not personally have a close relationship with Sinatra, their mutual support of one another has placed him on the strongman's side.

TLDR: Sinatra has many ties to mafia leaders within Cuba and likewise holds large influence and wealth within Cuba's entertainment industry.

Rafeal Trujillo - President of Dominican Republic

Rafeal Trujillo is the president of the Dominican Republic. He is a great friend and the strongest international ally of Batista. Trujillo rose to power after staging a military coup in 1930. He consolidated control over the Dominican Republic by employing similar authoritarian tactics as Batista via suppressing dissidents and maintaining order through militaristic tactics. Known for his iron-fisted personality, Trujillo has cultivated close ties with his neighboring leaders— especially Batista— through their shared interests in authoritarianism and common geopolitical interests. Through his strategic alliances, economic control over the entirety of the Dominican Republic, and his spheres of influences expanding beyond his home country and throughout the Caribbean, Trujillo is a powerful ally and great friend of Batista and his government. Currently, Trujillo is unable to provide any direct military aid to Cuba beyond supplies as he is unwilling to so blatantly disregard international law.

TLDR: Trujillo has mastery over authoritarian tactics and is a skillful manipulator of various political and military institutions all over the Caribbean.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

This committee will be a Joint-Crisis Committee, also known as a JCC. There will be two separate committees, both taking place beginning in 1957. The actual revolution ended at the very end of 1958. However, based on the actions of your committee and your opponents, this timeline could expand or shrink. One side of this JCC will be the Loyalists, or the side of Fulgencio Batista's government. The other side will be the Rebels, or the side of Fidel Castro and other anti-Batista actors. Both sides will have their own crisis updates, but they may also

influence one another! For example, if the Rebels were to launch an attack against the Loyalists, the Loyalists may receive a crisis update about that. Both sides will also receive individual crisis updates the other side does not receive. Each side has unique individual problems their committees will need to solve, as well as problems that will tip the balance of the revolution in or against their favor. While crisis updates will be created by your crisis staff, we hope as the committee goes on that crisis updates will eventually come mostly if not completely from delegates!

Your committee, and / or the opposing side, can be affected via directives, JPDs, or personal crisis notes. *Keep in mind, the order of power from most to least is: directives, JPDs, and then personal crisis notes.* However, a well-executed, well-written, long-term personal crisis arc could end up having more sway than a JPD or even a directive, especially towards the end of committee! Your goal as a committee is for your Batista's side to win. Your goal as an individual delegate is to increase your personal power and influence. This comes in two forms: first, with your peers in your committee (or even possibly those in the opposing committee...) via directives, speeches, and unmods. Second, in the backroom via well-thought out, well-executed, and creative crisis arcs and notes.

A best delegate will be the delegate who best manages to consistently influence the front-room via directives, speeches, and unmods, while also expanding their power with their personal crisis arcs. The most impressive delegates may even be able to use directives and work with their peers in the front room to strengthen their crisis arcs behind the scenes!

Delegates will be able to switch sides and go from a Rebel to a Loyalist or a Loyalist to a Rebel. However, this must be built up and be accompanied by a well-thought out plan and sufficient justification for the swap. If a delegate were to swap, they will be eligible for awards

only in their original committee, not in the one they swapped into. If you are going to switch though, be careful not to get caught before it happens! As long as you are still in your committee, other delegates can vote to put you on trial. Or possibly could even kidnap you back after you've left!

Overall delegates, we hope to make this Cuban Revolution JCC as fun and interactive as possible. We want you to have the freedom and courage to come up with thought, unique, and well-executed plans both as a group and individually. Remember, do not take this lightly! The fate of the entire nation of Cuba rests on your shoulders.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

This is completely optional! But if the topic interests you or you would like to do more research, here are some books I, your crisis director, find to be well written and informative...

- 1) *Cuba: An American History* by Ada Ferrer
- 2) *Cuba: From Conquistador to Castro* by Geoff Simons
- 3) *Havana Nocturne* by T.J. English
- 4) *Cuba* by Hugh Thomas

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to email your CCD at dmunc.sg@gmail.com.