

Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



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Dear Delegates,

Hello, my name is Serena White, and this will be my third year in SIMUN. I am a junior here at St. Ignatius College Prep, and along with participating in Model UN, I also sail on our school's team. I am excited to welcome you to SIMUN XVI. I hope that this committee will be an exciting and historical experience for all of you delegates. We will be discussing the topics of South African Apartheid and the Cuban Missile Crisis, in eventful year 1962. This committee will be guided by the history preceding 1962, and will discuss real problems and possible solutions that might have occurred at this politically significant time. South African Apartheid in 1962 was becoming a global affair, and thus the United Nations became involved in many different aspects. The Cuban missile crisis was one of the biggest international scares of the 1960's and has become an important part of the international community's history. This committee will be run in a general assembly fashion, very similar to that of the Disarmament and International Security Committee or DISEC for short. I hope to see a lot of collaboration and strong work ethic from all delegates. Although these topics are focused on specific regions, all countries play a pivotal role in deciding the future of the international community. See you all in November!

Best,

Serena White

Topic A: South African Apartheid

Introduction

Racial segregation in South Africa had roots long before the beginning of South African Apartheid began. Beginning in 1913 with the heavily argued about Land Act that marked the dawn of racial segregation in the country. After the National Party gained power in South Africa in 1948 its completely white newly in power government began introducing codes that legally



separated blacks and whites. The opponents to the Land Act of 1913 formed the South African National Native Congress, which would later turn into the influential, African National Congress (ANC).

On documents and legislation apartheid seemed to be a political system developed to allow both whites and blacks to have free development and cultural appreciation within a race. After the emergence of the all white National Party in 1948 a 50 year long reign built on the foundation of separation thrived, despite its appearance on paper.

After the emergence of the great depression and the outbreak of World War II the World became more outraged with racial segregation and began to recognize the mounting problems that would come with legal and systematic racism.

The Population Registration Act of 1950 created the shell for apartheid by categorizing all South Africans by their race. Apartheid, run by all white politicians, had banned the marriage between whites and any other race, and was even responsible for the splitting of families.

In 1959, the Bantu self-government act dictated that different races must live in separate places. This caused a large stir among many Bantus, due to the fact that they made up the large portion of the South African population.

Summary

By early 1962 South African apartheid was kicked into full gear and more resistance movements from members of such parties as the African National Congress became more frequent. After the disastrous Sharpeville Massacre in 1960, the international community was called to action by the horrendous displays of

violations of basic human rights, and blatant cruelty.

The Massacre took place only a couple of months before the banning of the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, during a protest for the total banning of pass laws, which dictated where Bantus (black South Africans) could and could not



travel. With the intention of a peaceful demonstration, jittery police officers fired their weapons on an unarmed crowd of 5000 people. 69 were left dead and well over a hundred were severely injured.

Around the world racial issues were being more widely discussed such as in the United States with the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement, and in 1962 South Africa was becoming the center of attention.

Issues at Hand

As an International community every country in Polisec 1962 has an essential role and an important stake with the outcome of South African apartheid. As a committee, it is important that we acknowledge the violations of the declaration of human rights written in 1948, and apply them to South Africa.

Vocabulary

Pan Africanist Congress – A political party created in 1959 whose influence lasted for just a half century in South Africa. The PAC was prominent during the bulk of the apartheid, and was responsible for anti pass campaigns across the nation.

African National Congress – A political party created in 1912 which first focused on preserving voting rights for all races within South Africa. Later it became the biggest organized force fighting against apartheid, all the way to its banning in 1960 and much later.

National Party - A political party created in 1915 that consisted of all white members, who also are known as nationalists. The party governed using the theory of separate development.

Bantu – Referring to people of black skin color living within South Africa.

Coloured - Referring to people of other races besides black and white living within South Africa.

Afrikaans –Referring to people of Dutch origin living within South Africa.

Topic B: Cold War and Cuban Missile Crisis

Introduction

Throughout the second world war the United States and the USSR were allied together to fight against the axis powers. Although the democratic and communist nation worked together towards a common goal in 1945, their relationship was a tense one. After WWII ended, the two nations



tense relationship only grew to be more strenuous and involved nations around the world. The

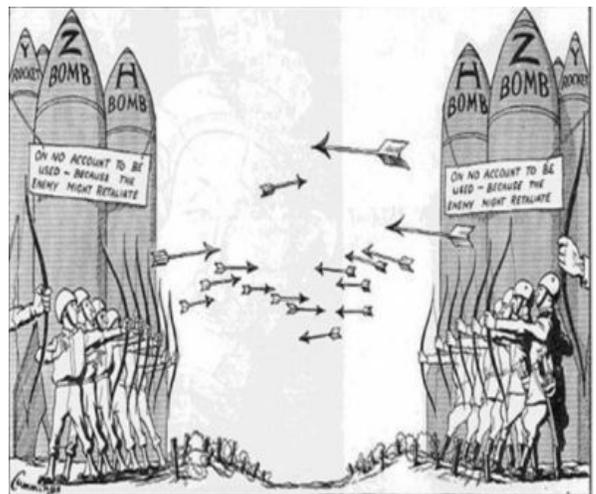
cold war despite being directly between two nations, affected the entire international community and forced many nations to choose democracy or communism.

Post World War soviet expansionism sparked alarm within Americans, and sparked a policy of containment. Containment a political policy created by George Keenan by preventing the spread of communism, and thus attacking communism. The USSR began combating containment by spreading out in Eastern Europe and absorbing countries into their empire.

Summary

In the 50s, the United States took the first military action of the Cold War by interfering, when the North Korean People's Army attacked the democratic counterpart in the south. Backed by its containment policies the US, stepped in creating even more friction between itself and the Soviet Union. In the early 60's several issues arose within the Western hemisphere regarding the Cold War. With the previous tension from the US involvement in South Korea, and the failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961, the cold war in 1962 was shaping up to be both an eventful but also crucial year in the Cold War conflict.

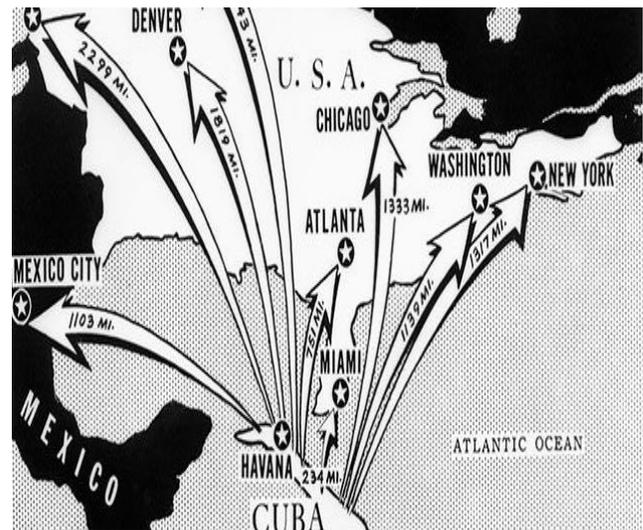
By 1962, a method called Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) was in practice between the Soviet Union and the United States. This policy was effective because it deterred a nation from using nuclear technology against another, for fear of retaliation from the country that was attacked.



Throughout the international community countries were split into three distinct camps. The Warsaw Pact camp of eastern European countries headed by the USSR, the NATO camp led by the United States, and the nonaligned countries. Because the United States and the USSR were some of the most influential nations in the world, being aligned or nonaligned with either one made a large political statement.

Issues at Hand

Despite the Cold War being “cold” in 1962 the possibility of it becoming heated was very real. Both the United States and the USSR were using nuclear technology and advancing science to develop new weapons, which made this age a perilous one. In October of 1962 the Cuban Missile Crisis arose, and became the closest instance that the world has ever seen of nuclear warfare. Both leaders from the US and the Soviet Union, and leaders non allied and allied, were fearful for the dangerous outcomes of nuclear warfare.



Vocabulary

MAD – Mutually Assured Destruction is the political and military policy that used “scare tactics” to prevent countries from entering into a nuclear war. Although this policy worked for the duration of the Cold War, it was not always reliable.

Cold War – A war that never went “hot” but was full of geopolitical tension between the USSR and the United States, and involved many other countries by entangling alliances.

USSR - A very powerful union of eastern european countries, under one communist government.

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