

Historical Security Council (1962)

President's Letter

St. Bonaventure Conference 2017

Permanent Members: United States, USSR, United Kingdom, China, France

Non-permanent Members

Open Agenda and HSC Format

Our conference will begin with an open agenda. This means that it is up to delegates to set the agenda topics. It is highly recommended that delegates pursue the topics suggested in this letter or other topics relevant to the 1962 Security Council.

Our conference will also be following the typical Historical Security Council format. This means we will be beginning on **January 5th, 1962**, and all delegates will be expected to use knowledge of events leading up to that date and events that happened that year. Time will advance at the discretion of the chair. When time advances, the chair will make an announcement declaring the new date and notable events that have happened leading up to this date. There are many notable events in 1962, and it would greatly benefit delegates to research these events.

Topics

U.S. - Cuba Relations

U.S.- Cuban relations became strained soon after Castro's communist regime took power in 1959. Fearing the expansion of Communism within its strategic "backyard", the United States began to examine options to destabilize the Cuban regime and replace it with a more US-friendly one. After Castro nationalized U.S.-owned oil refineries in 1960, the U.S. responded by banning the import of Cuban sugar. This escalated to a total ban on trade with Cuba and the freezing of Cuban assets after Castro began to nationalize remaining American assets in Cuba.

On April 15, 1961 the US began what became known as The Bay of Pigs Invasion. The US initially bombed Cuban airfields, then landed an invading force of CIA-trained Cuban fighters in the Bay of Pigs two days later. Fighting continued for over three days through ground skirmishes and aerial bombardment by U.S. planes. The invading force was ultimately repelled by Castro's army and was forced to retreat to waiting U.S. Navy vessels stationed off the coast of Cuba. On April 21, U.S. President John Kennedy acknowledged the failed invasion. As you all know, in October 1962, the Cuban Missile Crisis began. This was a crucial moment in the Cold War and the closest we got to a potential nuclear confrontation between the two superpowers.

Questions to Consider:

1. What is my country's relationship with the United States?
2. What is my country's relationship with Cuba?
3. How did my country react to the Bay of Pigs Invasion, to the Cuban Missile Crisis?
4. What is my country's attitude towards communism?
5. What were the effects of this invasion?
6. What did the Security Council do?
7. What was your country's position?

Possible Research Sources:

[JFK's Acknowledgement of the Bay of Pigs Invasion:](#)

[The Bay of Pigs](#)

<https://www.jfklibrary.org/JFK/JFK-in-History/The-Bay-of-Pigs.aspx>

[The Bay of Pigs Invasion](#)

[The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962](#)

Conflict in South Vietnam

Following a brief period of conflict between the South Vietnamese government and rural insurgents in the late 1950's, the National Liberation Front was founded in 1960. The NLF, also known as Viet Cong, was founded in opposition to President Ngo Diem's reversal of land reforms which led to the taxation of rural farmers. The Viet Cong also called for the removal of American military advisors who had been aiding in the training and command of the South Vietnamese Army (ARVN). It was around this time that the communist government of North Vietnam began to send soldiers and arms through the Ho Chi Minh Trail with the intent of destabilizing and toppling the South Vietnamese government.

In response to this rising conflict, United States President John Kenedy began to take considerable actions to strengthen South Vietnam. In 1961 Kennedy declared that protecting South Vietnam was necessary for the U.S. to reassert the credibility of their power. The US became deeply involved in the Vietnam war and was determined to prevent the communists from winning the war lest this spreads into other countries—the domino effect. The Vietnam War shaped generations of Americans. It had serious domestic repercussions. Just consider the number of movies made around the Vietnam War (Full Metal Jacket; the Deer Hunter; Good Morning, Vietnam; Born on the Fourth of July, etc...)

Questions to Consider

Possible Research Sources

[The Strategic Hamlet Program](#)

[Ho Chi Minh Trail](#)

[Viet Cong](#)

Congo Crisis

In response to a growing nationalist movement in the Congo, Belgium allowed their colony to declare independence on June 30, 1960. Immediately after the proclamation of the independence of the Republic of the Congo, public unrest began to rise over the continued existence of the colonial social order. Many native Congolese expected immediate change, especially those within the segregated military. On July 5, 1960, several garrisons mutinied against their white officers and began to incite civil unrest against whites. The new Congolese government attempted to accommodate the mutineers by promoting black military personnel and dismissing the Belgian commander of the army. Yet, civil unrest continued to expand and target white civilians, drawing the attention of Belgium.

Belgium officially intervened on July 9, 1960 with paratroopers and naval vessels. Minor skirmishes occurred between the Belgian forces and Congolese mutineers as whites fled to ports where Belgian ships waited. Belgium also offered safe haven for Belgian bureaucrats working in the Congolese government, triggering a mass exodus of white workers within the Congolese government.

To further complicate things, on July 11, 1960, the province of Katanga declared its independence from the Congo. Months later the region of Kasai also seceded from the Congo. Both regions were mineral-rich and industrial, and their succession threatened the wealth of the Congo. These events led to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 143 that mandated the withdrawal of Belgian forces and their replacement with UN peacekeeping forces under the United Nations Operation in the Congo (UNOC).

UNOC forces faced criticism by the Congolese government for refusing to assist them in fighting seceding forces. The neutral status of UNOC led to several problems, such as the capture of Irish soldiers in Jadotville, and invoked the criticism that UN forces were doing nothing to resolve the conflict. To address this, the UNSC adopted Resolution 169 on November 24, 1961, which attempted to give UNOC more offensive options by expanding their mandate to cover the prevention of human rights abuses and civil war in the Congo.

Questions to Consider:

1. What was my country's policy on the Congo?
2. Did my country take any sides?
3. Did my country think of the events in the Congo as significant or threatening to our national security?

4. Was my country involved with UNOC?
5. Was there anything that could be done to stabilize the Congo and avoid civil war?
6. What should be done about the seceding regions?

Possible Research Sources:

United Nations Security Council Resolution 143

United Nations Security Council Resolution 169

[The Congo, Decolonization, and the Cold War, 1960–1965](#)

[Congo in Crisis: The Rise and Fall of Katangan Secession](#)

[The Irish Army, the UN, Jadotville and the Congo](#)