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HJCC

America's Embargo Against Cuba

EFFLMUN'25

HJCC CUBA CABINET STUDY GUIDE

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1. Letters from the Secretariat

Dear delegates,

A warm welcome to EFFLMUN'25. We are truly delighted that you have chosen to spend your time with us, and we aim to make this decision one you'll look back on with absolute satisfaction.

This conference has been crafted with careful thought and unwavering dedication. I feel incredibly fortunate to have a role in shaping this event and to work alongside such talented individuals. The process demanded commitment, yet every step was rewarding because we always believed in the value of what we were building.

EFFLMUN'25 represents so much determination, passion, patience, and countless moments of collaboration that cannot be summed up easily. Above all, it was created to leave you with lasting, meaningful memories.

With great enthusiasm, we come together once more to celebrate dialogue, leadership, and the spirit of democracy. We cannot wait to offer you an exceptional and inspiring experience.

A special thank you to the chairboard of this committee, dear Tayfun Emir Demirel. Thank you for being such a reliable support during the preparation of this conference.

Güneş Uzun

Secretary-General

gunesuzn@gmail.com

Dear Delegates,

We made the EFFLMUN'25 with you in our hearts. We are happy that you joined us. Much thought and energy went into creating this gathering — but most importantly, it started with one idea: talking deeply always links people in unique manners. You picked to stay these days by our side; thus for every bit of time spent getting ready, it is valuable.

EFFLMUN'25 is far greater than the timetable of committees and sessions. It is a space where ideas converge, perspectives widen, and acquaintances happen to strike up. We wish that you are able to muster up enough confidence to speak out your thoughts, interest to look around, and ease just having fun being here.

As this conference kicks off, we want you to feel welcomed and supported as well as encouraged to take hold of any opportunity that comes your way. We are eager to see your drive, your leadership, and the individual marks each of you will make.

Ahmet Furkan Elden

Director General

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2. Letters from the Crisis Team

As the Crisis Team of EFFLMUN, we wish you an engaging, productive, and enjoyable committee experience. Our team has prepared dynamic and unpredictable scenarios to challenge your diplomacy, creativity, and teamwork.

We hope each of you makes the most of this conference—learn, debate boldly, and create unforgettable memories.

Best of luck in your committees.

3. Letters from the Chairboard

Greetings fellow comrades, and welcome to the Cuban Cabinet of the H-JCC Committee: American Blockade of Cuba. In this study guide you can find vital information about the Cuban Revolution. I am looking forward to meeting you at the conference. ¡Viva la Revolución!

Tayfun Emir Demirel
HJCC Cuba Cabinet Under Secretary-General/President Chair
tedmr13@gmail.com

4. Introduction to the Committee

The Committee “America’s Embargo Against Cuba” is focused on 1958- period and the complicated relationship between the said nations. America and Cuba’s governmental, cultural and lots of other differences have made a history that still lingers to this date.

5. Historical Background

5.1. The Cuban Revolution and Its Aftermath

The Cuban Revolution is anything but a coup which happened overnight. Rather, it’s a slow burn through the countryside and the cities of Cuba which spread from 1953 to 1959. The revolutionary insurgency formally began with the attack on the Moncada army barracks on July 26th, 1953 where Castro brothers-Fidel and Raul- and 165 men and women assaulted army positions. The attack was intended to start a widespread insurrection throughout the island. However, this attempt failed miserably, with half of the attackers killed and Castro brothers captured. As a side note, July 26th is celebrated as Cuba’s most national holiday.

During his trial, Fidel Castro held a speech where he heavily criticised Batista and his regime and called for the expansion of political and social liberties. Gone down in history as the “History Will Absolve Me” speech, this became the rallying cry of the July 26th Movement. A general amnesty was declared by Batista on May 15, 1955 and the Castro brothers were released. The brothers, however, by no means, renounced their desire to overthrow the Batista regime.

In the following year and a half, Fidel traveled to the USA and Mexico to organize the July 26th Movement. In Mexico, the famous Argentinian revolutionary doctor Ernesto “Che” Guevara joined his movement and on December 2 1956, they set sail for Cuba for the second round.

The 82 men attacked the Oriente province which was to be timed with another insurrection in Santiago led by Frank Pais. This attack, much like its predecessor unfortunately, failed horribly. Only twelve of the attackers made it out alive, after which they fled to the Sierra Maestra mountains. Here they established a stronghold, called “La Plata”, where they installed a primitive radio transmitter and started working on organizing a force to challenge Batista. Their activities included reaching out to locals, promising land reform, education and democracy, and literacy classes. One by one, locals were recruited into the movement, and a guerilla warfare campaign began against local army positions. As the attacks proved successful, the movement grew larger by equipping their militants from seized army equipment.

The movement would carry on with their activities until the summer of 1958. After several engagements with the government forces, with the army severely weakened and demoralised, the guerillas took the initiative and went on the offensive. The decisive victory against the Batista regime was achieved at the end of December in Santa Clara, where Che Guevara and his men seized the city and a key unit of Batista’s army surrendered en-masse. Fidel Castro and his men, around the same time, captured Santiago, and from the balcony of the city hall he declared that the revolution had prevailed on January 1, 1959. Batista fled to the United States.

It should be noted that Fidel Castro never presented himself as a communist leader in order to not be labeled as a communist guerilla. The reason behind this lukewarm approach is that it wasn’t only the communists that opposed Batista’s tyranny. Various other opposition groups also carried out anti-government activities, one extreme example being the attack on the presidential palace aimed at capturing and killing Batista, organized by the Revolutionary Student Directorate. As the name implies, it was mostly composed of students, and it would go on to become the largest anti-Castro group after the revolution.

From this point onward, Castro will be used for FIDEL CASTRO.

On January 8, 1959, Fidel Castro and the now revolutionaries entered Havana. Castro took no part in the newly forming government. Rather, he focused on consolidating his power in the July 26th Movement as they have not disarmed yet. Due to the horribly amalgamated structure of the anti-Batista movement, he came to the conclusion those who had the armed forces on their side could sway the administration. Talk about the political power of the long barrel of a rifle.

Under this motivation he sent one of his trusted lieutenants, Camilo Cienfuegos, to relieve Barquín, who had taken command of Batista's remaining troops. Forces of the directorate initially refused to disarm and had to be forcefully persuaded to accept Castro's authority.

Castro and his allies from Sierra Maestra were in the pursuit of radical social economic policies, and they set out to consolidate their power in the state. The victory over Batista was so swift that most of the old political system and its components were still intact in Cuba. Only the closest allies of Batista have fled the country and many of the landowning elite, businesspeople, professionals and clergy had stayed hoping to influence the new government to preserve their privileges. Castro's clique, well aware they would face fierce resistance had they not silenced those who were only demanding minor changes, he and his allies isolated their opponents one by one.

In mid-February 1959, Castro accepted the position of prime minister and began to implement reforms that distributed national wealth and bolstered support in the rural sections. In May, a land reform act that limited the size of most farm holdings to under a thousand acres and seized some of the largest private sugar plantations. This act in particular pretty much annihilated the American-owned sugar properties, the largest export of Cuba to the U.S, some of which exceeded over 400,000 acres. The expropriated land was redistributed to thousands of land workers, and the government aimed at improving the conditions in the large farms it now seized. Expectedly, the support for the revolution surged after this. The passage of the Rent Reduction Act resulted in the transfer of about 15% of the national income from property owners to workers peasants. A literacy campaign was also started, sending thousands of volunteers to the countryside to teach rural residents how to read. Literacy spiked, and it was a very fruitful field experience for the young revolutionaries where they learned about the living conditions in the countryside.

The government went ahead with building hundreds of schools and training teachers. Healthcare was granted to the entirety of the population for the first time with rural clinics opening throughout the country. Many private and racially segregated institutions were nationalized and opened to the public. Such radical change of legislations carried out in the first year served majorly in favor of the poor population in the countryside. These actions also marked the revolution's enemies as they voiced their opposition to the changes.

In June 1959, moderates in the government, such as the president Manuel Urrueta, resigned in protest, taking much of the old democratic parties' leadership into exile with them. Simultaneously, around 500 members of Batista's police and security agency were tried and executed in revolutionary tribunals. This decision was very popular among the masses but resulted in those who were associated with Batista's regime to flee abroad and seek asylum. In the end, all but the cadre of the revolutionary core remained. With the coalition of Cuban Communist Party (PSP) and the Orthodox Party of Cuba, Cuba was a full-fledged socialist state now.

Washington was growing severely concerned with the increasingly radical direction of the revolution, which led to a direct confrontation with Havana. It was realized by the U.S. government that Castro could pose a major threat when Castro returned from his trip to Washington without asking for significant American aid. Up until this point, the U.S. government was even relieved that Batista was overthrown as he had become more of a liability than an asset due to his failures in peacefully quelling unrest in previous years. The U.S. was expecting to continue their affairs with Cuba as usual. However by April 1959, the Cuban government had already begun taking decisions without seeking American approval.

5.2. Cuba–USSR Relations Prior to the Crisis

At the time Castro left Washington, Cuba was still maintaining the Batistan policy of not recognizing the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). This would change in the December of 1959 when an official Soviet journalist was invited to Havana. In February 1960, First Deputy Premier of the USSR, Anastasias Mikoyan visited Havana, and the Soviet-Cuban Trade Agreement was signed. Che Guevara traveled to Eastern Europe not long after and lined up 100 million \$ in loans for the industrialization of Cuba. Relations with the Soviets offered an alternative to the everpresent American dominance in Cuban affairs. May 1960 saw the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between the USSR and Cuba.

5.3. U.S. Hostility and the Bay of Pigs Invasion

Cuba's economy was dependent on sugar. A U.S. quota system had allocated Cuba a 2.8-million-ton market at a predetermined and subsidized price considerably above the world market. This amounted to significant U.S. governmental aid to Cuba. One of the first actions of friendship by the Soviet Union was the February 1960 purchase of Cuban sugar. As United States–Cuba relations worsened, the USSR agreed to purchase 2.7 million tons of Cuban sugar if the American government reduced its quota. The Soviet Union also began to supply Cuba with oil. Cuba has a small domestic supply of petroleum, but only enough to meet about 15 percent of national needs. With a shortage of foreign exchange, Cuba found it increasingly difficult to keep refineries supplied with imported oil, mostly from Venezuela. In April 1960 the first shipment of Soviet oil arrived in exchange for Cuban products. American oil

companies, which owned Cuba's refineries, advised by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, refused to refine the oil. The refineries were taken over by the Cuban government, and Washington responded by eliminating Cuba's sugar quota, the backbone of the Cuban economy. Tensions were already heating up between Havana and Washington throughout 1959 and 1960. The Cuban government began monitoring and regulating the U.S.-owned Cuban Telephone Company in 1959. Discourse over the refineries resulted in the first nationalizations in July 1960. They were followed quickly by the seizure of the U.S.-owned sugar plantations in August, foreign banks in September, and more businesses in October. Diplomatic relations between the two countries broke down in late 1960, and the Eisenhower administration instituted an embargo on most Cuban exports. The Agrarian Reform Law of May 1959 laid the groundwork for eventual seizure of many large American properties with an offer of twenty-year bonds for payment; the United States, rejecting the bonds, demanded "prompt, adequate, and effective compensation." By December 1959 the CIA began to recruit Cuban exiles, and in March 1960 Eisenhower decided to arm and train an exile force for the purpose of invading the island and precipitating the overthrow of the Castro government. John Kennedy assumed the presidency of the United States in January 1961 and with it the responsibility for the group of Cuban exiles, now training in Central America under CIA direction. In Cuba, Castro had inaugurated the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDR), organized block by block in the cities, to guard against opposition and to enlist support for the government. In the mountains of Escambray a group of anti-Castro guerrillas maintained harassment of government troops, but by the U.S. request they stopped action until the exile forces were ready. In April the exiles invaded Cuba at the Bay of Pigs but were stalled by local militias, while in the cities the CDRs quickly pointed out persons in opposition, who were immediately arrested before any of them could support the invasion. The major result of the American intervention was the consolidation of Castro's position by creating a solid identification between the anti-imperialism of Cuban tradition and the victory of the forces under Fidel Castro.

The operation was a massive catastrophe and humiliation for the United States.

6. Major Stakeholders

6.1. Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolutionary Government

Fidel Castro Ruz was born on 13 August, 1926 at Biran, Oriente province of Cuba. He was educated at Jesuit institutions, Colegio La Salle and Colegio Dolopes in Santiago and finally Colegio Belen in Havana. He later proceeded to the University of Havana where he bagged a degree in law in 1950. Upon his graduation, he joined the services of a small law firm that defended the poor and people with political difficulties. Castro's active involvement in Cuban politics started in 1950 when he joined the Cuban Peoples Party (also known as the Ortodoxos Party) which was in opposition to Fulgencio Batista's ruling Authentic Party.

Castro was chosen to be a parliamentary candidate of the Ortodoxo Party in elections planned for May 1952 but the elections were cancelled after Batista's coup of 10 March 1952. It is instructive to note that Castro instituted a legal battle to challenge Batista's coup as a violation of the Cuban Constitution of 1940. The failure of this legal act to bring a redress invariably invigorated Castro's revolutionary instinct that quickly began preparations for an armed uprising. He recruited 1200 young people, mainly drawn from the Ortodoxo youth, and gave them some very elementary military training".

6.2. Soviet Advisors and Military Personnel in Cuba

At that time, Moscow had its own faithful ally in Cuba, the Cuban Communist party, the Popular Socialist party (Partido Socialista Popular, PSP), and PSP leaders, who did not distinguish themselves in Castro's guerrilla struggle against the dictatorship of General Fulgencio Batista, had never trusted the youthful revolutionary. Cuban Communist publications had described the Jesuit-educated Castro as a "putschist" and an "adventurer."

Obviously, Castro was not one of the Kremlin's docile Latin American followers. But perhaps more important than Castro's ideological fealty was the campaign of detente being promoted in 1959 by Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev. It was not until November, 1959, that Moscow sent its first semiofficial observer to Havana, Alexander Alexeyev, who at the time described himself as a correspondent of Tass, the Soviet news agency.

Alexeyev was far more than a simple Tass correspondent. He promptly arranged for a visit to Cuba by Soviet Vice Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan, ostensibly to inaugurate a Soviet exhibit in Havana. In May, 1960, Soviet-Cuban relations were reestablished, and the Spanish-speaking Alexeyev became an attaché of the Soviet embassy in Havana. In June, 1962, he was named ambassador and held that post for about five years.

6.3. Cuban Civilian Population and Defense Forces

During the 60s, Cuba had an estimated 250,000-300,000 personnel -not counting paramilitary forces- in its standing armed forces. Such a big army when scaled to its total population of 7.1 million people was largely caused by the fear of an imminent U.S. invasion. With the spectre of invasion seeming increasingly distant however, the Cuban government had to come up with new reasons to justify this massive army relative to its population.

This, combined with the economic downturn in the 70s, urged the Cuban government to reduce its army size. All branches except the air force were significantly reduced, up to 60%, which freed 150,000 people from the army to civilian labor force.

7. Key Issues and Debates

7.1. National Sovereignty and Defense Rights

While the Cuban Revolution freed the Cuban people and autarky from American hegemony, the question of whether Cuba will forge its own path in the Cold War or be dragged into the Soviet sphere of influence still remains as Soviet-Cuban relations intensified after 1961. However it should be noted that there were disagreements between Moscow and Havana.

By the beginning of 1967, the conflict was quite open, with Cuba supporting Latin American guerrilla groups, who in turn were under fire from Moscow-oriented communist parties in their own countries- parties that sought legitimacy and participation through electoral and other more conventional political tactics. The Cuban call to "take up arms against imperialism and its lackeys" was never more clearly voiced than by Ché Guevara and his small band of guerrillas in Bolivia. Operating without the backing of the relatively small but important Bolivian Communist Party, Guevara and his followers were finally hunted down and killed in October 1967 by a mixed team of U.S.-trained Bolivian rangers and CIA agents.

To some extent, the death of Guevara marked the end of the most acerbic period of Soviet-Cuban disagreements on how to bring socialism into existence on a world scale. This was not fully apparent for more than a year- until Castro, with evident ambivalence, publicly supported the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia in August of 1968. Describing the Warsaw Pact invasion as a "drastic and painful measure ... a bitter necessity" he aligned Cuba with the Soviets at a particularly dark and difficult moment in Moscow's relationship with both European and non-European communist parties.

Even so, the "Soviet presence and influence" in Cuba was minimal compared to other communist countries, especially in Eastern Europe where the communist states, save for Yugoslavia, were all puppets of the USSR in all but name. Baseball and boxing are still the most popular sports in Cuba, and the second preferred language is English. Cuba's post-revolution culture shows very few traces of interactions with Eastern Europe and the USSR. Soviet technicians and advisers are housed apart, and the Western visitor to Cuba is reminded of their presence only when he or she is addressed as "tovarisch" by kids in the street or when an Eastern European delegation puts in an appearance at one of the hotels or restaurants. In fact, in contrast to the cultural and physical impact that the United States has had in most of Latin America and much of East Asia, the "tracelessness" of the Soviet relationship with Cuba is astounding.

Thus, what ultimately gives substance to the claim that Soviet influence on the Cuban Revolution is of secondary importance is that Cuba's proudest achievements are rooted in the earliest moments of the revolutionary movement and have been fashioned from the sweat, creativity, and sacrifice of millions of Cubans. Of course, Soviet economic and technical support has been important in many ways, but the human resources, the key decisions, the style, the outcomes- and the errors- have been predominantly Cuban.

7.2. The Role of the USSR in Cuban Security

Over the past decade, the USSR has been deploying offensive weapons in Cuba. Based both in and around Cuba, on planes, ships, and missiles, these weapons are operated by members of the Soviet armed forces. Soviet warships conduct exercises in the Gulf of Mexico, their bombers fly reconnaissance missions along the Atlantic coast from airfields in Cuba, and their pilots operate "Cuban" fighter aircraft. The presence of these offensive strategic systems in Cuba were threatening the basic foundation of the U.S. security policy in the region.

Though the Cuban government initially refused military aid and cooperation from the USSR due to their conflicting views on the methods of achieving communist victories in South America, they had to cave in later on. Because as of 1968, Castro was in serious trouble. His revolutionary offensive in Latin America was a dismal failure and had cost him the life of his comrade and ideologist, Che Guevara. Cuba's economy had come to a complete standstill after a decade of "revolutionary development," and the support Castro sought from relations with the Third World did not materialize. Cuba's dependency on the USSR had grown, but Moscow refused to increase material or economic aid, and initiated a slowdown of oil deliveries to put pressure on Havana. These and other factors forced Castro to abandon his independent course and humbly accommodate himself to Soviet desires. A new dependence emerged in 1968-69 between Moscow and Havana, including increased economic and military aid. Two events symbolized it: the statements made by Fidel Castro supporting the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and the visit of a Soviet naval squadron to Havana in July 1969.

The renewed presence of the Soviet military in Cuba in 1969 stands in sharp contrast to the adventurous policies of Khrushchev seven years earlier. Experience had taught the Kremlin that sudden, openly aggressive moves would only alert the United States to their activities and force a response. Therefore, a new policy was initiated using incremental means to build up the Soviet military capacity in Cuba. The Soviets began to pursue long-range goals rather than instant success. Each small step was a test, each minor success a precedent to build on. By combining patience, propaganda, and deceit, the Soviets set out to re-establish themselves in Cuba on a permanent basis. The naval squadron which arrived on July 10, 1969,

demonstrated the character of this new offensive. Included in the squadron was a Kynda class guided missile carrier, two guided missile destroyers, two Foxtrot class attack submarines, a November class nuclear attack submarine, and several support ships. The November class boat did not put into any Cuban ports, but several surface vessels visited Cienfuegos. The presence of these sophisticated, nuclear capable vessels in the Caribbean flew directly in the face of the 1962 agreement. However, there was no American response. Encouraged by this success, the Soviets decided to include Cuba in their first global naval exercises, Okean '70. The Cuban role included providing landing bases for TU-95D "Bear" bombers, configured for reconnaissance, but capable of carrying nuclear bombs or launching nuclear missiles. This action set a new precedent whereby Bear bombers, or even Backfires, could fly to Cuba. This again was a clear challenge to the 1962 agreement, although the Soviets did not base the planes in Cuba. There was no American response. And again, A second naval squadron visited Cuba in 1970, including a Kresta-I class guided missile cruiser, a Kanin class guided missile destroyer, two Foxtrot class submarines, and an Echo I1 class nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine equipped to carry nuclear warheads. The deliberate choice of a nuclear, but nonballistic, missile-carrying submarine again illustrates the incremental Soviet approach. The Echo I1 boat was not a "strategical platform, but so positioned in the Caribbean that it could deliver nuclear devices against targets in the United States. Thus, the level of Soviet military presence was moved up another notch. Again this deployment violated the spirit and substance of the 1962 agreement, and again there was no significant American response. On this visit, the Russian ships conducted maneuvers and openly used Cuban ports for resupply, thus setting another precedent.

7.3. U.S. Imperialism and Western Intervention

As expected, the U.S. didn't just let Castro run wild as a socialist leader right up its nose. In October 1959, President Eisenhower authorized the State Department "to support elements in Cuba opposed to the Castro government while making Castro's downfall seem to be the result of his own mistakes". The U.S. State Department had hopes of a civil upheaval inside Cuba. Clandestine paramilitary maritime and air operations were organized in order to destabilize the new Cuban government by sabotage and psychological operations and to back an invasion by the United States.

Cuba never presented a direct military threat to the United States, but the island in the Caribbean provided first a model and second an effective and solidly defended base for Soviet operations and expansion of influence in the Western Hemisphere. Military, financial, organizational and other support could be provided from Cuba to dissident leaders and groups throughout Latin America in order to create new political leftist movements and weaken the prestige of the U.S. But the most dangerous factor for the U.S. was the radiation role of the Cuban model in Latin America stimulating further revolutionary movements

Air raids attacking sugar refineries in January 1960 furnished an example of the CIA sabotage program. In March 1960 the French vessel “La Coubre”, which had arrived in the harbour of Havana with weapons from Belgium, exploded. U.S. authorities trained about 1,500 Cubans and some U.S. citizens in military bases in Guatemala, Panama and inside the U.S. territory. Although the U.S.-financed propaganda, sabotage operations and support of autonomous anti-Castro groups continued, from 1962 onwards efforts concentrated on destroying Cuba economically by an international embargo. It’s not even mentioned here that there has been more than 600 assassination attempts aimed at Fidel Castro.

In February 1961 the CIA concluded in a briefing for President Kennedy that the Cuban paramilitary force, if used, had a good chance of overthrowing Castro or at the very least causing a damaging civil war without requiring the U.S. to commit itself to overt action against Cuba. Whatever embarrassment the alleged (though deniable) U.S. support could cause, it might have been considerably less than that resulting from the continuation of the Castro regime or from the more drastic and more attributable actions necessary to accomplish the result at a later date.

8. Timeline of Events (Pre– and Post–Revolution)

Pre-Revolution

1952

March 10: Batista takes over the government through a coup d'etat, a few months prior to the 1952 elections.

1953

July 26: The first spark of the revolution, the attack on Moncada military barracks commences.

October 16: Castro is put on trial where he delivered his famous “History Will Absolve Me” speech.

1954

September: Che Guevara arrives in Mexico City.

November: Batista dissolves the parliament, and is elected as constitutional president without opposition.

1955

May: Castro brothers and other survivors are released from prison in an amnesty.

June: Castro brothers are introduced to Che Guevara in Mexico City.

1956

November 25: Castro brothers and some 80 revolutionaries, including Che Guevara and Camilo Cienfuegos, set sail from Mexico to Cuba in on the yacht Granma.

December 2: Granma lands in the Oriente province of Cuba.

1957

January: Castro's guerrillas score their first success by sacking an army outpost on the south coast, and start gaining followers in both Cuba and abroad.

March 13: University students mount an unsuccessful attack on the Presidential Palace in Havana. Cuban revolutionary leader José Antonio Echeverría is killed in the streets of Havana by police.

May 28: Castro's 26 July movement overwhelms an army post in El Uvero.

July: Cuban revolutionary leader Frank País is killed in the streets of Santiago de Cuba by police while campaigning for the overthrow of Batista's government

1958

February: Raúl Castro opens a front in the Sierra de Cristal on Oriente's north coast.

March 13: U.S. suspends shipments of arms to Batista's forces.

March 17: Castro calls for a general revolt.

April 9: A general strike, organized by the 26th of July movement, is partially observed.

May: Batista sends an army of 10,000 into the Sierra Maestra to destroy Castro's 300 armed guerrillas. By August, the rebels had defeated the army's advance and captured a huge amount of arms.

November 1: A Cuban aircraft en route from Miami to Havana is hijacked by militants but crashes. The hijackers were trying to land at Sierra Cristal in Eastern Cuba to deliver weapons to Raúl Castro's rebels. It is the first of what was to become many Cuba-U.S. hijackings

Sometime in December: Guevara directs a rebel attack on Santa Clara

December 28: Guevara's guerrilla troops seize Santa Clara.

December 31: Camilo Cienfuegos leads revolutionary guerrillas to victory in Yaguajay.

1959

January 1: Batista steps down and a civilian government takes control. The Cuban revolutionaries call a General Strike to ensure governmental control

January 2: Che Guevara's and Camilo Cienfuegos' troops arrive on Havana.

January 5: Manuel Urrutia is named President of Cuba.

January 9: Fidel arrives in Havana.

Post-Revolution

1959

January–February: Many members of the Batista regime are judged, sentenced and executed by the new government. Many of these trials were held in stadiums with executions shortly after trial, with the accused denied legal counsel.

February 16: Fidel Castro is named Prime Minister of Cuba, in substitution of José Miró Cardona.

May 17: Fidel Castro signed the First Law of Agrarian Reform, giving new lands for the Cuban peasants who didn't have any.

July: Failed attempt of invasion by the Dominican Republic's dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo. Manuel Urrutia is replaced as president by the communist lawyer Osvaldo Dorticós.

September–October: Major Huber Matos unsuccessfully attempts to rise up his troops in Camagüey province, but he is arrested by Major Camilo Cienfuegos, who mysteriously disappears on October 28. December Raúl Roa becomes the new Chancellor of Cuba.

1960

March 6: La Coubre cargo ship carrying ammunition and explosives explodes in Havana Bay, killing over 100 people. Fidel Castro accuses the CIA of orchestrating this without providing any proof. A few days later, Photographer Alberto Korda makes the famous Che Guevara picture during the memorial service for the victims of the explosion.

~Many private companies are nationalized by the Revolutionary Government. Those who opposed the Revolutionary Government, began to flee the island, mostly to Florida. Some others formed guerrilla groups in the forests and mountains. In the meanwhile, Cuba formed an alliance with the Soviet Union, at the peak of the Cold War.

October: Majors William Morgan and Jesús Carreras are arrested for conspiracy.

1961

March: Former Majors William Morgan and Jesús Carreras are executed for high treason.

April: Fidel Castro officially proclaims that "Cuba is a socialist country". The Bay of Pigs' invasion is defeated, being captured 1.197 of the 1.500 Cubans who invaded the island supported by the US Government. Former Mayor Humberto Sorí Marín is executed for attempting sabotage.

December 22: Fidel Castro officially proclaims that Cuba is a "Country without alphabets".

1962

~It becomes more and more obvious that the U.S. Government will invade Cuba with its army, so the Cuban Revolutionary Government asks for Soviet help.

October: Cuban Missile Crisis: The world on the brink of **nuclear war**.

1963

~Second Law of Agrarian Reform is signed by the Revolutionary Government. Hurricane Flora destroys the East of the country.

1964

~Attempts of the Cuban Minister of Industries, Che Guevara, to industrialize Cuba, fail.

1965

January: Former Major Eloy Gutiérrez Menoyo is captured while attempting to form a new group to sabotage the economy of Cuba.

March: Che Guevara leaves Cuba and goes to Congo, planning to start a new revolution there.

~The last remains of anti-communist guerrilla groups are decisively defeated.

1967

~Che Guevara secretly returns to Cuba with the intention of marching to Bolivia, planning to start a new revolution there. He and most of his men were killed in Bolivia.

1967-1980

~"Sovietization" of the Cuban Revolution. Repression against writers, actors, musicians, rockers, homosexuals, and anyone who follows American Pop Culture. Standardization of the way of dressing and the hair style, etc.

August 6, 1973: Fulgencio Batista dies of a "*heart attack*" in Spain, where he had lived the remainder of his life in exile.

1975-1976: Constitutional Assembly.

February 24, 1976: Proclamation of the new Cuban Socialist Constitution.

December 1976: Fidel Castro is elected the new President of Cuba.

1977-1978: Cuban military intervention in Ethiopia.

April–October 1980: Mariel Exodus.

9. Impact on Latin America and the Non-Aligned Movement

The Cuban Revolution was a major motivator for other leftist groups in South America due to its historical and geographical proximity to the United States. Che Guevara described it as a "guiding light" for Latin American socialism and anti-imperialism.

Different from the school of Marxist-Leninist thought, the "New Left" that emerged in South America sought to "go beyond existing Marxist–Leninist efforts at achieving economic equality and democracy to include social reform and address issues unique to Latin America such as racial and ethnic equality, indigenous rights and environmental issues." Prime examples include the Cuban Revolution in 1959 and the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua of 1979, among many others.

However, it should be noted that none of the revolutions other than the Cuban Revolution reached permanence, mainly due to U.S. imperialism and CIA-backed coup d'états.

It is a known fact that the U.S. meddled in Latin American countries' internal affairs for its own interests. Some of the examples include:

- 1971 military coup in Bolivia,
- 1964 military coup in Brazil,
- 1973 overthrow of the democratically elected president Salvador Allende in Chile, paving the way for Augusto Pinochet's tyrannical 15 year dictatorship,
- 1961 military coup in Ecuador, after president Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra refused to break ties with Cuba,
- 1954 overthrow of democratically elected president Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala,
- 1976 overthrow of democratically elected president Isabel Peron in Argentina, starting Jorge Rafael Videla's dictatorship until 1983.

10. Previous Actions Taken by Cuba and the USSR

The Cuban Missile Crisis was solved in part by a secret agreement between John F. Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev. The Kennedy-Khrushchev Pact was known to only nine US officials at the time of its creation in October 1962 and was first officially acknowledged at a conference in Moscow in January 1989 by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin and Kennedy's speechwriter Theodore Sorensen. In his negotiations with Dobrynin, Robert Kennedy informally proposed that the Jupiter missiles in Turkey would be removed "within a short time after this crisis was over". Under an operation code-named Operation Pot Pie, the removal of the Jupiters from Italy and Turkey began on 1 April, and was completed by 24 April 1963. The initial plans were to recycle the missiles for use in other programs, but NASA and the USAF were not interested in retaining the missile hardware. The missile bodies were destroyed on site, while warheads, guidance packages, and launching equipment worth \$14 million were returned to the United States.] The dismantling operations were named Pot Pie I for Italy and Pot Pie II for Turkey by the United States Air Force.

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