



JCC SOCCER WARS: HONDURAS TOPIC GUIDE

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Academy Model United Nations

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Chairs:

Welcome delegates to AMUN XXIV!

My name is Isabella Zelaya Alves (She/Her) and I am anxiously counting down the days until meeting you all in our JCC-Honduras committee! Currently, I am a sophomore at Bergen County Academies in the Academy For Medical Science Technology.

For this JCC-Honduras specialized committee, my fellow co-chairs and I have tried to incorporate a topic that is not common to Model U.N. We wanted to make it unique because AMUN is no ordinary conference in many ways, and we wanted to establish a memorable experience for you all as the delegates. We hope this message will come through as you immerse yourself further in the world of the Soccer Wars!

To new delegates, I completely understand your position! I only began Model U.N. as a freshman and even attended AMUN myself last year as a double-delegation with my co-chair in JCC-Honduras, Riyashi Varia. On the other hand, for returning and experienced delegates, we want to ensure that this conference will help you come away with advice, new perspectives, understanding, lifestyles and insight - some of the hallmarks of what I love about Model U.N.

However, besides Model U.N. and studying, you can find me writing poems, watching MARVEL movies, reading, swimming, researching, playing the piano, or practicing ballet and tap. Also, I am welcome to any book recommendations any of you may have!

In conclusion, I wish all of you the utmost luck in your preparations for our AMUN committee and in the conference itself! I hope you feel you can have an outlet of creativity, diplomacy, collaboration and, most significantly, innovation and determination. In addition, as this is a crisis committee, I look forward to seeing all of the wild endeavors you may choose to do, as well as making new friends along the way!

Isabella Zelaya Alves - isazel25@bergen.org

Hello delegates and welcome to AMUN XXIV,

My name is Riyashi Varia (she/her) and I will be co-chairing the JCC committee this year. I have been interested in Model UN since I was in middle school and this is my second year taking part in MUN conferences. Model UN has been one of my favorite and most resourceful experiences so far in high school as it introduced me to the world of international affairs and allowed me to improve my skills in terms of public speaking and research. I really enjoy being able to research and speak about topics in front of large audiences, along with being able to meet many new people.

As part of the BCA MUN team, I have taken part in conferences such as Yale MUN and National High School MUN, among others. Every conference I have taken part in has been an amazing learning experience and there was always something new to learn. I hope that AMUN XXIV, as well, proves to be an excellent learning experience for all of us and allows for us to grow and refine our skills in Model UN and its various aspects.

Outside of Model UN, I am a sophomore at BCA in the Academy for Engineering and Design Technology. Outside of that, you can find me working on robotics as part of BCA's robotics team (Titanium Knights), hanging out with friends, or reading books (feel free to send me book recommendations!) about various topics. I am also part of BCA's Society of Women Engineers and pAsia chapter, Project BooksForAll, along with other clubs. I hope that you all will enjoy the simulation that we have planned and are able to work together to create creative, multi-faceted solutions. If this is your first conference- don't worry if you're nervous, my co-chair and I will be here to help you along the way. Always feel free to reach out to me with questions via email. See you soon! :)

Riyashi Varia - riyvar25@bergen.org

Introduction to Committee

Welcome to the Football Wars JCC Committee! During this committee, you can act two ways: publicly or privately. We will be going over what each method of action entails in the following paragraph.

A delegate may act “publicly” through giving speeches, collaborating with other delegates during unmoderated caucuses, and by writing directives. Directives are similar to the resolutions you would find in a GA committee, only they are shorter and focused on changing the (ever-changing) situation at hand. Directives can be broad, such as a solution to a problem, or they may be short and simple, such as making a specific character do a specific action. To pass a directive, it must be presented and voted on by the delegates. For this committee, we will require at least two delegates to sponsor a directive, and they will be passed through a simple majority.

As for private actions, delegates can send crisis notes. These notes can be written by multiple delegates (with a maximum of three), but you can send them for yourself as well. These notes will not be read publicly but will influence crisis updates at the Backroom’s discretion, so these notes are a great way of acquiring protection for yourself or doing other things to further your goals.

A note on historical inaccuracies: as this committee starts before the conflict, the decisions of you, the delegates, will delegate how the conflict plays out in our simulation. You do not have to follow what happened in history; rather, we encourage you to deviate

from it. The only historical events fixed hard and fast are those occurring before June 8th 1969.

Each delegate should research their character and their position before the committee. Your perception of the character need not be historically accurate; if you don't know hard and fast how your character would act in a certain situation, we encourage you to use your imagination. This Topic Guide will serve as a starting point for your research. We have provided a list of sources for further reading in the bibliography. However, you do not have to just stick to the provided resources, and you should research more in depth by yourself.

Regarding prewriting: prewriting crisis notes or directives will not be tolerated no matter the circumstance. Any delegate that is found to be prewriting will not be considered for an award. However, creating a crisis arc before the committee is not considered prewriting, and we highly encourage you to do so in order to enhance your experience at AMUN. It will give you a sense of direction of how you want the committee to proceed, as well as extra confidence.

But most importantly, you should have fun! Some of the joys of Model UN come from meeting like-minded people in your fellow delegates, as well as creating a creative crisis arc that may or may not cause chaos. Some of you are aiming for an award, understandably so, but the main aspect of Model UN isn't the award, it's the

experience. And we highly encourage you to make the most out of your AMUN experience to cause the sort of chaos you want to see, as well as make some new friends! More information on AMUN Policies for Crisis Committees can be found in our "Guide to Crisis," which can be found in our conference policies section of our website.

NOTICE: The first day of committee will consist of the time building up to the Soccer Wars while the second day of committee will consist of the Soccer Wars tournaments and aftermath.

Soccer Wars: Honduras

Introduction

What will it take for humanitarian rights to be provided? The Salvadoran illegal immigrants were at the core of the Soccer Wars, as they made their way from over-population El Salvador to the larger, less-populated Honduras. Though they were harassed for doing so, they were doing this only in an attempt to get basic needs. On the other hand, was this fair to the actual land-owners who now how illegal immigrants “squatting” down on their property in a refusal to leave? This didn’t seem just to Honduran leader, Oswaldo Lopez Arellano. While in political turmoil himself after a seemingly corrupt election to boost his self-esteem after staging demonstrations to get into power, Lopez Arellano was facing accusations from the opposing Honduran party, which could have some truth behind them. To divert attention from himself, Lopez Arellano started to blame Honduras’ economic troubles on the Salvadoran immigrants taking the jobs of natural Hondurans, as they would work more hours for less money in the hopes to help their families. This accusation incited a string of violence regarding natural pride, human rights, justice, and, most importantly, freedom.

Land ownership played a critical role in the day-to-day lives of those living in Honduras. As in the majority of Central America, large landowners or big corporations held ownership over a large portion of the land in Honduras, with 10% being owned by the United Fruit Company. In 1996, a pivotal year leading up to the Soccer Wars, United Fruit

merged together with many other large companies to create la Federación Nacional de Agricultores y Ganaderos de Honduras (The National Federation of Farmers and Livestock-Farmers of Honduras). This newly formed entity was quite controversial as it was both against peasantry and El Salvadorians. To support this new corporation, Oswaldo López Arellano, the president of Honduras, was called upon to ratify new land reform laws. By 1967, land occupied illegally by Salvadoran immigrants was given to the central government and municipalities and redistributed to native-born Hondurans as specified by the Land Reform Law. These new land reform laws were created with the purpose of protecting wealthy Honduran land owners, yet in the process, ended up leading to the thickening of the tension between Honduras and El Salvador.



(12)

Topic History

Trigger Warning - Suicide

Building Pressures (Day One):

With a total land area of 20,720 square kilometers, Honduras is about five times

larger than El Salvador with about 111,900 square kilometers of land (8). Conversely, in 1969, Honduras' population of 2,333,000 was far smaller than El Salvador's population of 3,000,000 (6). The overpopulation in El Salvador was significantly impacting the quality of life, and for this reason, around 300,000 Salvadorans immigrated illegally into the nearby Honduras (5). A majority of these immigrants had been farmers and, upon starting their new lives in Honduras, began to act as the main cultivators of the land that went unused prior. Others of the illegal Salvador immigrants took occupations to become factory workers.

This was a point of major contention. Many of those who had been native to rural Honduras watched as the Salvadoran immigrants started to take jobs that could have belonged to them. The Hondurans, too, saw the great successes and triumphs of the Salvadoran immigrants in utilizing land cultivation for profit and became jealous. Another problem was in that many of the Salvadoran immigrants were deemed "squatters," who said they had claim to the land only because they were physically on it despite the land being owned by others, usually the most wealthy in Honduras. Tensions bubbled, causing the Honduran government, along with some smaller, private groups, to blame the Salvadoran immigrants for stirring economic ruin, as there was now much higher levels of unemployment among the Honduran people.

Importantly, the Honduran government was not itself at the time. In 1956, Oswaldo Lopez Arellano was one of a few leaders of a military

coup to oust Julio Lozano Diaz, the dictator, with a hope to address multiple flaws including the need for a Labor Code and organization for the banana plantation working class, the need for promotion of industrialization as a way to diversify economic dependence on bananas, and the need for agrarian reform, to bring an end to the exclusivist political system. Essentially, they wanted to stop the fact that Honduras was a large “banana republic,” that was dominated by American companies that were able to exploit peasant labor to farm the bananas tax-free. This was able to occur due to military corruption that made it easier for the United Fruit Company to pull more strings in the government. The wealth of the Company and their land monopoly also played a factor. The military coup was successful and prevented the rise of Communism in Honduras, with Lopez Arellano appointed the new military leader, or minister of defense, of the new government. One year later, he filled a vacant seat on the governing board.

By this point, Ramon Villeda Morales was the inaugurated president by 1957 with Lopez Arellano continuing his role as minister of defense. However, when Villeda Morales wanted to focus on the nation’s economic and social problems, on October 3, 1963, Lopez Arellano and his supporters over-threw the administration. Thus, Lopez Arellano became the de facto military government head for eight months as a new constitution was written. By this means, he soon became president with a more conservative and authoritarian view than his

predecessor by blocking agrarian reform and repressing workers, who had become unionized under Villeda Morales’ government. Therefore, Lopez Arellano was known to harass the peasant unions and left-wing groups (1). Coming into power by the terrible means of a coup made him unsure of how the public saw his legitimacy to be a leader, causing him to hold an election, which he did win. In essence, he did this to prove to himself that he was worthy.

Following the election, the opposing party’s candidate and party overall proclaimed the election to have been fraudulent and corrupt, especially since Lopez Arellano had been accused of being bribed by wealthy American banana companies that appeared to be stealing Honduran bananas by obtaining them tax-free, showing a major stance shift from when he was first in the military coup with a passion of anti-corruption. In this way, the opposing party was able to blame Lopez Arellano for the economic ruin, leaving everyone to blame and become furious with him. In order to keep his stance and power, Lopez Arellano blamed the Salvadorans for the economic troubles, citing that the Salvadorans were stealing all of their land and jobs. In his tactic to blame others, Lopez Arellano triumphed, with many hostile Hondurans attacking and harassing the Salvadoran immigrants.

To work with this arising issue, both the Salvadoran and Honduran governments tried to settle border disputes and the massive growth of the illegal immigrant population. To do this, an array of treaties to solve the

problem were scribed but covered little ground or did not get signed due to public contempt. The last of these treaties was the 1967 Bilateral Treaty On Immigration, which is one that still comes to memory for both sides with resentment due to no benefit for either side, but rather more hard work and, thus, cost. More specially, the 1967 Bilateral Treaty On Immigration had been created to regulate the flow of immigrants, illegal and legal, across the common borders of El Salvador and Honduras. Due to the cost and amount of trouble it caused, the 1967 Bilateral Treaty On Immigration was defunct by 1967 when, in January, the Honduran government refused to renew it with El Salvador, as it made little difference in the problem it attempted to solve (4). The main purpose of the treaty was to preside over immigrants and individuals over the common Honduran-Salvadoran border.

Not long after, in April, the Honduran government proclaimed that it would expel all Salvadoran immigrants who had gained property under agrarian reform while not meeting legal requirements, including that they be, by birth, Honduran. After going into effect, Salvadorans and Honduras alike listened and one of the first exoduses occurred as Salvadorans that had been living on the land for generations moved out of Honduras and back to their over-populated El Salvador by late May. This eviction was supported by the American banana companies, who only wanted what was best for them, having bananas all to themselves. These banana companies wanted the illegal Salvadoran immigrants to be pushed out of

Honduras since they were taking up arable land that Hondurans could have used to grow bananas and give to their companies. Additionally, there were no solid contracts made with the American banana companies and the Salvadoran immigrants, meaning bananas planted in Honduras by these Salvadoran immigrants were not necessarily going to the Company, which could hurt the Company profit, as land that could be used to make profit was not going to them. The Salvadoran government was resistant, furious and, they even protested, citing moral reasons. They were becoming all too crowded with no more room to let in more Salvadorans.

World Cup And Aftermath (Day Two):

By June 1969, tensions were immense at the same time that both countries were able to advance in the 1970 World Cup. In the same month, both soccer teams had to partake in a three-game elimination match for a preliminary round to the World Cup.

The first of the three games took place in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, with many disturbances on June 8th, 1969. The night prior to the game, Hondurans gathered outside of the hotel housing the Salvadoran team and began to make noise and taunt them all night. As a result, Honduras defeated the exhausted Salvadorans with a late goal in the 90th minute. Following the match, Amelia Bolaños, a young Salvadoran fan, shot herself, as she could not deal with her country's defeat. In a twisted turn, the Salvadoran government glorified her and made her into a martyr, a national hero (13).

The second of the three games took place in San Salvador, El Salvador to an even more brutal scenario on June 15th, 1969. As the tables were turned in home advantage, the Hondurans had a restless night at their hotel due to the Salvadorans. During this game, Honduran fans were attacked as the Honduran national anthem and flag were insulted as a dirty rag was raised instead. Additionally, Salvadoran fans brought pictures of Amelia Bolaños with them. In all, the Salvadorans were able to defeat the exhausted Hondurans, as spectators in the stands were battling and rioting. It became so violent that the Honduran team had to flee in a bulletproof bus as rocks were launched at them. Thus, the Honduran coach, reportedly, even praised his players that they lost, saying they were lucky to be defeated or they could have been killed. Upon returning back to Honduras, the Hondurans terrorized the Salvadoran settler immigrants even more violently, including physically throwing them off of their land and burning down their homes, leaving tens of thousands to flee back to the El Salvador, as an unknown number were beaten and killed. Furthermore, due to their constant harassment, Salvadorans living in Honduras became very protective and violent, including multiple vice consuls.

The third, and final, of the three games took place on June 26th, 1969 in Mexico City, Mexico. The match, itself, was very close, but El Salvador was able to defeat Honduras, in the end to knock them out of the tournament, completely (10). Obviously, this caused numerous riots and, upon returning

to Honduras, the Hondurans took their anger out on the Salvadoran immigrants. All of this was too much for El Salvador to handle and dismiss, as their people were under attack and there was an unmanageable, disheartening refugee crisis. With near-hysteria, El Salvador cut all diplomatic relations and ties with Honduras, declaring war, and, later, on June 27th, 1969, Honduras broke diplomatic relations and ties with El Salvador, since they did not want to have it done to them.

This started the “100 Hours War,” or “Soccer War” or “Football War” in the early morning of July 14th, 1969. It was one of the shortest wars in history with only around four days of fighting and dispute. On the first day, El Salvador, with its superior army, carried out air raids in strategic spots in Honduras, such as the Toncontin International Airport as a means to prevent the Honduran Air Force from getting in the sky. At the same time, the Salvadorans began to invade, by land, along two, major roads with infantry and light tanks against the Honduran islands in the Golfo De Fonseca. By the second day, El Salvador was rapidly advancing towards Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capital. This signaled a meeting of the Organization Of American States (OAS) out of fear and panic (2). At the summit, the OAS voted, unanimously, that the war between El Salvador and Honduras was not going to be good, not in their best interest, and should be stopped immediately. On this case, they prompted El Salvador to stop, but they refused unless Honduras was to stop acting as they were towards them, which was with bitter hatred. With this in mind, the war

continued with El Salvador pushing the Honduran army back by over eight kilometers.

On the third day, the Honduran Air Force was able to reach the sky and received aid from neighboring Nicaragua to, successfully, launch air raids on Salvadoran oil facilities and air bases, like Acajutla Port, Cutuco Oil Facility and Ilopango Air Base (7). Such was able to cripple the Salvadoran supply line and prevented the Salvadoran advances immediately upon onset. Additionally, they faced ammunition and fuel shortages. Thus, on day four of the war, there seemed to be a stalemate as El Salvador was no longer in an advantageous position. With this in mind, when the OAS asked them to stop once more, along with agreeing to ensure Salvadoran immigrants' safety, El Salvador relented. Thus, there was a ceasefire organized on July 18th, 1969 at night, formed by the OAS. During this time, the OAS asked El Salvador to withdraw the troops they still had in Honduras, to which they disagreed until threatened with sanctions. The pulling out of Salvadoran troops from Honduras took place on August 2nd, signaling an end to the war that had killed an estimated 6,000 individuals and injured around 15,000 more. Another 60,000 to 130,000 Salvadorans were forcibly removed or had fled from Honduras, establishing deeply-entrenching economic disruption for Honduras.

In the end, both El Salvador and Honduras had their economies severely damaged and little progress was made. Before the war,

there were bitter land and border disputes that continued on, even to today, with the case study example of the Gulf Of Fonseca. All of the trouble of the war hit El Salvador, ultimately causing their upcoming Civil War with no capabilities to take care of the incoming flood of immigrants returning from Honduras in terms of housing, food production, and health facilities. Too, Honduras lost every match they participated and played in the 1970 World Cup, as they didn't even make it past the group stage. So, the "Soccer War" had no winners and no one achieved anything.

Only the Americans that pulled the strings in the wars had achieved more strength and power with Honduras as a "banana republic." However, a positive outcome of the "Soccer War" was a new sense of Honduran national pride and nationalism. The war had also uncovered weaknesses in the Honduran military to fix, to the chagrin of El Salvador, which lost a socio-economic outlet in illegal emigration to Honduras. Lopez Arellano even withdrew Honduras from the Central American Common Market following the "Soccer War."

There was short-term benefit for El Salvador in that all of the legal political parties had united in supporting the "Soccer War," but it did not last long after. The tensions between Honduras and El Salvador had not subsided either. There was the establishment of a demilitarized buffer zone along the border but because it was not lawfully enforced, sporadic battles would occur over the course of the next several years.

Historically, the “Soccer Wars” are one to note for its brevity, being the first war caused by “population explosion” according to The Encyclopedia Of Latin America, the absolute chaos that ensued, and the 22-year suspicion of the CACM regional integration project created by the United States to counteract the effects of the Cuban Revolution, allowing the military in both nations to over-power (3).

Current Situation

Building Pressures (Day One):

Now that Oswaldo Lopez Arellano has come into power in Honduras, bitter spite and contempt for immigrant Salvadoran cultivators has reached a new high. Salvadorans were being deemed “squatters” because they did not actually own the land, but claimed it as their own for physically being active on sites. Lopez Arellano and his supporters feel this is causing economic hardship within Honduras, by stealing land, jobs, and resources. This movement is pushed by increasing rates of poverty and crime, as people steal to make ends meet for their friends and families. The opposing party, which had just lost to Lopez Arellano in an election, believes the new leader is corrupt and being bribed by American banana companies, who just want to make money and have Honduras bananas tax-free. At the same time, the Salvadoran government is unable to take back in the Salvadoran immigrants due to over-population and the lack of an ability to provide for these immigrants. While talks are ongoing, more issues arise, including

over borders, especially in the Gulf Of Fonseca. The array of treaties being formed are doing little and hated by the public. Tomorrow the countries are set to design a new treaty to prevent a war that is seeming more and more inevitable. At the same time, tomorrow there is a planned demonstration by the Honduran public of how they do not want to compromise with the “evil” Salvadorans. How will it play out? The rest will be the history you make ...

World Cup And Aftermath (Day Two):

There is no current situation for this section. As we will be engaged in the events leading up to the World Cup and eventual “Soccer War” during our first day of AMUN, these events will be impacted by the decisions made on the first day. Therefore, keep in mind that any actions you may make on day one of AMUN will have ripple effects and repercussions in day two’s “current situation.” It is up to you to decide what you believe is in the best interest of the individual you portray, whether that be reading what actually happened in the World Cup and the “Soccer War” aftermath in the above “Topic History” section and allowing history to repeat itself, or changing it for your betterment. After all, this is a specialized committee and history is not always doomed to repeat itself. Take careful consideration of what did happen, why it happened, how you can have it happen again, or how you can improve it. Good luck! We can’t wait to see what you do in committee!

Committee Roles

Note: Characters marked with an asterisk (*) before their names are fictional. Therefore you will have a broader scope of research and you will have to decide what actions your character will want to take.

Residents (Lower Class)

* José Castellanos

José is a Honduran that recently suffered hardship as a cultivator on his land. Many of his crops failed to thrive and grow, rendering him unable to keep up with the land and afford it. Now, he is unemployed and lost his family's land that he has had for generations, living in a rickety shed on his cousin's property. However, his former familial land has been over-run by immigrant Salvadoran cultivators that are "squatting" on it without permission or paying. This has left him and his family of two young children under 3 years old, elderly mother with an unknown sickness, and wife to be distraught beyond belief. He is a supporter of Lopez Arellano as a result. He is a very sensitive man that can be pushed over by others, but knows he needs to work hard if he wants to be able to support himself and his relatives. He has no college or high school education, like the rest of his family, as the land they possessed had water irrigation issues every few years, meaning they needed as many hands as possible to make money in ways other than the land, like by raising livestock. A big power that Castellanos has is his ways of convincing others and, while he has lost his land, he has many friends in town, like Luis

Molina, Oscar Mejía, and Pedro Torres. He is thought to always be honest and trustworthy. No one would suspect him of a crime. As it seems Honduras and El Salvador will compete in the World Cup against one another, he and his town friends want to go but he is unsure where he will come up with the money.

* Luis Molina

Luis Molina is a Honduran and proud supporter of Lopez Arellano. He works in a factory in Honduras with incredulous, tiring hours, barely able to see his family, but he knows his work is of utmost importance to keep his country economically stable. Molina is working to help pay for his father's medical expenses and the ability to have his son go to school in the United States. This dream is becoming harder and harder as more and more of his factory is filled with Salvadoran immigrants that are willing to work more hours and for less pay. Molina is seeing many of his friends and workmates being laid off to make way for more of the immigrants, which he sees as unfair. He is trying to gather his fellow Honduran co-workers, including Pedro Torres, to start a riot and uprising with violent intentions. Molina is not afraid to get his hands dirty or get in trouble to get what he wants. He does not have an education, which is a main factor for why he wants to give his son the education he could never have in the United States. At the same rate, Molina's family is said to be, historically, some of the initial settlers of the region, dating back hundreds of years, and he wonders if he wants his son to leave that all behind. He questions if he wants to go to the United States with his son as well. His only family is his son and father, after a majority of his

family was killed in an accident with livestock. As it seems Honduras and El Salvador will compete in the World Cup against one another, he and his town friends want to go but he is unsure where he will come up with the money.

* Pedro Torres

Pedro Torres is a Honduran cultivator and a hefty supporter of Lopez Arellano. Therefore, he believes Lopez Arellano's claims that the illegal Salvadoran immigrants are at the root of the troubles being faced by Honduras. This has made Torres very secure, secretive, and untruthful. Moreover, he is always watching his back and jumpy, believing that the individuals that have moved to his town are Salvadorans trying to steal his banana crops for profit, as he has the largest banana yield within a 20-mile radius. If his banana crops are stolen, he knows the United Fruit Company may be angry with him and avoid working with him again, which he cannot afford, as it might stain his reputation with gossip traveling that his bananas must be rotted. He, also, needs to keep his banana work going as a means for his children to take on as they grow older, being all daughters, which he knows he will receive some criticism for. Torres has already been recruited by Luis Molina to join his riot. With no family, Torres wants to ensure that he leaves a mark on the world for remembrance and celebration. As it seems Honduras and El Salvador will compete in the World Cup against one another, he and his town friends want to go but he is unsure where he will come up with the money.

* Oscar Mejía

Mejía is one of the biggest Honduran soccer fans, a symbol of his national pride. He often travels and spends all of his money to visit the team at their games. As the Honduran team seems to be approaching a knock-out round up against El Salvador, Mejía is a bit nervous of the ruckus it could cause. He is known to start fights in the stands due to his strong beliefs, and he knows he wants to get too involved in this conflict. Mejía has heard of plans to disturb the Salvadoran team and wants to join if they actually come into fruition, especially if he is the leader. He will defend his country to the end, just as he did when he was a soldier when he was younger.

* María Cruz

María Cruz is a Honduran resident in the capital city of Tegucigalpa. With no husband, she is constantly preyed upon by the public and harassed. This does not deter her, though, as a strong, independent Latina. She is actively trying to make enough money to make it to the United States by working five jobs a week, including as a maid, babysitter, matchmaker, bartender, and soccer game stadium cleaner. And now, when Lopez Arellano seems to be starting a war, she only wants to flee even more so to the neighboring Nicaragua. She is plenty short of money and praying for the best. She wants to hide from any riots and stay undecided in stance. However, she has to care for her younger step-brother, César Avila, who wants to take action. She will follow him anywhere to ensure that he is safe, but she is more and more worried he will want to join the military. She will be forced to work at the

stadium for the World Cup games, even though she knows the crowd is rowdy and can harm her.

* Antonio Arteaga

Antonio Arteaga is a Honduran pacifist in a suburb of Tegucigalpa. Though he is very persuasive in convincing Hondurans and Salvadorans alike to not have a war, he does not have a large outlet of power, being from the lowest class. If he can make a friend out of a higher class resident or even military or political powerhouse, he may be able to prevent future bloodshed. Arteaga is also friends with printing and paper supplier as well as a friend with heavy weaponry.

Residents (Middle To Upper Class)

* Manuel García - Isabella

Manuel García is a very wealthy Honduran, spending most of his time at his large estate in the city capital of Tegucigalpa. García owns properties all around the country, mainly of land for cultivation, which he rents and sells out to only Hondurans, as a supporter of Lopez Arellano. Though one of his pieces of land near the Honduran-Salvadoran border has new illegal Salvadoran immigrants “squatting” on it that refuse to leave, the Pérezes. The Pérezes believe that, as they are on the land, they are entitled to it. Lawfully, this is not true. García wants to sue or take action in a legal sense but knows the Pérezes will be uncooperative. Thus, he is trying to, creatively, think of a way to remove the Salvadoran family. As a childhood friend of Lopez Arellano, he is, actively, trying to seek

out his assistance and guidance.

* Santos Chávez

Santos Chávez works as a Honduran spreading word of all the positives and good deeds that Oswaldo Lopez Arellano has done for the nation’s advancement, acting as a sort of henchmen. He does this through traveling, similar to a missionary, as well as by printing a propaganda newspaper. This is done very under-the-radar and supported by López Arellano, who occasionally pays him large sums of money for his work - which Chávez is saving up to use to travel to El Salvador and cause harm to the President. Thinking little for himself and just re-interpreting Lopez Arellano’s words, he is attempting to make it more clear to Hondurans of the true danger surrounding the Salvadorans, being very much a conspiracy theorist. Due to his work, many Hondurans have started to turn violent towards the Salvadorans. Such has made tensions with El Salvador and Honduras even worse. Chávez is unaware of the Salvadoran point-of-view and may be malleable to turn sides if he is given the opportunity to learn more about the Salvadoran cause. Chávez has Salvadoran cousins and is starting to think maybe what he is doing is not for the best, but he can’t let it show or face imminent threats and danger.

* Norma Flores

Norma Flores enjoys watching Honduran soccer games as a past-time. She always wanted to be a part of the national team, but learned early on in life that they would never allow a female to play on it. However, this soccer love has translated into her two, young

children, who beg her to see all the games played nearby. As more fighting takes place and a seeming game between El Salvador and Honduras approaching, she is unsure of how safe it is to bring her kids to see the game that they all love. She understands that some of the danger threats can have no backing, but she is unsure. As her television is not working, she knows this game will be one to remember and she does not want to miss it. She is considering her options. She is not a strong proponent of Lopez Arellano, but her husband is, as an empanada shop owner, so she tries to show support wherever she can. Norma wants to be a part of something bigger and is considering setting up an anti-López Arellano clan in the secret attic of her husband's empanada shop. In her agenda, she wants the clan to cause crime to make López Arellano seem ineffective in leadership, thus making money as she steals along the way, helping her make it to the soccer games.

Honduran Military

* César Avila

César Avila is María Cruz's step-brother and, while he doesn't necessarily like Lopez Arellano, he loves his country, which he tries to get María to. César has seen posters to join the air force of Honduras and wants to sign up without María's knowledge, which probably won't happen as she is very vigilant of him. He has a plan to get to the facility on the day of the big soccer match between El Salvador and Honduras, with the first game taking place in their home city of Tegucigalpa, which is sure to be a hectic day,

where he can get lost in. Specifically, Avila wants to join the Honduran Air Force, just as his father once had. Avila is a student at the local trade school with a friend who is already in the Air Force, meaning he can easily secure the job.

* Roberto Díaz

Roberto Diaz works in the military for Honduras to continue on his family's history. With quite a large role in the military, he is responsible for the lives of his men, which lays heavy on him, being First Sergeant, which is third from the highest. After being signaled by Lopez Arellano that war could be imminent, he feels afraid by the fact that the El Salvador military is known for being much stronger than them. Thus, he starts to research any weaknesses and is preparing his men. While he is not the strongest supporter of Lopez Arellano in this committee, he wants to keep a good legacy for his family and do his best at war, even if that means dying for his country or his men. Díaz is one that Honduras can count on. Díaz is a part of the upper class and hopes to one day achieve the highest status of the military by becoming the country's leader, but he does not want to do so by force, unless he meets someone to convince him. He has trade school education from the United States due to his rich family background in banana crops.

Honduran Government

Oswaldo Lopez Arellano

Oswaldo Lopez Arellano is the President and leader of Honduras. As he is trying to work out treaties with El Salvador, he is afraid that

war is imminent, even alerting his military to be prepared. His opposition party claims that he is being bribed by the United Fruit Company, but he is trying to distract from this by showing his love and dedication towards his country in this conflict. However, he knows he could face punishment, possibly even death, if the conflict does not end in his favor, as a lot of his corruption will begin to show. This reasons into why he is trying to get as many supporters as he can to ensue violence and ignite war to cover up any publicity of his “wrong-doings.” In all, he is in a tough predicament - unsure whether to hope for a successful treaty to be passed with El Salvador or to engage in a war with the hope of winning. He knows he cannot afford any mistakes and will have to move forward with decisive action. While it may seem like López Arellano has power, it is not necessarily true, as he is a bit timid to use it all in full force, as it can cause enemies within his own military and in the public. He understands a coup could end his reign, just as he did with past leaders. However, López Arellano does have power in the supreme force of the country’s military.

United Fruit Company Shipping Head and Transportation Head

The United Fruit Company isn’t necessarily on Honduras’ side but wants to continue to use them in order to get bananas tax-free. Therefore, they appreciate Lopez Arellano, who allows their banana corruption. The United Fruit Company does not really care about whether Honduras wages war on El Salvador, as long as their banana trafficking

and trade is able to continue without any hitches. Anything that can help trade in their benefit is what they seek over the lives and well-being of the new nations. At the same rate, the United Fruit Company wants to stay on good terms with El Salvador to get their crops tax-free, potentially, as well. On their own, neither has all that much power, but together they help control how the Company functions and profits. For the right price, they may just abandon their posts, whether only one Head or both.

Honduran Soccer Player And Coach

Jaime Varela Jaime Varela is a Honduran soccer player on the national team. As one of the best players, he is considering purposely losing a game just to not have to go up against El Salvador, afraid this could spell trouble for his nation. As more and more riots and reports of violence are coming about, he does not want the game he loves to get politicized and turn into intense fan-fare. On the other hand, he wants to be able to make his country proud by scoring against their long-time rivals, the Salvadoran soccer team. He hopes the two countries can work out a treaty soon but he has been against the array of treaties that have come out before. Jaime is a part of the higher class due to his professional job and he inspires countless children throughout Honduras and the world. His wealth and persistence to win and practice more is unmatched.

Carlos Padilla Velásquez

Carlos Padilla Velásquez is the coach of the Honduran national soccer team. While he

appears to be very strong and determined, in reality, he is self-conscious and always in his head. As it seems to be that Honduras will face El Salvador in a knock-out game, he is unsure of the strategy he should use going forward. Scared for his life, Padilla Velásquez knows the fate of the game is up to him. If he wins, groups of angry Salvadorans could attack him, but if he loses, he would go home in disgrace. Growing up on cultivated land, much of his family are still cultivators and Honduras, being the most vulnerable if war were to happen as they live near the border. On the other hand, he knows he can lose his job if he makes his team lose on purpose.

Potential Solutions

Throughout this committee, delegates will be working towards one common goal: a solution, whether that be a beneficial or detrimental one. As for going about a solution to the conflict, there are various paths that can be taken in terms of both long-term and short term resolutions.

Enraged Hondurans looking for a way to exert their anger towards the Salvadorans could take immediate measures such as starting riots and harassing any Salvadorans they come across in Honduras, whether that be in their own communities or scattered throughout the nation. For instance, a large group can be assembled of furious Hondurans to travel in search of hiding, fearful Salvadorans. This group can, perhaps, get the admiration of someone of high wealth or power to reap benefits for

their work. This plot would be a very terroristic approach. Furthermore, this group can wreak havoc in El Salvador's borders, too.

Hondurans and Salvadorans looking for peace can try to form alliances, though backstabbing can occur. In this way, the two groups may work in conjunction and achieve peaceful protest, with a method that has historically been proven to work, as with Martin Luther King, Jr. and Gandhi. Would finding a common motive or struggle actually work? Should there be a single person representing the movement or a group?

Other Hondurans with strong beliefs, whether for or against López Arellano or without preference, may form coups. These coups can significantly decrease the potency held by López Arellano and, quite possibly, the United Fruit Company and OAS. This coup can reform Honduras to freedom or set it steps backwards into war. Coups can be quite successful, looking at Honduras' past. A tamer alternative may be propaganda, especially to forge new relationships and win over the mass of people.

War is another possible solution, as occurred in historical retrospect. However, this idea should be thought upon, as it risks the lives of many as well as the future prosperity of both nations. More peaceful measures could also be taken, including treaties, immigration bans, travel restrictions, land ownership reform, and travel restrictions. On the other hand, these acts may be too passive and continue to let the flames of upcoming war burn. Building walls and securing common

borders may be a bolder, calmer approach that isn't too eccentric or passive, but is very expensive and not cost-effective for either nation.

Devious tactics may prove useful, as well. Espionage is one example. Whether this be through a spy gaining an alliance in a Honduran national official or even just commonfolk, a spy can be all the difference if war seems imminent. Knowing and being aware of possible attacks' location and timing could be key to success.

In consideration of time, major events are brewing, including the upcoming soccer match. Could this be a stage to showcase bitter hatred? A raging crowd? A notable murder? A massacre? A peace-showing? Options for this event are endless and should be weighed heavily. In fact, one decision could signal the future.

Alliances and betrayals are another route to go upon. Friends don't have to stay friends. Malleable, thoughtful individuals can have their mind swayed. Power may lie in deceit. At the same time, it is crucial to remember that everyone craves power, especially in the economic deficit and trauma both nations are experiencing. Perhaps these alliances could lead to the establishment of a secret committee or organization. Breaking ties with or creating new bonds with the OAS, law enforcement, the military, factory workers, oil workers, or the United Fruit Company may provide a new source of strategy in the global setting. This route may be most preferable to those of low-income.

Questions to Consider

- Do rights and laws outweigh justice and fairness in society?
- When should the OAS have gotten involved in the conflict?
- Does being Honduran necessarily mean allegiance to Lopez Arellano?
- Does being Honduran necessarily mean allegiance to Honduras?
- While Salvadoran illegal immigrants are getting across the border, how safe is this practice?
- If the Salvadorans are being deprived of their rights in El Salvador due to over-population, what is a potential solution to this issue?
- If the Salvadorans are being deprived of their rights in El Salvador due to over-population and there is open land in Honduras, is it justified for them to take hold of it?
- What does the United Fruit Company want? How do they embody Lopez Arellano?
- Who is the rightful winner of the conflict?
- Who is the rightful owner of property in Honduras – Salvadorans that have been on the land for cultivation for the last two years or the deed-owner that does not use the land?
- Should police and military presence increase during the soccer matches?
- If there is war, how should supplies be protected, such as ammunition and oil facilities?
- Who is the main initiator of this conflict? What should be done with them?
- Do nearby countries want to get involved?

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