

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
(ECLAC):
United Fruit Company



Boston College High School Model United Nation
Conference XXXI
March 4, 2023

Matthew Hurley '23 and Madoc Robinson '26

Table of Contents

- I. Letter from Your Chair
- II. Letter from Your Co-Chair
- III. Introduction to the ECLAC
- IV. Introduction to the Committee
- V. Origins of Foreign Intervention
- VI. UFC Makes its Move
- VII. Banana Massacre and Banana Riots
- VIII. Communism
- IX. Logistical Things to Consider
- X. Question to Consider
- XI. Positions with Descriptions
- XII. Sources

I. Letter from Your Chair

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to BC High MUN 31!

My name is Matthew Hurley, I will be your chair for the Banana Republic committee. I am a senior here at BC High and have been participating in Model UN for 4 years. Currently, I serve as the Director of Communications and previously I have been the leader of the Arrupe (middle school) Model UN weekly meetings. I have been a chair of our annual conference for 3 years and have been to over 15 Saturday MUN conferences. Within BC High I also participate in the philosophy club and work with the Shields Center for Innovation to create new learning opportunities for students. Outside of school, I participate in Junior Achievement Company Program, am an Eagle Scout, and volunteer with special needs children.

I encourage you all to do some outside research on the Banana Republics and your specific position. Writing a position paper is technically required, but don't let this be an obstacle. All of you who submit a position paper will be eligible for the Ben Maher '11 Best Position Paper Award. You can email me a copy of your position paper at mj.hurley23@students.bchigh.edu, and CC Madoc at m.robinson26@students.bchigh.edu or hand it in physically on March 4.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns before the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I look forward to a Fruitful Debate

Thank you very much,
Matthew Hurley '23
mj.hurley23@students.bchigh.edu

II. Letter from Your Co-Chair

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to BC High MUN!

My name is Madoc Robinson and I will be your co-chair for the Banana Republic committee. I am a freshman at BC High and this is my first year of Model UN. In school, I am part of the business club and music discussion club. Outside of school, I like to DJ and produce music.

Writing a position paper is technically required, but please don't let this be an obstacle. It can be as simple or complex as you want it. 1 page is plenty for a

All of you who submit a position paper will be eligible for the Ben Maher '11 Best Position Paper Award. You can email Matthew a copy of your position paper at mj.hurley23@students.bchigh.edu, and CC me at m.robinson26@students.bchigh.edu or hand it in physically on March 4.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns before the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out.

I hope you enjoy!

Sincerely,
Madoc Robinson '26
m.robinson26@students.bchigh.edu

III. Introduction to the ECLAC

The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, known as ECLAC or CEPAL, is one of the five United Nations regional commissions. It operates under and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



It was founded in 1948 to contribute to the economic development of Latin America, coordinating actions, and reinforcing economic ties among countries and with other nations of the world. It was broadened in 1984 to include the countries of the Caribbean.

ECLAC includes 46 Member States (20 in Latin America, 13 in the Caribbean, and 13 from outside the region), and 14 associate members which are various non-independent territories, associated island countries, and a commonwealth in the Caribbean.

ECLAC publishes statistics covering the countries of the region and makes cooperative agreements with nonprofit institutions.

Member countries

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Associate members

Anguilla, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands.

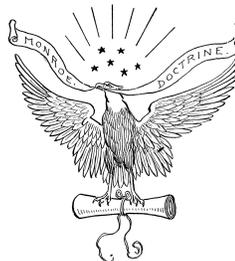
IV. Introduction to the Committee

The United Fruit Company, now Chiquita, held a political and economic stronghold on countries dependent on fruit exports. The so-called “Banana Republics” were ruled by and exploited by private companies as a result of their natural resources, poor populations, and political instability. The United Fruit Company held a relative monopoly on Central American nations, especially Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala. As a result of the instability, several Communist/Socialist revolutionaries rose to prominence in Central America. The United States during this time was at the peak of the Cold War and feared a large communist/socialist uprising.

This committee will take place about the time of 1953 (with a lot of flexibility)

V. Origins of Foreign Intervention

Much of the history of the United States has been marked by, for lack of a better term, meddling in the affairs of other nations. This pattern was often justified with the 1823 Monroe Doctrine, which stated that the US government had the right to protect its economic interests in whatever ways necessary. The US sphere of influence became especially strong in Latin America in the decades around the turn of the 20th century, and around this same time, private corporations began to rise to prominence as well. By 1900, UFC had a near monopoly over the world’s banana trade and held disproportionate amounts of power in multiple Central American countries. For this reason, those nations came to be known as “Banana Republics”.



VI. UFC Makes its Move

As a US corporation, UFC's influence in large part had to do with Monroe Doctrine practices. Even Ubico himself had been allowed to remain in power because of his willingness to make economic concessions. The incentive to maintain this system increased dramatically as the Cold War developed post-WWII. Anti-capitalism was interpreted as synonymous with pro-communism, and fears that Soviet influence would spread so close to home if given the chance was a major motivator for political action.

Knowing this, UFC, under president Samuel Zemurray, began to lobby the Truman administration for assistance. Zemurray and his board of directors were no strangers to government meddling, having planned and enacted a coup in Honduras years before. They knew all too well they had the capacity to remove Arbenz if need be, especially with real political support. In addition to lobbying, public relations expert Edward Bernays was hired to manage an intense misinformation campaign against Guatemala. These efforts sought to convince Truman that Guatemala was on an inevitable path to falling to communism. Ultimately, UFC's marketing was effective.



VII. Banana Massacre and Banana Riots

The Banana Massacre was a massacre of United Fruit Company workers that occurred between December 5 and 6, 1928 in the town of Ciénaga near Santa Marta, Colombia. A strike began on November 12, 1928, when the workers ceased to work until the company would reach an agreement with them to grant them dignified working conditions:

1. *Stop their practice of hiring through sub-contractors*
2. *Mandatory collective insurance*
3. *Compensation for work accidents*
4. *Hygienic dormitories and 6-day workweeks*
5. *Increase in daily pay for workers who earned less than 100 pesos per month*
6. *Weekly wage*
7. *Abolition of office stores*
8. *Abolition of payment through coupons rather than money*
9. *Improvement of hospital services*

After several weeks with no agreement, in which the United Fruit Company refused to negotiate with the workers, the Colombian Army was sent in against the strikers, resulting in the massacre of 47 - 2,000 people. U.S. officials in Colombia and United Fruit representatives portrayed the workers' strike as “communist.” The Colombian government was also compelled to work for the interests of the company, considering they could cut off trade of Colombian bananas with significant markets such as the United States and Europe

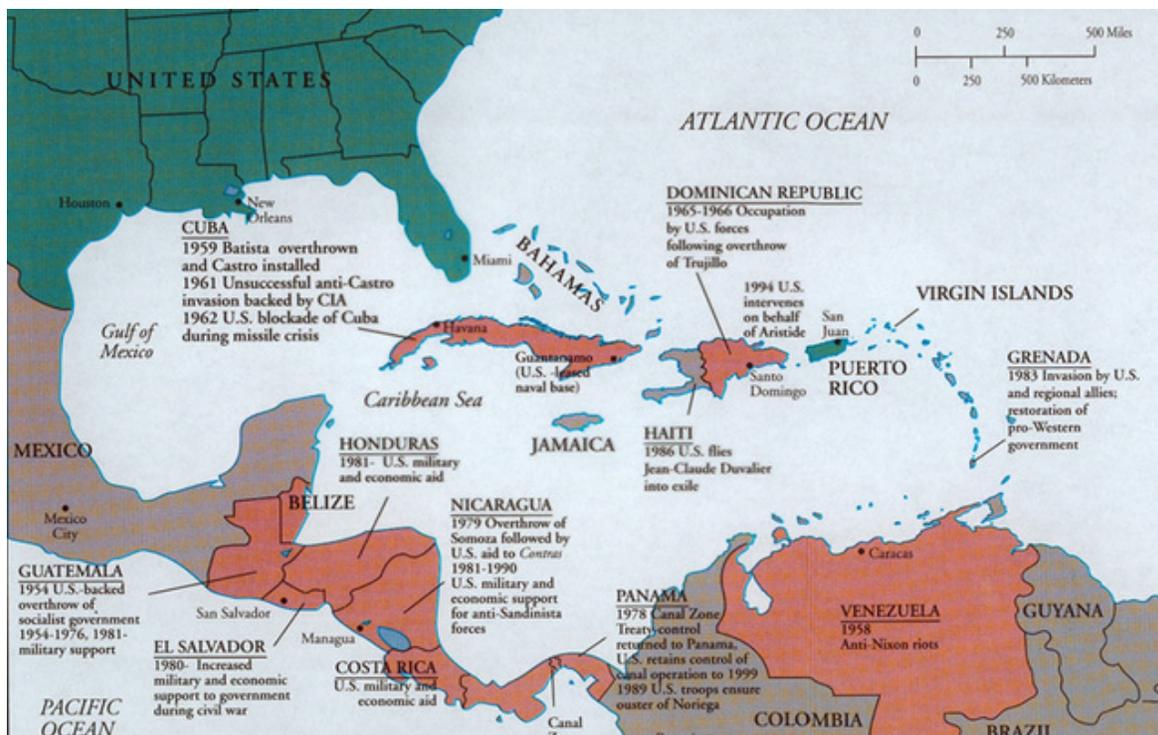


VIII. Communism

Communism is a sociopolitical, philosophical, and economic ideology centered around common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange that allocates products to everyone in the society. The Communist society also involves the absence of private property, social classes, money, and the state. Communists often seek a voluntary state of self-governance but disagree on the means to this end.

The Soviet Union was the world's first nominally Communist state which led to communism's widespread association with the Soviet economic model.

The Cold War refers to a period of geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies. There was no large-scale fighting directly between the US and USSR, but they each supported proxy wars. The conflict was based around the ideological and geopolitical struggle for global influence by these two superpowers, following their temporary alliance and victory against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan in 1945.



IX. Logistical Things to Consider (no particular order)

1. This committee will take place about the time of 1953 (with a lot of flexibility)
2. This committee has many moving parts, multiple solutions are necessary to be successful. At times, many of you will be in agreement and at other times, many of you will not be in agreement.
3. Don't forget the purpose of this committee - the United Fruit Company
4. For the sake of simplicity, the US's political, economic, and military power greatly trumps the power of all the Latin American nations.
5. Within this committee, there are government leaders, military leaders, political leaders, social influencers, and organizations. All positions are important; the powers of knowledge and persuasion are as great as the powers of the sword.
6. Delegates can only vote to pass/fail a resolution if it pertains to their particular nation/organization. Ex:
 - a. the UFC has no power to vote on an issue between the US and USSR
 - b. the USSR cannot vote on an issue between the US and Latin America
 - c. the US cannot intervene in a vote between UFC and Honduras
 - d. the UN Ambassadors can vote on any issues

X. Question to Consider (no particular order)

1. Can the UFC and Latin American nations come to a treaty?
 - a. I.e. establishing fair working conditions, wages, benefits, etc
2. Is the rise of Communist/Socialist politics in Latin America going to aggravate the Cold War between the US and USSR?
3. Is the level of involvement from the USSR in Latin America known?
4. Could the political unrest in Latin America just be another proxy war between the US and USSR?
5. How much of this conflict is due to government corruption/bribery?
6. What are the solutions to corruption/bribery?
7. What is your end goal?
8. How has the UFC taken advantage of basic human dignities and rights?

XI. Positions

United Fruit Company

- Samuel Zemurray - President of the United Fruit Company (UFC)
- Joseph Montgomery- Vice President of UFC
- Ed Witman- UFC Head of Public Relations
- Thomas Corcoran- Lawyer and Lobbyist for UFC

United States

- John Foster Dulles- US Secretary of State
- Allen Dulles- US Head of CIA
- Cord Meyer - US CIA operative
- Frank Gardiner Wisner - US OSS/CIA intelligence officer
- Joseph Raymond McCarthy - US Senator R-WI, the face of anti-Communism
- Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.- US Ambassador to UN
- John Gordon Mein - US Ambassador to Guatemala
- Whiting Willauer - US Ambassador to Costa Rica(former) and Honduras(current)

USSR

- Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Molotov - USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Ivan Alexandrovich Serov* - USSR Chairman of the KGB
- Andrey Yanuaryevich Vyshinsky - USSR Ambassador to UN

Guatemala

- Carlos Castillo Armas- Guatemala nationalist military leader

- José Manuel Fortuny Arana - Guatemala communist leader

Costa Rica

- Carmen Lyra* - co-founder of Costa Rica Communist party, founder of women's worker union
- Carlos Luis Fallas - former plantation worker, now communist

Honduras

- Ramos Dionisio Bejarano - co-founder of Honduras Communist party

Chile

- Pablo Neruda - poet and Communist politician
- Luis Alberto Corvalán Lepe - Communist Party of Chile

Columbia

- Jorge Eliécer Gaitán Ayala* - 5th Minister of Labour, Health, and Social Welfare of Colombia
- Gabriel José de la Concordia García Márquez - writer and journalist

El Salvador

- Julio Adalberto Rivera Carballo - Salvadoran Lieutenant Colonel

*These individuals may not have held the position listed in 1953, but for the sake of the committee, they are in that position.

Underlined names are the common names of the position (as opposed to the entire formal name).

XII. Sources

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