



Forum: United Nations Historical Security Council (UNHSC) 1961

Topic: Addressing the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba

Student Officer: Sofia Emmanouela Vatista

Position: Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sofia Emmanouela Vatista, I am an IB1 student in Geitonas School and I am honored to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents of the Historical Security Council in this year's St Catherine's School MUN!

I have been involved in Forensics since 7th grade and MUN as of last year. I've participated in various conferences, some even international. Over this time, I have developed a strong passion for international relations, diplomacy, history and debate both as a delegate and as a StOff member.

I am committed to helping each delegate engage critically with the topic, develop persuasive speeches and learn the necessary skills to navigate debate. My aim as Deputy President is to provide clear guidance and encourage collaboration within the committee.

If you have any questions about the topic, research or anything really - do not hesitate to contact me (svatista18@gmail.com) or Rea, the President via email (rea.karvouni@gmail.com). I look forward to meeting all of you and to an engaging, enjoyable and fun committee session!

Kind regards,

Sofia Emmanouela Vatista



TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In April 1961, a defining episode of the Cold War took place: the Bay of Pigs invasion. The operation was planned under the Eisenhower administration and was executed during John F. Kennedy's time in office. The Bay of Pigs Invasion aimed to remove Fidel Castro's regime from power in Cuba, due to his government's growing political alignment with the Soviet Union. Rather than succeeding as a swift and finalizing operation, it resulted as a disastrous tragedy. Over 1,400 Cuban exiles, who were trained and supported by the CIA, landed on the southern coast of Cuba and were defeated within three days by Castro's sources. The consequences of this operation exceeded well beyond the scales of the front, as they significantly reshaped regional politics and further intensified Cold War tensions.

Under the Eisenhower administration, the United States (USA) strived to limit the spread of communism at any cost. President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the CIA to train Cuban exiles in secret as part of a broader policy to suppress Soviet influence in the western hemisphere. His successor, John F. Kennedy, inherited this plan during the early months of his presidency, determined to appear strong against communism but mindful of direct intervention. Kennedy approved the invasion as a covert operation. On the other side stood Fidel Castro, a revolutionary who had overthrown the US-aligned dictator Fulgencio Batista in Cuba in 1959. Castro's transformation of Cuba into a socialist state made him a perceived threat to the USA and its interests.

At the heart of the Bay of Pigs lies the conflict between sovereignty and ideology. The United States, which feared communism spreading within their country, perceived Castro as a symbol of Soviet influence in Latin America and therefore a threat. Castro, however, framed the invasion as proof of US imperialism, gathering Cuban citizens to his side. This ideological divide is what "transformed" this invasion from a failed military operation into a turning point in the history of international relations.

The operation itself was marked by secrecy, miscommunication and miscalculation. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) trained Brigade 2506, which was a force consisting of Cuban exiles, in Guatemala and Nicaragua. The invasion was expected to trigger an



internal uprising among Cubans against Castro. However, no such uprising actually occurred. Instead, Cuban civilians largely resisted the invaders, and Castro's army of approximately 20,000 troops¹ undertook the poorly supported exile force. Kennedy's decision to cancel further US air support doomed the mission. In just 72 hours, over 1,100 invaders were captured, 114 were killed,² as the world witnessed one of the biggest failures in covert American foreign policy.

The broader consequences were instant and long-lasting. Castro asserted his power domestically, declaring Cuba a socialist state. Internationally, the failed invasion drove Cuba into alignment with the Union of Soviet Social Republics (USSR). Within months, the Soviet Union provided military support and economic assistance to Cuba, which laid the foundation for the Missile Crisis of 1962, arguably the closest the world ever came to nuclear war. In short, the Bay of Pigs was not just a failed invasion but a geopolitical catalyst.

The Bay of Pigs Invasion aligns closely with the conference theme "Beyond Borders", as it encapsulates the profound consequences of crossing political, ideological and even moral boundaries in the actual pursuit of security. The United States intervention in Cuba was not only an act of warfare, rather an act to project ideology "beyond its own borders", reflecting the wider struggle between competing worldviews during the Cold War. This event reminds the international community that when nations act outside their borders in defiance of sovereignty and self-determination, the repercussions can transcend generations and reshape the global order.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Cold War

The Cold War was the prolonged geopolitical and ideological rivalry after World War II, often described as "an ongoing political rivalry between the United States and the

¹"The Bay of Pigs Invasion: Florida's Role in the CIA Operation | Florida Sheriffs Association." *Florida Sheriffs Association*, 8 Aug. 2024, flsheriffs.org/blog/entry/the-bay-of-pigs-invasion-floridas-role-in-the-cia-operation/

²Bowles, Chester. "Digital History." [www.digitalhistory.uh.edu](https://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=1169), 1961, www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=1169.



Soviet Union and their respected allies that developed after World War II”³. Although it never escalated into direct conflict between the two super-powers, the Cold War influenced nearly every major regional dispute of the mid 20th century, including the Bay of Pigs Invasion, which was a direct manifestation of Cold War tensions, as the US strives to prevent communism from being spread in the Western Hemisphere, while the USSR expanded its influence through Cuba.

Communism

Communism is “a political and economic ideology that positions itself in opposition to liberal democracy and capitalism, advocating instead for a classless system in which the means of production are owned communally”.⁴ During the Bay of Pigs crisis, communism was not only an ideology but was perceived as an existential threat to the United States. Castro’s decision to align Cuba with the USSR and adopt Marxist – Leninist principles provoked strong opposition by the US and directly motivated them to attempt to overthrow his government.

Containment Policy

Containment was the US Cold War strategy designed “to prevent the spread of communism abroad”.⁵ It was firstly articulated by diplomat George Kennan and it shaped American foreign policy, specifically their actions throughout the Cold War for decades. It was also the rationale behind interventions like the Bay of Pigs. The operation represented a covert attempt to apply the containment principle in Latin America by halting the expansion of the Soviet influence through Cuba’s revolutionary government.

³The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Cold War | Causes, Facts, & Summary.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 19 Jan. 2024, www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War

⁴“What Is Communism? | Britannica.” *Www.britannica.com*, 30 Nov. 2018, www.britannica.com/question/What-is-communism

⁵Britannica. “Containment | Foreign Policy.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 9 Aug. 2016, www.britannica.com/topic/containment-foreign-policy



Guerrilla Warfare

Guerrilla warfare is “a method of fighting in which small groups of people use surprise attacks against a stronger and larger force”.⁶ This method characterized both the Cuban Revolution and the resistance tactics that Castro and his forces had used to seize power in 1959. At the same time, the CIA-trained Brigade 2506 adopted similar guerrilla methods during the Bay of Pigs Invasion, though with less success.

Non-Intervention Principle

The non-intervention principle, mandated in Article 2(7) of the UN Charter, prohibits “the threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”.⁷ It was one of the most contentious legal issues surrounding the Bay of Pigs Invasion. By covertly training and arming Cuban exiles to invade another sovereign state, the United States violated this foundational UN norm, provoking global criticism and questioning the limits of state sovereignty in the context of ideological confrontation.

Cautious Optimism

Cautious Optimism is “a feeling that there are some reasons to hope for a good result, even if you do not expect complete success or improvement”.⁸ Cautious optimism was evident in the Bay of Pigs invasion, as president John F Kennedy approved the CIA’s plan based on a belief that it would spark a popular uprising, but also made adaptations to control risks.

⁶ “GUERRILLA WARFARE Collocation | Meaning and Examples of Use.” @CambridgeWords, 24 Sept. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/example/english/guerrilla-warfare

⁷ United Nations. “Chapter I: Article 2(7) — Charter of the United Nations — Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs — Codification Division Publications.” Un.org, 2018, legal.un.org/repertory/art2_7.shtml

⁸ Cambridge Dictionary. “Cautious Optimism.” @CambridgeWords, dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/cautious-optimism



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Background

Cuba Before 1959

Before the revolution, Cuba in the 1950s was under the authoritarian rule of Fulgencio Batista, whose regime heavily relied on US economic and political support.⁹ Batista's government, while maintaining close ties with Washington, allowed American corporations to dominate the country's economy. At one point, US-owned and other foreign companies controlled approximately 75% of Cuba's arable land and the majority of its sugar exports.¹⁰ Although this relationship benefited foreign investors and Cuba's elites, it left citizens in deep poverty and social inequality. Corruption and political repression characterized Batista's way of ruling, fueling resentment amongst Cubans. The growing division between the wealthy minority and the poor majority set the prerequisites that led to a revolutionary uprising, which transformed Cuba's political and ideological landscape.

The Cuban Revolution

In 1953, Fidel Castro alongside Ernesto "Che" Guevara and a small group of revolutionaries, launched an armed guerrilla movement, named "26th July Movement", which aimed to overthrow Batista's regime.¹¹ Despite initial failures, the rebels gained popular support through their promises of social justice, land distribution and most importantly national sovereignty. By January 1959, Batista fled the country and Castro entered Havana as the victorious leader of the revolution. Once in power, Castro implemented sweeping land reforms, nationalized US owned industries and restructured the economy under state control. Although he initially avoided an "explicit" alliance with the USSR, the US' growing hostility that included economic sanctions, trade embargoes and the withdrawal of oil refining services, pushed Cuba

⁹ "Fulgencio Batista - (US History – 1945 to Present) - Vocab, Definition, Explanations | Fiveable." Fiveable.me, 2025, fiveable.me/key-terms/united-states-history-since-1945/fulgencio-batista.

¹⁰ Culture, A. Growing. "The Cuban Paradox by a Growing Culture." Local Futures, 7 Feb. 2023, www.localfutures.org/the-cuban-paradox/

¹¹ 26th July movement -- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "26th of July Movement | Cuban History." Encyclopædia Britannica, 1 Dec. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/26th-of-July-Movement.



toward forming a formal alliance with the Soviet Union. Therefore the country was transformed into the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere, escalating Cold War tensions dramatically.

United States Policy toward Cuba

The United States initially viewed the Cuban Revolution with cautious optimism, but this quickly turned into alarm as Castro consolidated power and began nationalizing American-owned assets. The Eisenhower administration saw these developments as signs of “communist infiltration” and in March 1960 authorized the CIA to train Cuban exiles for a then potential invasion to overthrow Castro¹². The plan was later inherited and executed by president John F. Kennedy upon taking office in January 1961. Kennedy, however, was reluctant to authorize full-scale military support, fearing international condemnation and a direct violation of the UN non-intervention principle Article 2(7)¹³ if US involvement became evident. Consequently, he reduced the scope of air strikes which critically weakened the planned invasion.

Beyond the Bay of Pigs itself, this period marked a turning point in the US's foreign policy toward Latin America. Diplomatic relations with Havana were broken by Washington in January 1961. A comprehensive economic embargo was implemented by the US in 1962, halting all exports except for humanitarian aid. This embargo aimed to isolate Cuba economically and politically while signaling to other nations that alignment with the Soviet bloc would bear heavy consequences.

The Invasion

The invasion began on 15 April 1961, when Cuban exile pilots who were trained and equipped by the CIA conducted air raids on Cuban airfields in an attempt to destroy Castro's small air force. The attacks failed to achieve their objective, leaving the invasion force exposed. On 17 April 1961, approximately 1,400 exiles known as Brigade 2506

¹² Salim Lamrani. “The Eisenhower Administration and Revolutionary Justice in Cuba: “Humanitarian” Considerations?” Études Caribéennes, no. 54, 15 Apr. 2023, journals.openedition.org/etudescaribeennes/26534, <https://doi.org/10.4000/etudescaribeennes.2653>

¹³ United Nations. “Chapter I: Article 2(7) — Charter of the United Nations — Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs — Codification Division Publications.” Un.org, 2018, legal.un.org/repertory/art2_7.shtml.



landed at the Bahía de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs) on Cuba's southern coast.¹⁴ The CIA had anticipated that the invasion would trigger a popular uprising against Castro's government but no such rebellion happened. Instead, Castro quickly mobilized 20,000 troops, supported by Soviet supplied tanks and aircraft,¹⁵ effectively surrounding the invade rs.

Within three days, the operation collapsed due to the exiles' lack of ammunition, air cover and local support forcing them to surrender on 19 April 1961, which resulted in a defeat for the United States and significant victory for Castro.



Figure 1: Map depicting the nation of Cuba and indicating the regions of significance to the events discussed¹⁶

Consequences of the Invasion

The failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion had extensive political and diplomatic consequences. Within Cuba, Castro's position was strengthened and his government's legitimacy set as he displayed himself as the defender of the state's sovereignty against "imperialist aggression". After the invasion, Castro declared Cuba as a socialist state¹⁷

¹⁴ "The Bay of Pigs Invasion and Its Aftermath." Office of the Historian, 2019, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs.

¹⁵ John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. "The Bay of Pigs." *Jfklibrary.org*, Presidential Library and Museum, 7 Nov. 2024, John F. Kennedy www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-bay-of-pigs

¹⁶ "File:BayofPigs.jpg - Wikimedia Commons." Wikimedia.org, 2022, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BayofPigs.jpg.

¹⁷ "The Bay of Pigs Invasion and Its Aftermath." Office of the Historian, 2019, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/bay-of-pigs



and entered a defense – economic alliance with the USSR, from whom they received oil, weapons and financial aid. This officially marked Cuba's shift into the communist bloc.

In the United States, the invasion was seen as public embarrassment for Kennedy and his administration. Although the president took full responsibility for the failure,¹⁸ restoring some of his personal credibility, the debacle set the ground for a comprehensive reassessment over US covert operations. Furthermore, it led to the creation of the Alliance for Progress (1961),¹⁹ a policy initiative supposedly aimed at determining the need for and availability of external finance countering, but truly aiming at deterring communism in Latin America through economic aid and reform rather than direct military intervention.

Diplomatically, the operation's failure deepened Cold War divisions, pushing Cuba and the USSR into even tighter cooperation. The Organisation of American States (OAS) passed a resolution that excluded Cuba, due to its government being considered incompatible with the US's principles due to its Marxist-Leninist alliance in January 1962. This reached its height in the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962, when the USSR stationed nuclear missiles on Cuban soil as a direct response to the USA's hostility, bringing the world to the verge of nuclear war.

Finally, the episode closed with a prisoner exchange in December 1962, when the US negotiated the release of over 1,100 captured Brigade 2506 members, in exchange for \$53 million worth of humanitarian aid.²⁰ This exchange displayed the human cost of the failed invasion, and marked one of the few gestures between Washington - Havana.

¹⁸ US Department of State. "The Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1961-1962." [State.gov](https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/17739.htm), 2019, 2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/17739.htm.

¹⁹ "Alliance for Progress | International Economic Program." Encyclopedia Britannica, www.britannica.com/topic/Alliance-for-Progress.

²⁰ Counterattack -- aftermath---. "The Bay of Pigs." Jfklibrary.org, John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 7 Nov. 2024, www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-bay-of-pigs.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of the Event	Event
01 January 1959	Fidel Castro takes power in Cuba after leading Batista to flee, marking the beginning of socialist reforms in the country. ²¹
17 March 1960	Eisenhower approves CIA covert plan to train Cuban exiles, showing US intent to remove Castro. ²²
20 January 1961	John F. Kennedy decides to continue with the plan.
15 April 1961	Exile pilots bomb Cuban airfields, yet Castro's air forces survive. This miscalculation of the Brigade 2506 and the US leaves invaders exposed. ²³
17 April 1961	1.500 exiles land at the Bay of Pigs and Castro mobilizes the Cuban Army.
19 April 1961	The invasion was defeated. Kennedy refuses US reinforcements. ²⁴
3 March 1962	Cuba was expelled from the Organization of American States (OAS) ²⁵ . The region isolates Cuba,

²¹ Fidel Castro takes power – John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. “The Bay of Pigs.” Jfklibrary.org, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 7 Nov. 2024, www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-bay-of-pigs.

²² Bohning, Don. “US Covert Activities against Cuba.” *ReVista*, 2020, revista.drclas.harvard.edu/u-s-covert-activities-against-cuba/.

²³ “Bay of Pigs Invasion | Summary, Significance, & Facts.” Encyclopædia Britannica, 4 Jan. 2019, www.britannica.com/event/Bay-of-Pigs-invasion.

²⁴ Kennedy School of Government Case Program Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs. https://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/course_materials/Bay%20of%20Pigs%20case.pdf

²⁵ “OAS: Maintain Suspension of Cuba.” Human Rights Watch, 1 June 2009, www.hrw.org/news/2009/06/01/oas-maintain-suspension-cuba.



	strengthening its reliance on the USSR.
23 December 1962	The US and Cuba negotiate prisoner release in exchange for \$53 million ²⁶ in humanitarian aid.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Republic of Cuba

The Republic of Cuba was the direct target of the invasion and stage of this operation. The Bay of Pigs invasion was Cuba's most significant threat since the 1959 revolution. Castro himself supervised defense operations against the Brigade 2506, deploying the revolutionary armed forces and civilian militias. The successful defence of the Bay of Pigs established national sovereignty and resilience, which resulted in the strengthening of Castro's domestic legitimacy and validated his political authority. Internationally, the victory intensified Cuba's alignment with the USSR, leading Castro to believe it is necessary for the establishment of stronger ideological and military cooperation to deter future aggression.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR)

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), even though not directly involved in the Bay of Pigs invasion, was one of its principal geopolitical beneficiaries.²⁷ The failed operation accelerated Cuba's integration under the Soviet influence leading to the establishment of military, economic and diplomatic ties that would reach their highest point in the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. The Soviet leadership used the incident as evidence of Western hostility toward socialist movements, reinforcing the defence of anti-imperialist nations. Moscow's successive support for Havana through military aid,

²⁶ Counterattack -- aftermath---. "The Bay of Pigs." Jfklibrary.org, John F Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 7 Nov. 2024, www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-bay-of-pigs.

²⁷ Military History Fandom. *Cuba–Soviet Union relations*. military-history.fandom.com/wiki/Cuba–Soviet_Union_relations#:~:text=Though%20there%20was%20no%20talk,Cuba%20would%20have%20dire%20consequences



economic assistance and political endorsement established a strategic alliance that would redefine the balance of power in the Americas, for decades.

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America played a leading role in planning and executing the Bay of Pigs invasion, in collaboration with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).²⁸ Part of their Cold War containment policy, they viewed Fidel Castro's revolutionary government as a strategic threat that could facilitate the spread of communism in the Western civilization, something the US strongly condemned. The Eisenhower administration initiated the plan, while the Kennedy administration authorized and implemented it in 1961. The US provided the financial, logistical and military support necessary to organize and equip Brigade 2506. Despite its intent to cover direct involvement, the invasion's failure resulted in significant diplomatic repercussions overall diminishing US credibility abroad and revealing the risks of covert interventions during the Cold War.

Brigade 2506

The Brigade 2506²⁹ played a fundamental role in the Bay of Pigs invasion. It was formed by Cuban exiles who had fled Castro's regime, and was recruited, financed, armed and finally trained by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Acting as the operational front of US interests, it symbolized both the determination of anti-Castro Cubans and the broader American strategy of "indirect" intervention. However, its defeat underscored the limitations of externally supported exile forces and revealed the strategic and logistical vulnerabilities of covert paramilitary actions conducted without actual military backing.

²⁸ Murphy, Dr Brian. "JFK and the Long Shadow Caused by the Bay of Pigs." www.rte.ie, 13 Apr. 2021, www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2021/0413/1209565-jfk-and-the-long-shadow-caused-by-the-bay-of-pigs/.

²⁹ Brigade 2506: 60th Anniversary of the Bay of Pigs Invasion | the Cuban. thecuban.org/operation-pedro-pan-2-2/.



Organization of American States (OAS)

The Organization of American States (OAS)³⁰ which was established to promote regional solidarity, peace and collective security in the Western Hemisphere played a compound role during this period. While it had previously criticized Cuba's growing ties with the Soviet Union, the US led invasion exposed internal divisions from the organization. Several member states characterised the operation as a violation of the principle of non-intervention as stated in the OAS Charter, while others refrained from open criticism due to political and ideological pressures of the Cold War and fear of the US.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council was the forum for initial diplomatic interactions during and following the Bay of Pigs invasion. After the first air attacks on April 15 1961, Cuban Minister, Raúl Roa, addressed an emergency session of the council, charging the United States with aggression and violation of Cuba's sovereignty. In response, US ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson denied American involvement and falsely claimed the attacking planes were flown by Cuban defectors, a position he was forced to take due to secrecy regarding the CIA's operation.³¹ This incident further damaged US credibility at the United Nations and highlighted the Security Council's role during the Cold War, specifically where tensions between the superpowers arose and the UN's power to prevent conflict still remained limited.

RELEVANT UN TREATIES CONVENTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

UN Charter, Article 2(7)³²

³⁰ "OAS > OAS > Member States > Cuba." Oas.org, 2025, www.oas.org/ext/en/main/oas/member-states/cuba. Accessed 12 Nov. 2025.

³¹The Invasion – "The Bay of Pigs Invasion: Florida's Role in the CIA Operation | Florida Sheriffs Association." Florida Sheriffs Association, 8 Aug. 2024, flsheriffs.org/blog/entry/the-bay-of-pigs-invasion-floridas-role-in-the-cia-operation/.

³² United Nations. "Chapter I: Article 2(7) — Charter of the United Nations — Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs — Codification Division Publications." *Un.org*, 2018, legal.un.org/repertory/art2_7.shtml



The United Nations Charter was adopted in 1945, and since it has remained the core of international law on all matters which concern sovereignty, intervention and legitimacy. More specifically, Article 2(7) which prohibits the use of force against territorial solidarity or political independence in domestic matters became a central reference point as Cuba accused the US of violating its sovereignty through covert military attacks. The debate further noted the importance of non-intervention as a guiding virtue in post war diplomacy.

Havana Charter

The Havana Charter of 1948 was never fully sustained despite being signed and adopted by 56 member states. Its aim was to establish the International Trade Organization (ITO), a proposed international body to regulate trade, and outlined economic principles promoting sovereignty and equality among nations. For Cuba, these ideas later symbolized resistance to economic dependency on the United States. The charter's emphasis on national control over resources provided an ideological foundation for Cuba's economic reforms after 1959, as it pursued nationalization and self-determination which Fidel Castro successfully upheld.

UN General Assembly Resolution 1514

Prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion, UNGA Resolution 1514 which is known as "the declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples", affirmed the right of all nations to self determination. Although primarily created to address decolonization, it was brought up by Cuba to defend its autonomy and reject external interference. The resolution's principles strengthened Cuba's claim to sovereignty and framed US actions as a violation of international norms.



OAS Resolution on Cuba (1962)

In response to Cuba's growing alignment with the USSR and fearing the USA, the OAS suspended Cuba's membership in 1962.³³ The resolution aimed to isolate Cuba diplomatically and maintain Western unity under US leadership. However, it also exposed deep divisions within the Americas as several Latin American nations criticized the decision as contrary to the principle of non-intervention. While the resolution achieved short term containment, it reinforced Cuba's alliance with the USSR, intensifying Cold War polarization in the region.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Prisoner Negotiations (1962)

Following the failed invasion diplomatic channels briefly reopened when the United States negotiated the release of the captured exiles from Brigade 2506. In exchange the US provided around \$53 million in humanitarian aid, which included food and medical supplies. This negotiation, though limited, represented a rare moment of legitimate diplomacy between Havana and Washington. It showed that humanitarian aims could actually bring concrete results, even amongst Cold War tensions. However, it did not lead to long-term reconciliation as political mistrust kept up on both sides.

OAS Sanctions and the Diplomatic Isolation of Cuba

In an attempt to control the vast spread of communism in the Americas, the Organization of American States suspended Cuba's membership in 1962, encouraging member states to either reduce or completely cut diplomatic and economic ties with the state and therefore the USSR. This specific policy aimed to pressure Fidel Castro into breaking away from the Soviet Union and leaving behind his socialist ideologies and system. However this backfired as it contributed to the establishment of even closer ties

³³ "OAS: Maintain Suspension of Cuba." *Human Rights Watch*, 1 June 2009, www.hrw.org/news/2009/06/01/oas-maintain-suspension-cuba



with the USSR. This demonstrated limitations in collective pressure during the Cold War, especially in scenarios where a powerful external ally was involved.

US Policy Shifts

After the Bay of Pigs, the Kennedy administration had authorized operation Mongoose, late in 1961, which was a covert CIA campaign led by Edward Landsdale and overseen by Robert F. Kennedy. Its intent was to destabilize Cuba through economic sabotage, espionage, support from opposition groups and propaganda. The operation also included assassination plotting against the Cuban Dictator, demonstrating Washington's deep commitment to regime change. However it failed to achieve its objectives of weakening and diminishing the Cuban regime. This operation once again encouraged Cuban and Soviet relations and deepened global tensions further, contributing to the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. These policies revealed the limitations of such double-sighted approaches and underscored the risks of escalation in already heightened cold war tensions.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Strengthening Regional Diplomacy

Enhancing dialogue through the Organization of American States (OAS) could serve as a peaceful way to address disputes between the United States, Cuba and other Latin American nations involved. The OAS can organize regular conferences and assemblies in order to mediate ideological and political differences, essentially reaffirming collective security and non intervention principles. This could promote understanding and reduce the likelihood of unilateral actions. While disagreements within the organisation may limit efficiency, offering Cuba the opportunity of reintegration into the Americas regional diplomacy and allowing the US to rebuild its credibility after the political blunder could possibly encourage both sides to participate.



Economic Engagement Instead of Embargo

Gradual cooperation replacing economic isolation could promote stability more effectively than imposing sanctions. Targeted trade agreements or humanitarian aid programs, particularly in agriculture and healthcare would foster trust and reduce Cuba's dependency on the Soviet Union. This could be implemented through bilateral talks mediated by neutral states. In this way, economic reform is encouraged through incentive rather than pressure. The only disadvantage could be the potential domestic criticism faced by US policymakers, or the US's refusal to lift sanctions. However, framing engagement as a humanitarian measure could make this strategy politically acceptable.

Establishing Confidence-Building Measures

Establishing confidence-building measures such as cultural exchanges, prisoner releases and humanitarian cooperation could gradually mitigate distrust. Such steps ensure diplomacy by demonstrating goodwill without direct political compromise by any involved party. These measures could be coordinated under UN or OAS supervision ensuring transparency and accountability, an advantage is that they reduce tension at low political cost. However, they require mutual restraint and patience. Both governments could be persuaded by the potential for improved international reputation and decreased regional isolation.

United Nation oversight on Non-Intervention Principles

The introduction of a UN resolution which maintains the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states would definitely enhance accountability mechanisms against further covert interventions. It would be carried out through the Security Council, by adopting guidelines making transparency obligatory in foreign operations alongside monitoring frameworks. If successful, it will have provided a more coherent legal foundation for future collisions, yet enforcement may be blocked by states with interests on this matter. However, non-aligned states could urge this initiative as part of a broader plan to uphold the UN Charter and follow international law.



Establishing Diplomacy to Prevent Escalation of Tensions

Diplomatically preventing tension escalation could involve establishing early warning systems within the UN or OAS, which could help in ways such as early detection of escalating regional tensions, intelligence sharing, reporting military movements and peace envoy missions. Implementation could include liaison offices in Havana and Washington, quarterly conflict prevention conferences amongst regional and neutral states and secure communication hotlines between the US and Cuba. The main advantage is crisis prevention through timely intervention which reduces the likelihood of military escalation and fostering trust among nations. Potential disadvantages to this solution could lie in resource demands and political reluctance to share intelligence. Nevertheless both the United States and Cuba could be convinced by the mutual security benefits and the opportunity to demonstrate commitment to peace and stability in the Western Hemisphere.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"1962: Bay of Pigs Prisoners Fly to Freedom." *News.bbc.co.uk*, 24 Dec. 1962, [news.bbc.co.uk/onthistday/hi/dates/stories/december/24/newsid_3295000/3295045.stm](https://www.bbc.com/news/thisday/hi/dates/stories/december/24/newsid_3295000/3295045.stm)

"Alliance for Progress | International Economic Program." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/topic/Alliance-for-Progress

Bohning, Don. "US Covert Activities against Cuba." *ReVista*, 2020, revista.drclas.harvard.edu/u-s-covert-activities-against-cuba/

Bowles, Chester. "Digital History." *Www.digitalhistory.uh.edu*, 1961, www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=1169

Brigade 2506: 60th Anniversary of the Bay of Pigs Invasion | the Cuban. thecuban.org/operation-pedro-pan-2-2/



St Catherine's British School Model United Nations | 2026

Cambridge Dictionary. "Cautious Optimism." @CambridgeWords, 12 Nov. 2025, dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/cautious-optimism

"CIA RELEASES DOCUMENTS PERTAINING to BAY of PIGS." *Fas.org*, 2025, irp.fas.org/cia/news/pr060498.html

"CubaSí: Playa Girón." *Cuba-Solidarity.org.uk*, 2025, cuba-solidarity.org.uk/cubasi/article/143/playa-giroacuten

Culture, A. Growing. "The Cuban Paradox by a Growing Culture." *Local Futures*, 7 Feb. 2023, www.localfutures.org/the-cuban-paradox/

"Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples." *OHCHR*, 14 Dec. 1960, www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-granting-independence-colonial-countries-and-people

"File:BayofPigs.jpg - Wikimedia Commons." *Wikimedia.org*, 2022, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:BayofPigs.jpg

Florida Sheriffs Association – "The Bay of Pigs Invasion: Florida's Role in the CIA Operation | Florida Sheriffs Association." *Florida Sheriffs Association*, 8 Aug. 2024, flsheriffs.org/blog/entry/the-bay-of-pigs-invasion-floridas-role-in-the-cia-operation/

"Fulgencio Batista - (US History – 1945 to Present) - Vocab, Definition, Explanations | Fiveable." *Fiveable.me*, 2025, fiveable.me/key-terms/united-states-history-since-1945/fulgencio-batista

"Havana Charter (1948)." *Oxford Public International Law*, 2023, opil.ouplaw.com/display/10.1093/law:epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e1529



John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. "The Bay of Pigs." *Jfklibrary.org*, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, 7 Nov. 2024, www.jfklibrary.org/learn/about-jfk/jfk-in-history/the-bay-of-pigs

Kornbluh, Peter, and George Gelzer. "Cuba Embargoed: US Trade Sanctions Turn Sixty | National Security Archive." *Nsarchive.gwu.edu*, 2 Feb. 2022, nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/cuba/2022-02-02/cuba-embargoed-us-trade-sanctions-turn-sixty

Murphy, Dr Brian. "JFK and the Long Shadow Caused by the Bay of Pigs." *Www.rte.ie*, 13 Apr. 2021, www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2021/0413/1209565-jfk-and-the-long-shadow-caused-by-the-bay-of-pigs/

OAS. "OAS - Organization of American States: Democracy for Peace, Security, and Development." *OAS - Organization of American States*, 1 Aug. 2009, www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=GA-12-09

"OAS: Maintain Suspension of Cuba." *Human Rights Watch*, 1 June 2009, www.hrw.org/news/2009/06/01/oas-maintain-suspension-cuba

Office Of The Historian. "The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962." *Office of the Historian*, United States Department of State, history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/cuban-missile-crisis

Prados, John, and Arturo Jimenez-Bacardi. "Kennedy and Cuba: Operation Mongoose | National Security Archive." *Nsarchive.gwu.edu*, 3 Oct. 2019, nsarchive.gwu.edu/briefing-book/cuba/2019-10-03/kennedy-cuba-operation-mongoose



St Catherine's British School Model United Nations | 2026

Salim Lamrani. "The Eisenhower Administration and Revolutionary Justice in Cuba: "Humanitarian" Considerations?" *Études Caribéennes*, no. 54, 15 Apr. 2023, journals.openedition.org/etudescaribeennes/26534, <https://doi.org/10.4000/etudescaribeennes.26534>

Spotlight on Corruption. "The Harms of Glencore's Corruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria." *Spotlight on Corruption*, 12 Dec. 2023, www.spotlightcorruption.org/glencores-corruption-drc-and-nigeria

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "26th of July Movement | Cuban History." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 1 Dec. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/26th-of-July-Movement

"The Negotiator - CIA." *Www.cia.gov*, 16 June 2017, www.cia.gov/stories/story/the-negotiator/

United Nations. "Chapter I: Article 2(7) — Charter of the United Nations — Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs — Codification Division Publications." *Un.org*, 2018, legal.un.org/repertory/art2_7.shtml

US Department of State. "The Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis, 1961-1962." *State.gov*, 2019, 2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/ea/17739.htm