

GMUNC XII

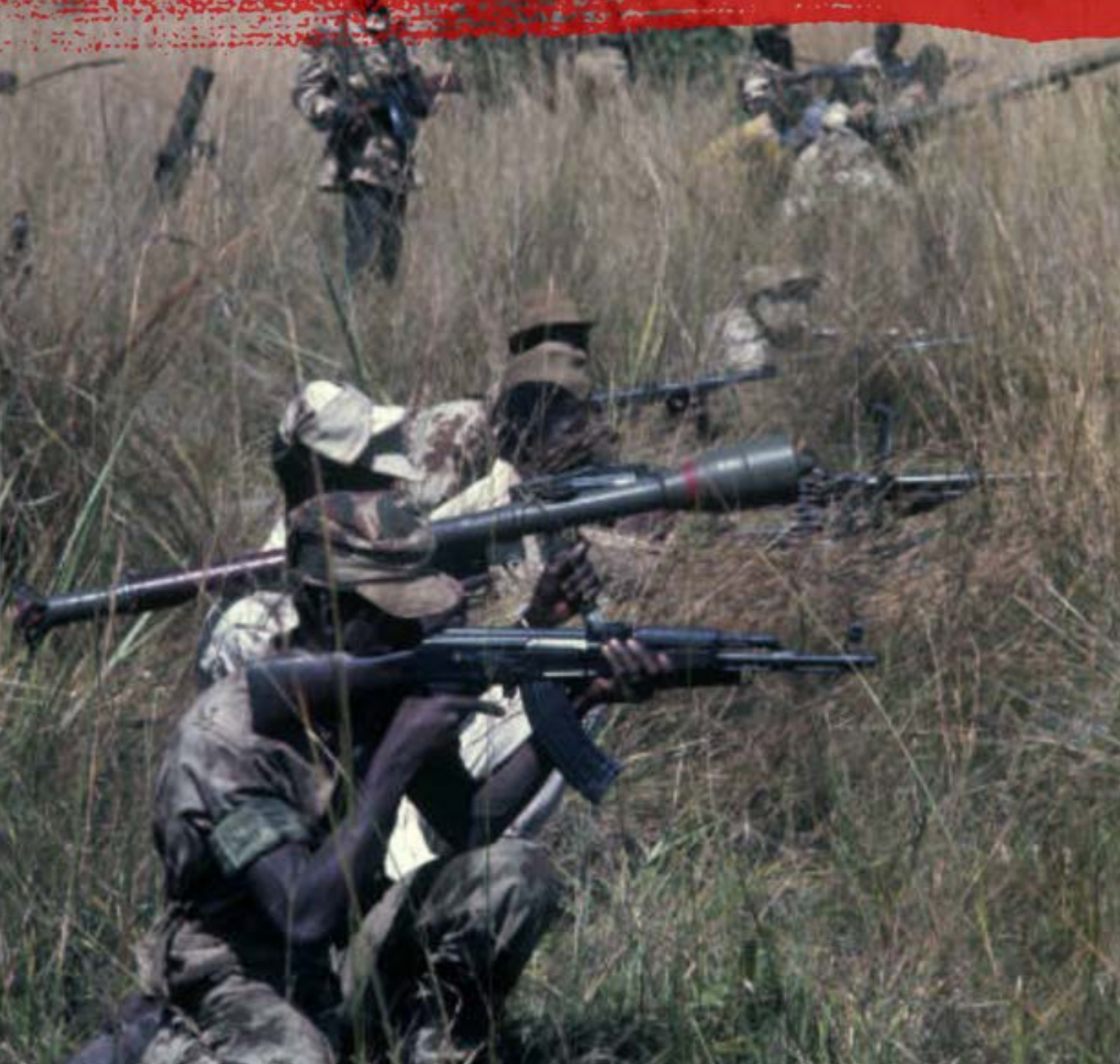
Angolan

Civil War

Raghav Kochar • Head Chair
Daniel Kharis • Co-Chair



Angolan Civil War Specialized Committee



I . Chair information

Guten Tag Delegates,

My name is Raghav Kochar, and it's my immense pleasure to be your head-Chair for the Angolan Civil War Specialized Committee this GMUNC X II . This GMUNC will be my first time chairing after having attended Santa Teresa High School as both a student and as a former delegate for the past three years. GMUNC was my first conference so it's safe to say I'm quite eager to give back to the place that introduced me to the joys of MUN. As a Chair, I hope to continue the tradition of creating a fun, memorable yet equally educational and well-versed conference environment that leaves every delegate with a smile but also more confident, knowledgeable and proud.



I'm currently majoring in chemistry with a minor in chemical engineering. My hopes and aspirations are to eventually become a cardiothoracic surgeon and embrace my love for medicine throughout the world. My favorite activities include hiking, traveling, boxing, working out and or taking several silly photos. For any delegates taking part in this year's PacMUN Hawaii conference, I will also be serving as a crisis director for their JCC, so please let me know if I will see any of you later on in the year. Alongside chemistry my truest love in life is yapping; me and my peers often get into tangents on topics ranging from philosophy, religion, eugenics, world politics or the power of dwarves to name a few. I will try my best to remain on topic during committee time but feel free to ask any questions about my lore or just college life in general anytime. My personal mantra senior year became "no matter what happens, it's never that deep", so I try to live quite a zen and content life and as a result I like to ensure the people around me feel comfortable, happy and secure so I will be bringing my emotional support turtle for any delegates who feel anxious or nervous to be able to fidget with and get those nerves out.

Although this letter may serve as my "fun-side" being a chair, let this portion serve as A CLEAR WARNING to all delegates. As goofy and chalant as I may sound, please know I am a no-nonsense chair who vows to ensure this committee stands at the highest standard with special regards to keeping the utmost sincerity to the topics at hand. I hope this conference, alongside being a fun experience, will be an educational, quality-content driven, deep-dive into the facets of the Angolan Civil War. Thus I advise all delegates to avoid using horrible gimmicks such as but not limited to: (Kanye (or any other irrelevant celebrity) once said "xyz", unfunny/rude jokes or commentary, " chair, how much time do i have left ... not enough") in any portion of their speeches. I thoroughly hated seeing such "performances" when I was a delegate and thus as a chair it significantly irks me to see such a mockery of the MUN experience I've grown to love. Although I will try my best not to be a hater, Please do know I am eager to be a building block in shaping you to become excellent delegates in every committee following. If you have any questions or inquiries please use the following email to yap with me.

Sincerely Good Luck, you'll need it,

Raghav Kochar >:)

raghavkochar123@gmail.com

Foreword

It's our immense pleasure to welcome all delegates to the Gunn Model United Nations Conference XII! Before delegates dwell into the background guide, please remember position papers are due on October 3 to be considered for a research award. With the final deadline on October 10 for general awards (all awards except research awards). If you do not submit a position paper by this date by 11:59, you will **NOT** be eligible for any committee awards. For questions on position paper requirements please check out the position paper writing guide on the GMUNC website (<https://gmunc.org/conference>). In addition we will not tolerate any use of AI, if a sufficient detection of AI is found you will be disqualified from **ALL** awards and your Delegation will be made aware. Please send position papers in **PDF format** (we will not accept sharing of google docs or any other methods) to gmuncxiiangolan@gmail.com. If a delegate has any committee-specific inquiries please feel free to email them to the attached email: raghavkochar123@gmail.com

Additionally, all delegates are required to complete contact and medical forms to participate in the conference (also listed on the GMUNC website, please confirm with your delegation that the required documents have been submitted).

Nonetheless, we wish all delegates the best with writing their position papers and look forward to seeing everyone on October 11, 2025 for GMUNC XII!

Sincerely Raghav Kochar

Committee Procedural

Being a specialized committee, delegates should be informed that they will primarily be working each committee session on drafting resolutions to tackle the several crisis updates thrown at them. As there will be no crisis notes only resolution actions will be taken into consideration for how delegates can impact the crisis at hand. To truly get a feel for this complex part of world history, delegates are encouraged to come fully researched as alongside the regular updates such as but not limited to (war-torn conflicts, natural disasters, mass displacement and or propaganda/cold war tensions), delegates will also be given the opportunity to rewrite history. Each committee session, successful resolutions will push forward either the UNITA, MPLA (or the secret agendas of a few lucky delegates) to govern Angola. Every delegate at the start of the committee will be given a objectives list which will detail what the delegate should aspire to accomplish by the end of the last committee session, these lists will be made with reasonable and accomplishable objectives that will test delegates abilities to both work cordially with both allies and foes to reach their respective objectives. More information on this part of the procedure will be given on committee day, but if a delegate has any questions please feel free to email us. To keep the committee interesting, the chairs plead delegates to keep their objectives a secret till the end as to create a level of uncertainty in the room, very similar to the real conflict and its many nuances, good luck.

II . Introduction

The Angolan Civil War was one of the most violent conflicts fought on the continent of Africa, leading to the displacement of millions and the death of hundreds of thousands of native Angolans. This committee will examine the role of international allies in determining the outcome of war, whilst also exploring the nature of political ideologies in operating a nation. Starting around November 11th, 1975, and lasting till April 4th, 2002, this bloody brawl for power would involve more than just the three major political parties of Angola (being the MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA, respectively). Powerful nations, such as the Soviet Union, the United States, Cuba, South Africa, and the then-state of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), would serve to bolster their favored political party in ruling over Angola. (In fact, the United States and USSR would momentarily use the conflict as a proxy cold war.)



(Political poster declaring the independence of angola from portugal circa 1975)

The war's financial turmoil nearly devastated the nation, but the loss of its populace scared Angola indefinitely. After the conflict ended in 2002, an estimated five hundred thousand to almost a million people in Angola died, and more than 4 million became refugees or were displaced. Additionally, a substantial part of the country's infrastructure, roadways, and social systems were obliterated. The conflict also wrecked Angola's agricultural prowess, caused mass hunger/strife, and turned prosperous towns into ruined graveyards.

The region of Angola is renowned for its natural assets, including vast oil reserves, diamond mines, and fertile land. However, the politics of Angola would turn these natural resources into a weapon against its own land.

The MPLA, or Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, was one of the three founding political parties to emerge as the nation gained independence from Portugal in the mid-1970s. The MPLA would become a Marxist-Leninist political party, supported by countries such as the USSR and Cuba, and would fund itself through profits from the oil industry. The MPLA would deem Angola as the People's Republic of Angola, and alongside its more educated cities would seek to create a socialist society. Although the MPLA sought to gain power as swiftly as possible, it would be opposed. (on the right is the flag of the MPLA)



The UNITA or National Union for the Total Independence of Angola was the secondary “founding father” political regime that was supported by more rural Angolans, focusing on nationalism/opposing communism. Jonas Savimbi, one of UNITA's most prominent leaders, would be critical in garnering support from nations like the United States and or South Africa with the justification that Angola shouldn't fall to the communists. This party would use diamond mine sales and an extensive military force to support their efforts. (on the right is the flag of the UNITA)



The last of the founding triad of Angola was the FNLA, or the National Liberation Front of Angola. This political party initially gained strength in the battle for independence from Portugal in the mid-1970s, comprising indigenous members and supported by the then-nation of Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). However, it lost power in the late 1970s due to losing the Battle of Quifangondo to the MPLA only a year after independence. The FNLA would ally itself with anti-communist ideologies, and thus the UNITA, and would gather enough support to reemerge around the 1990s. However, the FNLA always had fundamental differences with UNITA, such as its primary support for Northern regional groups in Angola rather than the country as a whole.



Nonetheless, the civil war in Angola became a critical battle between not just the three parties but the allies and foes of communism. (on the right is the flag of the FNLA)

III. Historical Context

Portuguese colonialism plays a critical role in understanding Angola's freedom fighter mentality and nationalist ambitions. Portugal maintained its colonies for far longer than other colonial powers, such as Britain or France. Portugal ruled Angola for nearly five hundred years, continuing to use slave labor, racist ideologies, and economic exploitation as ammunition against Angolans' liberty. During its rule of Angola, Portugal ensured the people of Angola couldn't have the ability to self-govern by using systematic suppression tactics, such as diminishing educational investments, marginalizing local and indigenous communities, and treating Angola as a mere foreign territory rather than a fully fledged nation.

During the 1950s and 1960s, as many African countries gained independence, the Angolan people who sought self-rule began the struggle for their freedom. Influential groups promoting national identity emerged, each differing in their political ideologies, Angolan cultural background, and educational levels. The MPLA rose to prominence in 1956, when two smaller nationalist parties, the PLUA (Party of the United Struggle for the Liberation of Angola) and the Movement of Young Intellectuals, merged. The MPLA gained most of its followers from urban scholars, people of mixed heritage, and members of the Mbundu ethnic group, although it was still an underground troop consisting of only two to five hundred members at the time. This political party drew inspiration from Marxist and Leninist ideas, focusing on a socialist system, urban control, and a strong relationship with countries within the Soviet sphere of influence. Similarly, in 1954, the FNLA, a group originating from the Bakongo community in northern Angola, was also increasing support and aiming to organize with the MPLA to defeat the Portuguese forces infesting the nation.



(map of Portuguese territories circa the crisis)

The Carnation Revolution was a domestic coup in Portugal in April 1974. It resulted in the removal of the old Portuguese government, and control of the nation was transferred to the National Salvation Junta. While Portugal would slowly shift towards a democracy by 1976, the junta sought to decolonize its international colonies over the brief two years it held power. As Portugal did not want to engage in costly wars, especially in its colonies, a discussion about Angola's independence arose. In January 1975, the Alvor Agreement attempted to establish a temporary government comprising representatives from the MPLA, FNLA, and UNITA, which were preparing for independence in November of the same year. However, this government structure, built on the promise of cooperation, fell apart almost immediately as neither group trusted the other. Thus, the fight for Angola began.

The FNLA and UNITA didn't accept the MPLA's power grab, so they formed their own control districts and started fighting back, turning independence into a civil war. Although by this time the FNLA had lost its influence after a devastating defeat by MPLA troops in the Battle of Quifangondo. This dispute soon gained attention from other countries, Cuba sent soldiers to assist the MPLA, whilst the Soviet Union provided weapons and sent aid. On the other hand, South African soldiers invaded from the southern borders, supporting UNITA, as the United States secretly provided money through the CIA. (this image showing cuban soldiers assisting in Angola)



From the late 1970s to the 1980s, the MPLA gradually gained complete control of Angola's major cities, ports, and oil-producing areas. Cuban soldiers maintained the peace, while Soviet weapons provided them with a strong military presence, allowing the MPLA to become the official government of Angola. They joined the United Nations in 1976. Although gaining control, the MPLA still had difficulty controlling the countryside, as UNITA, led by Jonas Savimbi, had grown in power amongst locals there. Savimbi's troops fought a fierce conflict. South Africa helped them, and they used the profits from diamond sales to develop their own forces/artillery.

The fighting worsened significantly by the end of the 1980s. The fight at Cuito Cuanavale, which took place from 1987 to 1988, would come to be known as the "turning point of the Angolan civil war". (becoming the largest battle in size fought on African soil post-WWII.) Soldiers from

the MPLA, Cuba, UNITA, and the South African military all participated in the conflict, with the MPLA and its allies having the stronger backing, comprising around 50,000 troops, supported by tanks, artillery, and MiG aircraft. The Unita had around half as many soldiers, with reports mentioning 25,000 (UNITA guerrillas supported by ~9,000–10,000 South African troops, advanced artillery, tanks, and Mirage aircraft). The battle resulted in a strategic stalemate, although both groups claimed victory. The results led to the MPLA and its allies losing around 4,000-10,000 troops but managing to hold onto the stronghold of Cuito Cuanavale. In contrast, UNITA and its allies lost only 2,000-4,000 soldiers but considered the battle a victory as they managed to reduce the MPLA's forces significantly.



(the signing of the New York/tripartite accords)

The bloodshed in Cuito Cuanavale was pivotal in initiating negotiations between Angola's political parties, and as a result, the New York Accords were signed in 1988. The accords led to Cuba and South Africa removing their soldiers from Angola, with South Africa having to let Namibia become independent as a compromise to the conflict.

IV. Nuances of War

The war in Angola wasn't just a fight within the country; rather, Angola became a testing ground for different approaches to governing a country, controlling its territory, and influencing neighboring nations. The ideologies of Communism versus social democracy, (which opposed communism), came to the forefront. UNITA received support from the US and South Africa, and

thus was strongly connected with Western nations. Whilst the MPLA received support from Cuba and the falling USSR, serving as evidence of communism's benefits to the world.

Cuba helped the MPLA stay in power in 1975. Cuba sent more than 50,000 soldiers to Angola during the height of its involvement. They defended Luanda, fighting UNITA forces, as well as the military from South Africa. Fidel Castro described this action as support for a revolution, presenting Cuba's involvement as part of a larger fight against domination and racial segregation. The Soviet Union spent a lot of money supplying weapons, personnel, and delivery help to Angola, making it a significant focus for them in Africa. Moscow gained respect for its ideas, and it also secured a valid location on the Atlantic coast through its relationship with Angola.



(political cartoon, showing U.S sentiments on fighting communism in Angola)

UNITA quickly became very important to the plans of both the United States and South Africa. During the Reagan years, people in the United States viewed Savimbi as a brave figure fighting against communism. The CIA gave weapons and money to UNITA, frequently doing so secretly to go around the rules Congress set with the Clark Amendment. South Africa directly participated in the conflict, Soldiers from Pretoria entered southern Angola many times; they fought with UNITA, and they also attacked across the border. South Africa's government saw the MPLA as a dangerous communist group, a safe place for the ANC, and also for SWAPO.

As the Cold War drew to a close circa 1991, the fighting in Angola shifted direction, Moscow could no longer support the MPLA. Cuba struggled with financial difficulties following the end

of support from the Soviet Union, so it removed its soldiers according to the agreements made in the New York accords. At the same time, South Africa shifted away from its heavy involvement in the economy as it transitioned to a democracy. The United States continued to sympathize with Savimbi, yet reduced its support when the Cold War became less significant. When the Cold War ended, Angola's conflict seemed less reasonable to the rest of the world. However, this did not resolve the fighting. It revealed how the "ally" nations had grown tired of the game called the Angolan Civil War, and now it was time for the politicians of Angola to continue the struggle, mostly on their own.

V. Current Situation

This committee will take place on October 11, 1990; the world has undergone significant changes. As the Soviet Union is losing power and South Africa has ended its system of segregation, Angola's became less strategically important. Thus, support from other countries has decreased but is still an integral contribution in this war. The MPLA and UNITA, as well as the remaining fragments of the FNLA, have to accept that fighting alone will not settle the matter. Which has created an opportunity for discussions about peace, such as the Bicesse Accords (currently only a fragment).

Historically, the Bicesse accords were signed, and in 1992, people voted freely for their ruling political party. Results would conclude that MPLA leader José Eduardo dos Santos won the presidency with a 49.6% majority, while UNITA's Jonas Savimbi garnered only 40.1% of the votes. Savimbi would doubt the legitimacy of the election, alleged fraud, an action that would once again break the nation back into turmoil. Mass violence would erupt in Luanda and central provinces of Angola, with the now-called Halloween massacre of 1992 resulting in thousands of UNITA/FNLA supporters being massacred in Luanda by MPLA forces. Such atrocities only revealed how little civilians trusted each other, as long-standing conflicts persisted since the country gained independence.

Nonetheless, the events of this specialized committee don't need to exactly align with history, the main objective of this committee is to both establish a working government in Angola and to stabilize the nation's economy, agricultural, educational and infrastructural fields. Delegates will each be given a role and a preferred political party before the committee starts, Delegates are expected to research that person for their position papers. The position papers will explore the delegate's character's involvement in the Angolan civil war between the years of 1990-1995. The position paper should at minimum have a paragraph for each topic including but not limited to an intro to the topic, their delegational characters role in the war, nuance of the war (replacing the past un actions paragraph and should explore the communism versus anti-communism stance of the delegates character) and a current objectives paragraph which will explain the delegates plan for the committee.(alongside answering the questions provided/a bibliography with MLA citations).

During the conference delegates will each be given a folder with a list of objectives, Delegates should aspire to complete this list by the end of the last committee session . To make the committee more interesting the chairs strongly suggest that delegates keep their personal objectives a secret till the last committee session as to increase suspense and simulate the tension/untrust almost all members in the Angolan civil war had with one another. As this is a specialized committee, there will be no crisis notes, but rather BLOC resolutions. Thus, each delegate must tactfully ensure that the resolution they are attached to works in accomplishing their personal objectives alongside their political party's objectives. (the personal objectives will be easy enough to accomplish so delegates shouldn't worry too badly on them.)

The main political parties represented on this committee are the MPLA, UNITA, and FNLA, respectively. Delegates will be expected to align themselves with their character's preferred political party, however if delegates want to create their own political party/merge between two of them the chairs will be open to such a motion, (but valid reasoning must be provided to explore this caveat). There will be many crisis updates each committee session, Delegates will be expected to tackle all of them with prompt and proper resolutions. Additionally, a brief rundown of the committee will occur in the first 15 minutes of the conference, In which the chairs will introduce themselves, the topic at hand , give examples of crisis updates and ensure delegates have an even playing field before committee starts.

Overall, this committee was created with a great deal of love and care for the topic at hand, so the chairs hope all delegates come ready to be educated, entertained, and interested in the beauty and chaos that is the Angolan Civil War Specialized Committee this GMUNC!



(Angolan children playing in the rubble of the civil war)

VI. Committee Objectives

- Ensure the stabilization of Angola, especially in the fields of government, agriculture, economy, and infrastructure.
- Establish a ruling party in Angola from either one of the existing political regimes (MPLA, UNITA, FNLA) or by creating a new political party.
- Effectively tackle any crisis updates with viable and well-written resolutions promptly.
- Evaluate one's own delegational objectives, primarily focusing on accomplishing one's private delegational goals first than solving committee goals through resolutions.
- Enjoy the committee; effectively educate oneself on the Angolan civil war and its various nuances.

VII. Questions to Consider

1. How did the differing ideologies of Communism versus social democracy play key roles in the Angolan civil war? Is one really better than the other, what are the pros/cons of both ideologies?
2. The FNLA and UNITA have similar stances politically but have fundamental differences, is it justifiable for these political parties to merge? Why or why not?
3. Alongside the civil war, Angola greatly suffers from problems such as but not limited to mass hunger, healthcare crises, high child mortality rates and or rampant land mines to name a few. How will either your delegational character/political party seek to tackle these issues alongside the civil war?
4. This committee involves four ambassadors which represent the allies of the different parties. How must these ambassadors be used to leverage maximum amounts of supplies for one's political party?
5. The Cold War will be in its final years during this committee. How does such a massive event shift the power dynamics for the political parties of Angola both before it ends and after it ends?
6. What is the top priority of your delegational character? To secure the borders, stabilize the government, establish proper healthcare/education or something else?

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IX. Committee Members

1. Jonas Savimbi - 56, UNITA Founder and President
2. José Eduardo dos Santos - 48, MPLA President, Commander in chief of state forces
3. Holden Roberto - 67, FNLA Founder and Leader
4. Ambassador of Cuba - 50, Cuba's diplomatic representative
5. Ambassador of USSR/Russia - 50, USSR/Russia's diplomatic representative
6. Ambassador of the United States - 50, United States diplomatic representative
7. António Dembo - 46, UNITA Senior military commander
8. Jeremias Chitunda - 48, UNITA Vice President
9. Ambassador of South Africa - 50, South African diplomatic representative
10. Lopo do Nascimento - 48, MPLA senior politician/former Prime Minister
11. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos ("Nandó") - 40, MPLA cadre/rising official
12. Eugénio Manuvakola - 44, UNITA Secretary General
13. Lúcio Lara - 61, MPLA Old Guard/Senior-most Official
14. Pedro Maria Tonha "Pedalé" - 47, MPLA Defense Minister
15. Roberto de Almeida - MPLA political figure
16. Arlindo Chenda Pena "Ben-Ben" - 32, UNITA Senior Military Commander
17. Isaias Samakuva - 44, UNITA European representative/Diplomat
18. Adolosi Paulo Mango Alicerces - UNITA leadership Cadres
19. Samwimbila Kalupeteca - UNITA Historical advisor
20. Abel Chivukuvuku - 32, UNITA cadre
21. Dinho Chingunji - 26, UNITA youth political figure
22. Ngola Kabangu - 47, FNLA political figure
23. Lucas Ngonda - FNLA Spokesman/Faction Leader
24. Pedro Teta - FNLA Military/Political figure
25. Hendrick Vaal Neto - 45, FNLA Diplomat/Official
26. Johnny Eduardo Pinnock - 48, FNLA Political Figure