

The Colombian Drug Trade (1985)



By Shane Daly

Letter from the Dais

Esteemed delegates,

It's a pleasure to be able to welcome you to BrewMUNC in person this year. I'm excited to welcome you into our school for a great conference. Despite the issues the pandemic posed we still put on an undoubtedly positive experience with BrewMUNC last year aside from the online format. We're excited to be back in an in person format to give you a more authentic MUN experience.

I'm happy to dive into the wacky world of the Colombian Drug trade with you. You will be thrust into the middle of the height of the drug trade with two rival gangs both at their strongest and you need to find a way to stop this madness. You will assume the rolls of US Government officials and Colombian officials trying to navigate their way through the murky waters of the drug trade. It will be in your hands to decide what is okay and not okay in this undoubtedly morally ambiguous situation.

Lets see how you chose to find your path through such an involved chapter in history. The cars, the boats, the women, the submarines; all of it could be yours if you play your cards right... or the bottom of a cold harbor, swimming with the fishes.

Shane Daly

Head Chair

The Colombian Drug Trade - 1985

General Parliamentary Procedure

Point of Order - A Point of Order may interrupt a speech and be used when a delegate feels that the Chair or another delegate is not correctly following the rules of procedure.

Point of Inquiry - A Point of Inquiry may not interrupt a speaker and may be used to direct a question to the chair to clarify parliamentary procedure or to ask a question. Substantive analyses or speeches may not be made using a point of inquiry.

Point of Information - A Point of Information may not interrupt a speech and may be used either to clarify a point or motion, or to bring substantive information to the notice of the Dais. No analyses or speeches may be made using a point of information.

Point of Personal Privilege - A Point of Personal Privilege may be raised when a delegate's ability to participate in debate is immediately impaired for any physical or logistical reason (for instance, if the speaker is not audible). In addition, this point may be used to bring up any issues with the conditions of the room, such as lighting or temperature. This point may interrupt a speech, and the Dais will immediately try to resolve the difficulty.

Right of Reply - The Right of Reply may be invoked in the rare case that a delegate feels his or her personal dignity or integrity has been deliberately offended. The delegate may raise his placard and ask the Chair for a Right of Reply which will be judged at the Chair's discretion.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus - A motion to enter into a moderated caucus must specify the topic of debate, the length of the caucus, and the speaker's time. Much of committee debate is expected to take place in moderated caucus.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus - A motion for an unmoderated caucus is up to the Chair's discretion and must specify a topic of debate for the caucus. If this motion passes, the rules of debate will be suspended for the given amount of time, and delegates will be permitted to leave their seats to discuss and write documents for submission.

Motion to Introduce Documents - A motion to introduce documents must be recognized by the chair for any of the documents to be presented or discussed. The document will be read out loud by the Chair or by the presenting delegate and be submitted for committee discussion if it has at least four signatures from delegates. If the document is a directive it will abide by the rules set forth below.

Motion for a Q&A Session - At the Chair's discretion, after a document has been submitted for debate, a delegate may motion for a question and answer session to ask questions of the document's author(s). If the Chair approves this motion, the rules of debate will be suspended for a session whose length is subject to the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Enter Voting Procedure - If a delegate deems that a document has been sufficiently discussed, he or she may motion to enter voting procedure. If this motion passes, debate will be suspended on that document, and the committee will enter voting procedure.

Motion to Suspend Debate - At the end of a committee session, a delegate may motion to suspend debate. If this motion passes, debate will be suspended and resume at the

next committee session. This motion may be ruled out of order at the Chair's discretion.

Motion to Adjourn Debate - At the end of the final committee session, a delegate may motion to adjourn debate. If this motion passes, debate at this committee for this conference will be adjourned, and committee business will be concluded. This motion may be ruled out of order at the Chair's discretion.

Between Delegates - Delegates are encouraged to exchange ideas amongst one another during unmoderated caucus and through the passing of notes during normal flow of debate. Out of respect for other members of the Ministry, however, talking during another member's speech will not be tolerated. The chair may take disciplinary action against delegates who do not adhere to this policy.

Note: This is a Specialized Committee. While Crisis will be sending updates, and will react to your actions, You cannot send individual notes to crisis, or have your own crisis arc. You will need to work together as a committee to pass directives, and use your abilities (based on your assignments) to affect the outcome of the events. Things can go very differently from how they did historically depending on how you work as a group, and what actions you decide to take.

Position Papers

Position papers should detail what a position's stance on the various topics of debate are. A quality position paper also describes what the delegate intends on accomplishing during the course of the conference, which may include who they plan on allying with and what policies they plan on suggesting to the committee. Although an ample amount of information is provided in the prep packet, it is highly recommended that delegates conduct outside research on their own time prior to the conference in order to better gauge their position's opinions and possible course of action.

Position papers are *not* required to be eligible for awards in this committee. However, they are highly recommended in order for delegates to familiarise themselves with their objectives. Please type position papers using standard MLA format, double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font. A position paper of decent length typically ranges from one to one-and-one-half pages. Email a PDF file of your position paper to shane.daly@brewsterschools.org. Please include your position name in the subject line of the email.

Historical Context:

In the backdrop of the late 1980's there were two rival gangs rising in the Colombian cocaine trade. Amid all of this came the common pop culture mantra "Regan put crack in the hood". While that may be hyperbolic, the government and the CIA did have some involvement with the drug trade, being close associates with the Contras and by extension the Colombian Cartels.

The situation as it stood was there were two major Cartels operating out of Colombia. The first and older of the two was the Medellin Cartel featuring a flashy band of characters that didn't shy away from the limelight. On the other side of that coin was their rival gang, the creatively named Cali Cartel operating out of the Colombian city named Cali. The Cali's were significantly less high profile and would instead launder money through legitimate businesses and low profile methods of moving cocaine into the US. All the while these two are competing, the Colombian government and DEA had stakes in the resolution of these issues.

The Medellin Cartel was headed by the infamous Pablo Escobar. Escobar had started his stint in crime as a mere street thief who came to the center of this operation and masterminded the entire thing. He did this with the connections of the Ocha Brothers who were a part of a rich ranching family as well as Rodriguez Gacha a member of the emerald trade. When a young up and comer in the business of smuggling marijuana came to them with a resolution to the issue of large scale transport of these shipments of cocaine. He could take small passenger planes loaded with as much cocaine as they could fit on the plane rather than in small packages across the border. They took this money and improved their enterprise even investing in an island in the Caribbean for their operation to use. But all good drug enterprises must come to an end.

Escobar grew more and more violent in his tactics with the government and DEA agents. Some members of the gang sought out deals for their safety resulting in the dissolution of the Medellin Cartel in combination with the selling out by the rival Cali Cartel.

The Cali Cartel went so far in hiding their operations as to buy legitimate businesses to launder money. These businesses also drew less attention than the Islands of the Medellins. This gang was headed by the Orjuela brothers and Santacruz Londono. These people ran smear campaigns against Escobar, starting public forums and selling them out to the DEA at any turn presented to them. The Cali Cartel made use of international Lawyers to game the system and get around the Feds. The Cali Cartel chose to work with the corrupt Colombian government and bankroll candidates they supported rather than revolt and kill ones they didn't like Escobar.

But the old adage reigns true. All good drug enterprises must come to an end. Eventually, the Cali cartel was busted and the leaders were put behind bars. But speculation states that the Cali cartel is still being operated by these men from their jail cells. But this is well down the line from the time period that we will be exploring.

Questions:

1. Do you want the gangs to be completely wiped out or do you want to play one against the other?
2. How going forward can you try and limit corruption if you want to limit it at all?
3. Are the cartels a necessary evil to keep the local economies afloat?

Topics of debate:

1. How to best mitigate the cartels

The cartels need to be controlled, that's not the question. The question is how you plan to go about mitigating the cartels. Whether you want to play these two cartels against one another. You can take the approach of straight up drug busts and other methodologies that outright seize the products. But this would be dangerous and may result in unnecessary collateral damage. Remember, the cartels can take advantage of the people and possible distaste with you so be wary about how you handle these drug lords and tread carefully.

2. Setting Colombia up for after the gangs

Colombia is in a state of turmoil and the government has proven to the people that they aren't to be trusted with their interests. Government officials and various other campaigns have accepted bribes from the cartel members and this corruption has shown through. The gangs have interwoven themselves into the lives of the people. Their involvement with the peoples corporations will have a large impact on people's everyday lives if you simply go in and shut down their operations. If you simply forge on, the people may lash out and you may lose our public office or worse, the entirety of the framework of the government in Colombia.

3. Monitoring future corruption

In order to restore faith in the Colombian government it may be necessary to appoint a board or governing body of some kind to reestablish the faith of the people in the government. Unless one may want to play an underhanded game of sorts and try to work with the Cartels in combination for their own benefit. But again be wary as the people might not follow your leadership if you take advantage of the precarious situation the country is in now with the issues faced by the country and the vulnerability the power vacuum of the cartels would leave.

4. Mitigation of damages in the process

As much as the people may distrust the government and their corruption, your job will be significantly harder if you go around killing people in the name of stopping the cartels. You have to find the best method with the least collateral damage as possible and this might be more difficult than first presented.

Positions:

President of the US Ronald Regan-

You were elected by the people of the US for your tenacious stances and unwavering confidence that what you're doing is the right thing. This could be the spot for you to prove the integrity of your character and why your people selected you. You are a very conservative voice but have the air of showmanship and personability from when you were an actor, lean into that.

Vice President of the US George H W Bush-

You're a hardliner from Texas and your response on the war on drugs is crucial in combination with Ronald Regan's. The two of you should stand together to show unity to the voters of the party and prove to them why they voted for your second term. However, remember you're christian roots.

Secretary of State George Schultz-

You're an establishment politician with years of experience under your belt. You're a renowned economist which could be helpful when looking for the best economic solution to the drug trade. Remember however how instrumental in shaping the foreign policy that goes into this you will be.

Director of the CIA William J. Casey-

You are a very cunning operator, before your time in the Army during WW2 you figured out the tax shelter. Maybe you could find some outside of the box legal

way to work around the cartels. That being said, you're still a veteran with ties to intelligence during the war.

Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North (Military Advisor)-

You're an experienced veteran with a cunning military and even foreign policy genius. Some may dismiss you as a ground pounder but you are anything but, you could engineer an interesting solution that maybe some would consider a tad underhanded but whose to draw that line?

Attorney General William French Smith-

You had an integral part in combination with the treasury department in terms of organizing the war on drugs. This logistical genius could be used in a situation like this to organize a way to fight the drug cartels in Colombia.

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger-

You were a war veteran like many others in the cabinet and you came from the Nixon era. Your familiarity with murky political waters may help you when working around drug cartels.

Secretary of the Treasury James Baker-

Your strong influence over Regan in regards specifically to domestic policy in the country. Maybe you could be used to engineer a resolution to the issue on the home front.

Colombian Minister of Defense Miguel Vega Uribe-

Your access to troops will be essential in any raid operations done in Colombia as US troops might be more noticeable and gain less local support. You're a very intelligent tactician having been the commander of the Brigade of Military Institutes in Bogotá.

Administrator of the DEA John C. Lawn-

Your extensive experience with the FBI makes you a valuable asset for collaboration and intelligence gathering. Maybe you could organize some kind of way of tracking the shipments once they enter the country.

Head of the FBI William H. Webster-

Your appointment as the head of the FBI was controversial because you were a registered Republican despite being appointed by Jimmy Carter. This bipartisan flare could be useful in getting the US front of the drug war to be a united front rather than a partisan issue.

President of Colombia Belisario Betancur-

You're a well known conservative whose push for peace in the area of central and Latin America hasn't gone unnoticed. Maybe you could use those skills of brokering peace to keep talks with the Cartels civil.

General Commander Hernando Camilo Zuniga-

You should work in close combination with the Minister of defense as you would be in more direct control of operations but would need to consult with him.

Your military prowess has gotten you this far, don't let it fail you now.

Minister of War José María Campo-

As the minister of war it will fall to you to work in conjunction with the minister of defense and the General Commander. You are a very proud war veteran too, don't let the Americans bully you.

Minister of Finance and Public Credit Roberto Junguito-

As the chief Colombian Economist you must work closely with the American's who will be helping to organize this operation logistically and allow them to see the sort of means they will be working with.