



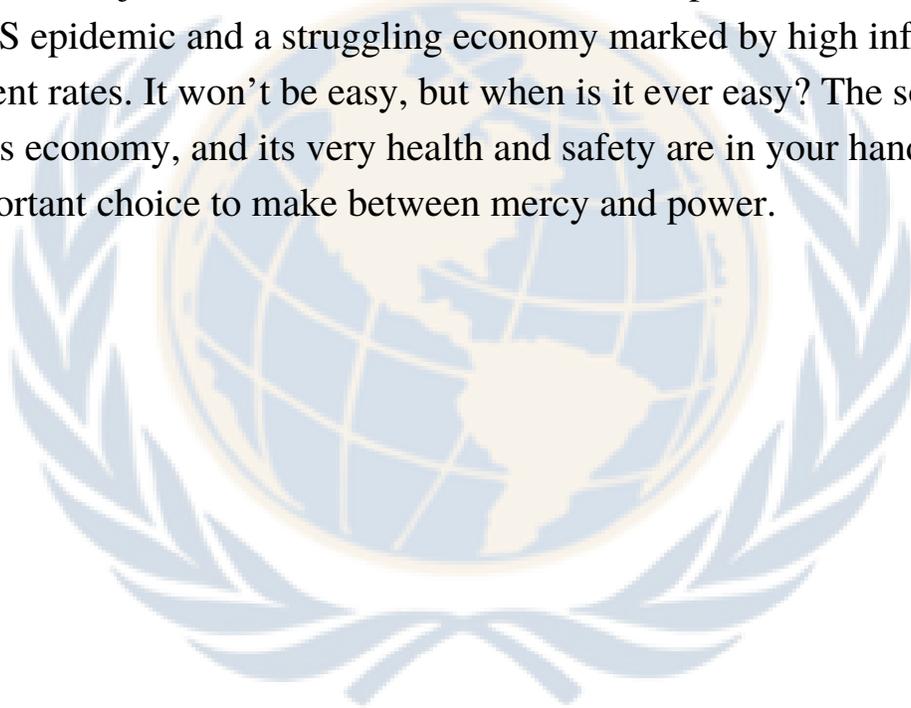
BACKGROUND GUIDE

WAMUNC XXIV

The War on Drugs: Reagan's Cabinet

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Newly inaugurated President Ronald Reagan has had an interesting first year, but 1982 marks an important phase of his presidential ambitions: ending a drug epidemic. Such begins an aggressive campaign to destroy illegal drug trade in the U.S., and you, his Cabinet, are the leaders of this mission. It is up to you to prevent more communities from being addicted, lessen gang violence resulting from the drug trade, and manage the public and private response to the crisis. You face criticism of racial injustice and lack of real action, on top of more domestic issues like the AIDS epidemic and a struggling economy marked by high inflation and unemployment rates. It won't be easy, but when is it ever easy? The social state of the nation, its economy, and its very health and safety are in your hands, and you have an important choice to make between mercy and power.



LETTER FROM THE CRISIS DIRECTOR

Dear Delegates,

I am so excited for this iteration of WAMUNC, and cannot wait to share this committee experience with you all! My name is Joaquin Amigorena, I am a first year student at the Elliott School of International Affairs – with regional concentrations in Latin American and East Asian studies – minoring in history. My family is Mexican-Argentinian, currently residing in South Florida (best part of FL). First of all I would like to commend you all for taking up the challenge that is a historical crisis committee. Commandeering debate in-room whilst handling crisis notes in the backroom is no conventional feat; fulfilling these demands whilst exploring a complex, potentially foreign time period is especially laudable. I implore you all to take the time to research this historical period and your respective personas in order to further enable your immersion with this committee. In return, I promise that the backroom will do it's absolute best to engage delegates with the world of Reagan's administration; balancing both historically accurate events with the creative, mind-bending narratives you delegates trickle down into your backroom. Best of luck delegates!

Best,
Joaquin

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Timeline of the War on Drugs

1970-1: Richard Nixon coined the term “War on Drugs”. The Controlled Substance Act (CSA) is ratified by Congress.

1972: Nixon established the executive Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP).

1973: Nixon Administration founded the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

1975: The Medellin Massacre occurs. Cali Cartel is established. Operation Condor officially implemented.

1977: Jimmy Carter runs on a re-election campaign which supports Marijuana legalization.

1979: Medellin Cartel Purchases private island in the Bahamas.

1980: Ronald Reagan elected U.S President

1981: The Medellin Cartel becomes the world’s most powerful drug cartel. U.S-Colombia extradition enacted.

1982: Panamanian Dictator Manuel Noriega allows the Medellin Cartel to smuggle narcotics through Panama.

Federal Reactions to Narcotic Abuse and Distribution

Throughout the 20th C., the Federal Government has taken an interventionist, regulative stance on narcotics distribution. At the turn of the century, the 18th Amendment of the United States Bill of Rights enacted an era of prohibition against alcoholic beverages. In 1937, a tax was placed on Marijuana which would eventually result in it's banning.

Nevertheless, the actualization of the War on Drugs can be officially pinned to the Richard Nixon administration. In 1970, Congress passed the Controlled Substance Act (CSA), a federal law which established five “schedules” of narcotics based on their possible abuse and medical applicability; subsequently providing a strict legal framework which banned the consumption of strong narcotics within the United States . In following years, Nixon would weaponize the federal bureaucracy in order to further combat the distribution of narcotics, most prevalent in the establishment of the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention (SAODAP) – an office which synthesized numerous pre-existing agencies in order to take direct management of federal efforts against substance abuse. This effort was followed by the creation of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) in 1973. While the law enforcement branch would begin as a minor agency with a meager 75 million dollars in funding, its size and role in the War on Drugs would grow immensely. Consequently, throughout Nixon’s singular term, Federal and State incarcerations would skyrocket from 300,000 to 2.3 million – half of those being drug offenses. To the plight of the liberals and social activists, nearly two-thirds of those incarcerations were against people of color.

The War on Drugs would eventually infiltrate foreign policy circles, best signaled in the implementation of Operation Condor – a Central Intelligence Agency backed initiative between right-wing South American Dictators in order to repress drug cartels by means of state terror, assassination, and regime change.

While the Carter administration would slightly regress the War on Drugs, with the President even supporting the legalization of Marijuana in his re-election campaign, the election of Ronald Reagan has consecrated its domination of American politics. Simultaneous with the rise of modern conservatism, the Republican Party has often tied itself to social issues which guarantee their electoral victory, such as racial sensitivities, rises in urban crime, and the notable increase of substance abuse within the United States. While the first year of the Reagan administration has largely ignored the latter topic, overwhelmed primarily by foreign policy affairs, Reagan's actions in this very domain has changed the dynamic of the War on Drugs. In 1981, U.S and Colombian officials agreed to an extradition treaty in which indicted Colombian drug traffickers would be sent to U.S criminal courts void of local judicial corruption. Outside of this viable means of combating foreign drug cartels, President Reagan has indicated to his staffers that 1982 will be a year thoroughly dedicated to federal efforts against substance abuse and distribution.

Narco Distributors

While there are a great deal of domestic and international agents belligerent in the distribution of narcotics, we will be focused on a handful of cartels and racketeering organizations.

Colombia:

Cali Cartel:

Established in 1975 by an alliance of wealthy Cali-based businessmen – namely Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, and Jose Santacruz Londoño – the “Caballeros de Cali” have become a mighty distributor of cocaine with major markets in Continental Europe and the Northeastern Seaboard of the United States. Taking down their empire is especially difficult, as their operations are intricately laundered and integrated into legitimate business ideas and banks – vested in co-founder Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela's chairman position on the venerated Banco de Trabajadores

Medellin Cartel:

A coalition between smugglers Jorge Luis Ochoa Vásquez, Juan David Ochoa Vásquez, Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, Carlos Leder, and Pablo Escobar (leader), the Medellin Cartel is currently the most powerful drug cartel in the world; an omnipotent empire of cocaine trafficking. It's power over law enforcement and the city of Medellin was confirmed during the Medellin Massacre - in which 40 Colombian civilians were murdered in response to the seizure of 600 kilograms of cocaine by domestic authorities. Having purchased a private island in the Bahamas, small transport airplanes commissioned by the organization would establish an impressive cocaine smuggling route throughout Miami - connecting the Medellin Cartel with consumers in the U.S interior. What's worse, the Medellin Cartel has moved much of its operations to Panama, in which dictator Manuel Noriega

Mexico:

Guadalajara Cartel:

Following Mexico's involvement in Operation Condor, Marijuana cultivation and distribution in Mexico shifted from Sinaloa to Guadalajara. Subsequently, narcotraficantes Miguel Angel Felix Gallardo, Rafael Caro Quintero, and Ernesto Fonseca Carrillo founded the Guadalajara Cartel. While the organization was initially regional, the group eventually consolidated control over all major Mexican cartels, establishing a loose confederacy made up of smaller branches or plazas. The Guadalajara Cartel would initially only smuggle weed through the U.S-Mexico border, but trade agreements with the Cali and Medellin Cartels would see the introduction of cocaine into their routes.

Domestic:

Italian-American Mafia:

Many Italian-American mafia organizations have begun distributing heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and LSD supplied by foreign cartels. Most notably, the Gambino and Luchesse Crime Families have taken control of narcotics smuggling within New York City. While foreign cartels are often seen as the face of narcotics distribution, the War on Drugs is evidently also interconnected with domestic criminal organizations.

Task at Hand

Following a tumultuous first year, the Reagan administration has been implored to address the staggering rates of narcotic abuse and consumption plaguing the United States. On one hand, cabinet officials need to combat substance abuse within the domestic domain; creating a negative public perception of narcotics, suppressing domestic organized crime, and quelling substance abuse either through strict legal punishment or potential rehabilitation efforts. On the international frontier, the administrations must try to cooperate with foreign governments and the defense-intelligence community in order to disassemble the cartel empires which fuel narcotic distribution. The committee will also be rewarded if they effectively synthesize their reforms with other issues facing the Reagan administration, such as inflation, unemployment, and devolution. In any circumstance, meticulousness is necessary. The ratification of extreme, harsh measures may sour the American public and less conservative elements of the Reagan conservative coalition. Similarly, reckless operations within the realm of foreign policy may lead to international crises and thus a more amicable environment for international drug cartels.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the powers of each executive department further the War on Drugs?
2. How is the War on Drugs interconnected with other systemic issues facing America?
3. How can the War on Drugs be managed in a way that doesn't enhance racial discrimination and subsequent liberal backlash?
4. How can executive policy change the public view of drug consumption and addiction?
5. How can foreign policy be utilized responsibly (or not) in order to stop narcotic distribution?
6. Is the United States willing to violate national sovereignty in order to excel in the War on Drugs?
7. How can federal efforts related to the War on Drugs better the electoral prospects of the Reagan candidacy in light of the upcoming 1984 General Election.

Positions

George H. W. Bush (Vice President) - A former ambassador to the United Nations under Nixon, George H.W Bush initiated an unsuccessful bid for the Republican presidential candidacy in 1980. Following this, Bush was chosen to run on Reagan's successful ticket in the general election. Within this committee, Bush's most significant power is his ear to president Ronald Reagan (Broad Powers).

Alexander Haig Jr. (Secretary of State) - Having been a former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Alexander Haig Jr. was appointed Secretary of State by the Reagan administration. Haig's contribution to this committee is immense; his mighty diplomatic leverage – vested in the U.S foreign service apparatus and his connections with foreign statesmen– should be taken into account.

Caspar Weinberger (Secretary of Defense) - Caspar Weinberger held multiple titles under the Nixon Administration – including Secretary of Health, Education, Welfare, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission. As Secretary of Defense under Reagan, Weinberger is highly influential due to his association with the U.S Military and all of its resources/connections. If the Administration is to engage in interventionist operations, Weinberger would be a vital asset.

James Watt (Secretary of the Interior) - A former Ford staffer, James Watt has taken up leadership at the Department of the Interior. Watt's position gives him administrative control of minerals, public lands, and wildlife refuges/conservation efforts. If the administration desires to creatively integrate environmental/national-park reforms into efforts against substance abuse, Watt would most definitely be a figure of authority.

William French Smith (Attorney General) - Having judicial experience in both the public and private sector, William French Smith acts as the current Attorney General of the United States. Smith has direct authority over the enforcement of Federal Law, and through the Department of Justice's control of subsidiary agencies like the FBI and DEA, has considerable influence within law enforcement and federal efforts against narcotic distribution and consumption. This is obviously a powerful and highly influential position, but your powers are limited in that you cannot wield subsidiary agencies at your behest; to enhance your back-room agendas, you must meddle in D.O.J-law enforcement bureaucracy more so than other cabinet officials and their respective executive bodies.

Donald Regan (Secretary of the Treasury) - A former CEO and Wall Street socialite, Donald Regan has been appointed as Secretary of the Treasury. Through the department, Regan administers the nation's financial infrastructure, federal revenue collection, and the production of U.S currency. If the committee desires to attain ample funding for projects or engage in any financial reforms whatsoever, Regan should be a figure present in those initiatives.

Richard Schweiker (Secretary of Human Health Services) - Having served as a House Representative and Senator for the state of Pennsylvania, Richard Schweiker is currently Secretary of Human Health Services. Schweiker is responsible for advising the President on health related issues, administering the Food and Drug Administration and Center for Disease Control, and overseeing medicare and medicaid. Schweiker is an extremely critical authority when it comes to substance abuse reforms.

Raymond Donovan (Secretary of Labor) - A former Vice President of Schiavone Construction Company, Donovan now serves as the Secretary of Labor. Through the Department of Labor, Donovan directly oversees federal worker wages, working conditions for U.S laborers, and federal efforts against unemployment. If the administration wishes to combat unemployment and worker conditions as an extension of substance abuse reforms Raymond Donovan would be a figure of authority.

Malcolm Baldrige Jr. (Secretary of Commerce) - A venerated CFO of industrial company Scovill and influential member of the business community, Malcolm Baldrige Jr is the acting Secretary of Commerce for the Reagan administration. Tasked with sustaining U.S economic growth and international trade, Baldrige is a pivotal figure when it comes to overturning pre-existing economic disarray and inflation – a potential avenue for enhancing federal efficiency and focus on the War on Drugs.

James Baker (Chief of Staff) - Having served as Under Secretary of Commerce, Banker now serves as Ronald Reagan's Chief of Staff. Baker is essentially the backroom of the Reagan administration; responsible for supervising the daily itinerary of the President as well as managing cooperation between the different executive departments. When the administration desires to utilize multiple departments in order to tackle an issue, the Chief of Staff is a pivotal figure in actualizing said coordination.

Terrel Bell (Secretary of Education) - Having served as U.S Commissioner of Education under Richard Nixon (Education cabinet position was created under Jimmy Carter), Terrel Bell is chiefly tasked with supervising federal education programs, funding, and policies. If the administration wishes to combat substance abuse by means of education reforms and initiatives, Terrell Bell is the man for the job.

Samuel R. Pierce (Secretary of Housing and Urban Development) - A former United States Attorney for New York, Samuel R. Pierce now serves as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Within said cabinet position, Pierce is responsible for federal mortgage policies, community development, and decreasing discrimination in regards to home ownership. Pierce is a valuable asset if the administration desires to utilize housing reforms in order to combat narcotic consumption and distribution.

Andrew L. Lewis Jr. (Secretary of Transportation) - A former Pennsylvania businessman, Andrew L. Lewis Jr. now serves as Secretary of Transportation to the Reagan Administration. Responsible for infrastructure reform, public transportation, and the conduct of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHA), Lewis can be a pivotal figure if the administration wishes to utilize transportation reforms in order to further the War on Drugs.

William J. Casey (Director of Central Intelligence Agency) - A decorated staffer of the Nixon administration, William J. Casey was appointed director of the Central Intelligence Agency. Casey has direct control of CIA operations in foreign nations, and meaningful input in the ongoing elaboration of Operation Condor in South America. Casey is a valuable figure in the pursuit and termination of cartels and their allies based in foreign nations. Be careful however, as reckless initiatives in sovereign nations may have severe consequences.

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick (United States Representative to the United Nations) - A former Democratic establishment bureaucrat and ardent neoconservative, Jean J. Kirkpatrick now serves as the U.S Representative to the United Nations. Through the U.N, Jeane J. Kirkpatrick could promote multilateral cooperation amongst nations against drug trafficking and consumption, and deal with foreign cartels without utilizing subversive measures which violate the sovereignty of states.

William E. Brock (United States Trade Representative) - Former Chair of the RNC, William E. Brock is now the United States Trade Representative of the Reagan Administration. Through this position, Brock has significant authority over international trade negotiations, and thus has developed influential relationships with supranational organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). If the administration desires to intervene in international trade in order to squander drug distribution, Brock would be a vital input.

C. Everett Koop (Surgeon General) - An experienced pediatric surgeon, C. Everett Koop was just recently appointed to the Surgeon General position. Through this node of authority, Koop serves as the nation's doctor; eliciting scientific information in order to promote healthy habits and reduce illness among U.S citizens. When it comes to informing the citizenry about drug abuse and side-effects, Koop has distinguished public authority.

Vernon Walters

Vernon Walters was a United States Army officer and Central Intelligence Agency official born in New York City in 1917. He served with distinction during WWII in the 5th Army and later served as a key US officer in NATO, where he proposed US military intervention in Italy if the Socialist Party (PS) entered government. He became close to National Security Advisor Henry Kissinger when helping to facilitate the Paris Peace Talks to end the Vietnam War, and would help to coordinate further activities in Latin America under Operation Condor. In 1972 he was appointed by President Nixon as Deputy Director of the CIA (DDCI) and played a key role in CIA Activities in Latin America and in managing the crisis that Operation Condor would cause. In particular he was involved with spearheading CIA funding and support for the 1973 Chilean Coup d'etat, however he would later have to deal with the fallout of the Letelier Assassination, when agents of General Pinochet's Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA) murdered Chilean dissident Carlos Letelier with a car bomb on the streets of Washington DC in 1976. The ensuing diplomatic fallout, further threats by the DINA against Chilean Christian-Democrat Bernardo Leighton and US Congressman Ed Koch (D-NY) and increased Congressional pressure forced LTG Walters to deal with increasing opposition and challenges to Condor.

Jorge Videla

Jorge Rafael Videla was an Argentinean military general, Junta Member, and Dictator/De Facto President of Argentina at the height of its Dirty War against domestic communist insurgents. After the death of towering President Juan Perón in 1974, his wife and Vice President Isabel assumed the Presidency and proved unable and incompetent to deal with a cratering economy, form a stable government, or deal with far left insurgents and far right violence gave the Army an opening. The military gradually gained more power as Isabel Perón crippled itself, and now General Commander of the Army Videla overthrew the weak administration under the guise that a strong hand was needed to save Argentina from internal disaster. Assuming the head of the new junta, he presided over mass arrest and forced disappearances of accused subversives, with death flights being frequently used to dispose of certain dissents. Despite the disparity of power between the Junta and its opponents, the collapsing economy and relative strength of the internal communist guerilla movement in the provinces meant that even compared to its Operation Condor it faced the greatest challenges.

Manuel Contreras

Juan Manuel “Mamo” Guillermo Contreras Sepúlveda was a Chilean Army General and the head of the Chilean Dirección de Inteligencia Nacional (DINA, who by 1976 was effectively the second man in the Pinochet regime. Educated at the School of the Americas at Fort Gulick, he learned counter intelligence and repression tactics to be used against communist forces. Under Marxist President Allende he began to form an extra-judicial intelligence network within the lower ranks of the Chilean military to collect information on leftists groups. He used informants within Chile’s right wing and far right parties such as “Frente Nacionalista Patria y Libertad” as proxies along with CIA and US Naval Intelligence contacts to counter the growth of left wing forces in the run up to the 1973 Coup. Following Pinochet's assumption of power he named Conteras his intelligence chief and tasked him with liquidating the enemies of the Junta, particularly those who had escaped abroad. He played a decisive role in the birth of Operation Condor, and by 1975 while the US government approved continued CIA contact with him, they concluded that, “he [Contreras] was the principal obstacle to a reasonable human rights policy within the Pinochet government.” Amid the fallout of the Orlando Letelier bombing, the US government envisaged Contreras involvement and cut CIA contact with him the following year, at the same time tensions grew between him and Pinochet over the PR fallout to the regime and internal junta power struggles.

Alfredo Stroessner

Alfredo Stroessner Matiauda was a Paraguayan Army general and politician who later served as Dictator of Paraguay for more than forty years. A major when the Paraguayan Civil War broke out in 1947 his unit ensured the survival of then Dictator Higinio Morínigo, who rewarded him with a promotion to Brigadier and the youngest General Officer in South America. After several coups and using the Colorado Party as his political vehicle, he gained power and turned Paraguay into a one party military state known as “El Stronato” in 1954, at a time when most of his neighbors were still democracies. Although he presided over a stability unprecedented in Paraguaya’s recent history, his regime was barbarically brutal even by the standards of Operation Condor, with allegations made against him of Genocide of the Aché indeigous people.

Although the United States supported his government out of anti-communist Operation Condor expediency, relations slowly frayed over Strossner's involvement in drug trafficking and the sheer excesses of his regime. Finally his personal affinity for Nazism led to already isolated Paraguay becoming a heaven for Nazi including Josef Mengele, leading many to refer to his government as the "poor man's Nazi regime.

Hugo Banzer

Hugo Banzer was a Bolivian politician and military officer who was the latest in a long line of Bolivian generals who gained power the old fashioned way; by coup. Bolivia, unlike many of its Condor counterparts, had a longstanding schism conflict within its own military between a left wing clique and the right wing with which Banzer sided. After unsuccessfully attempting to topple leftist aligned General Juan José Torres in early 1971, he later succeeded in August of that year in an military uprising of considerable bloodshed. Key financial and political support from the Nixon Administration and Brazil were key to his success along with political support from both Bolivia's center and far right for his first three years. However after showing no intentions in holding elections he ruled purely by military force alone, the subsequent "Banzerato" saw all political activity banned, the exiling of all major leaders including sympathetic right wing ones, and a hardening of repression against opposition. Thousands were tortured in the "horror chambers" of the Interior Ministry basement where infamous Lyon Gestapo Boss Klaus Barbie was integrated into the security services to "renew" the regime's repression tactics. However even after this repression induced a false sense of stability, Banzer's regime was still open to challenges from both democratically minded and opportunistic sectors of the military waiting for an opportunity when the regime stumbled.

William D. Luers

William D. Luers is a member of the United States Foreign Service that is rising quickly in the ranks as a skilled and tactful diplomat. He is particularly invested in the area of Venezuela and previously served in the U.S. Navy. Not much is known of Luers yet, but he currently serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs. He is fluent in Russian, Italian, and Spanish, uniquely positioning Luers as a potential source of more global involvement in this operation, for better or for worse.

Hewson Ryan

Hewson Ryan served as the United States Ambassador to Honduras, a position which he held from 1969 to 1973. This has made him very aware of conflict in the region leading up to the widespread activities of Operation Condor, including the nation's battles with El Salvador. His knowledge of international conflict within Central America is easily exploitable for the operation's success, but even more important is his deep understanding of the region and their capabilities. While his government capabilities are diminished, his knowledge (and how he presents it) will be instrumental to the operation's success in Central America.

Aparicio Méndez

Aparicio Méndez currently serves as the de facto President of Uruguay following a military coup in the nation. He's a part of the National Party, in which he has established himself as an expert in administrative law, and served as Minister of Health from 1961 to 1964. While his involvement in and cooperation with the military coup is undeniable, he has also shown signs that he wishes to break off from traditional party values and policies. He also wishes to democratize the nation following the heavy toll the coup took on Uruguay, a stance which may anger more traditionalist members of committee. Nevertheless, his expertise speaks for itself and he is still firmly rooted in Uruguay's National Party and the fight to win the Cold War.

Francisco Morales-Bermúdez

Francisco Morales-Bermúdez is the de facto President of Peru following the military coup of 1975. He comes from a family of army colonels and former presidents, setting him up for success at a very early age. He became Minister of Economy and Finance in 1968, although unknown problems within the administration caused him to resign after two months. Soon after in the same year, the president was deposed in a military coup and Bermúdez was asked to return to his post as Minister of Economy and Finance until 1974, when he became Commander-in-Chief of the Peruvian Army. He used this position to overthrow the unhealthy president and assume presidency of the nation in 1975, diverting from Peru's socialist policies of the era. His participation in Operation Condor has included the capturing of Argentinians in Lima. His administration is marked by one of the country's worst economic crises and a radical shift from Peru's previous political platforms.

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