Study guide 5: Internationalization of the Belizean independence quest

The cold war era

-After World War 2 the Russians began to gain control over Eastern Europe becoming a superpower in the world arena. On the other hand, the US due to warfare and development had a stable and growing economy. The other countries in the world were fighting for self-determination and independence.

-UN was created in 1945 and the major leaders in the world arena began to join including the US and the Russians (United Soviet Socialist Republic). When they became part of this organization is when they began to have confrontations provoking each other in the UN.

-The Russians were pro-communist which is a political and economic system in which the major productive resources are owned by the public, and wealth is divided among citizens equally. They began to place puppet governments in Eastern Europe to protect themselves from any eminent threat to their peace. For that reason they began to oppress the areas in Europe especially Germany.

-The US was Pro-communist they began to have heavy investment in Western Europe in order to develop the areas and have come out of the effects of WW2. In 1947 the President of the US (Harry Truman) decided to launch help for the countries in the world to fight against communism.

-One of the first Latin American leaders that joined the Russians was Fidel Castro (Cuban). The Russians then sent some missiles to be kept in Cuba, this caused fear in the US which eventually had a blockade against the Cubans.

-The US and the Russians were fighting to gain alliances throughout the world however there were no major confrontations in the form of large warfare (except for the confrontation at Vietnam). The cold war was primarily an ideological warfare between communism and capitalism.

The Non-aligned movement

-It was an international organization that was dedicated to representing the interests and aspirations of developing countries. They managed to give a voice for the small countries in the international arena.

-The origins of the organization was in the Bandung conference in 1955 when major leaders of the middle-eastern region began to discuss on not joining either the US or the USSR but to fight for freedom from imperialism. It was made of primarily of countries that had recently received independence.

-The aims of the movement was that countries should not ally with either the US or USSR but they supported national self-determination and were against all forms of colonialism and imperialism (fighting for decolonization).

-The movement was finally started in 1961 in the Belgrade conference where it was decided that all members would have the same weighting, they would meet every three years and that every 3 years the presidency was be changed.

-In Belize George Price (1971) created the Belize independence Secretariat to fight for Belizean independence and it was made up of Assad Shoman, Robert Leslie, Anne Waight.

-**THE STORY OF THE SECRETARIAT:** George Price sent the Secretariat to the UN headquarters in the New York (US). They were sent with a limited amount of money, when they reached they rented a small room where they would eat, sleep, and typed letters one by one that would be distributed to different leaders of the countries. When they tried to enter the UN building they were not allowed because they were not recognized as a free nation. With the help of the Caribbean leaders and the Non-aligned movement they managed to get some passes but representing/impersonating different world leaders. They were at one point removed from certain meeting and it was not until the English decided to support them that they began to have a say and they used several means for talking to diplomats and gain their support.
The role of Guatemala in the international phase

-Self-determination: under the control and direction of the inhabitants of a political unit rather than by an outside authority

-Independence: freedom from being governed or ruled by another country: not being influenced by outside powers

-Internationalization is going into the international arena (across borders) to gain support for your cause.

-Belize’s objectives when going to the international arena were: 1. to gain support of as many nations to secure independence and territorial integrity. 2. To Use the support to influence the negotiation process. 3. To secure credible defense for Belize; putting pressure on Britain to assume responsibility for Belize. 4. To exert pressure on Britain and the U.S.A. to respect Belize's position.

-Guatemalan claim: UTIS POSSEDITIS JURIS: they inherited the borders of the colonial power: Spain

-In the international ground Guatemala had the support of all the Latin American countries; in addition, Israel supported them. They had a lot of influence in Latin America since they were members of the Organization of American States.

-Besides Guatemala having many influences in 1975 the case of Belize was placed to a vote and it was ruled that self-determination would be granted to Belize. The outcome was 110 in favor, 16 abstentions (not participated), 9 against. All the Latin American countries voted against except CUBA. Cuba became important for Belize since the Cuban leaders introduced Belizean lawyers to Omar Torijos the Panamanian leader.

OMAR TORIJOS

-Before Panama was a free nation Colombia controlled them. The US was vital for the Panamanian quest for freedom. The US had special interests in Panama, after their independence Omar Torijos became the president in the 1970’s.

- During this time the US wanted an access from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean; their first choice was Nicaragua but unfortunately for them they could not build it there. So years after the canal was successfully done in Panama. The US was controlling the canal in the Beginning.

-Panama wanted the control of the canal and needed votes in favor in the UN to get control of the canal. Belize was introduced to Omar Torijos by Fidel Castro. Torijos decided to support Belize and campaign for Latin American support and on the other Belize would support Panama.

- Panama began to lobby for support for Belize and eventually gained support of the Latin American countries.

HEADS OF AGREEMENT

-A document proposing a solution to the Guatemalan claim to Belizean territory. It was signed in March 11 1981. It was rejected by the Belizean populace and a lot of revolts occurred in the country.

-Know at least 4 clauses of the Heads of Agreement.
Heads of Agreement clauses

1. The United Kingdom and Guatemala shall recognize the independent state of Belize as an integral part of Central America, and respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with its existing and traditional frontiers subject, in the case of Guatemala, to the completion of the treaties necessary to give effect to these Heads of Agreement.

2. Guatemala shall be accorded such territorial seas as shall ensure permanent and unimpeded access to the high seas, together with its rights over the seabed thereunder.

3. Guatemala shall have the use and enjoyment of the Ranguana and Sapodilla Cayes, and rights in those areas of the sea adjacent to the Cayes, as may be agreed.

4. Guatemala shall be entitled to free port facilities in Belize City and Punta Gorda.

5. The road from Belize City to the Guatemalan frontier shall be improved; a road from Punta Gorda to the Guatemalan frontier shall be completed. Guatemala shall have freedom of transit on these roads.

6. Belize shall facilitate the construction of oil pipelines between Guatemala and Belize City, Dangriga and Punta Gorda.

7. In areas to be agreed, an agreement shall be concluded between Belize and Guatemala for purposes concerned with the control of pollution, navigation and fishing.

8. There shall be areas of the seabed and the continental shelf to be agreed for the joint exploration and exploitation of minerals and hydrocarbons.

9. Belize and Guatemala shall agree upon certain development projects of mutual benefit.

10. Belize shall be entitled to any free port facilities in Guatemala to match similar facilities provided to Guatemala in Belize.

11. Belize and Guatemala shall sign a treaty of cooperation in matters of security of mutual concern, and neither shall permit its territory to be used to support subversion against the other.

12. Except as foreseen in these Heads of Agreement, nothing in these provisions shall prejudice any rights of interests in Belize or of the Belizean people.

13. The United Kingdom and Guatemala shall enter into agreements designed to reestablish full and normal relations between them.

14. The United Kingdom and Guatemala shall take the necessary action to sponsor the membership of Belize in the United Nations, Organization of American States, Central American organizations and other international organizations.

15. A joint Commission shall be established between Belize, Guatemala and the United Kingdom to work out details to give effect to the above provisions. It will prepare a treaty or treaties for signature by the signatories to these Heads of Agreement.

16. The controversy between the United Kingdom and Guatemala over the territory of Belize shall therefore be honorably and finally ended.