

Committee: Avatar the Last Airbender: Water Tribes

Individual: Master Silla

School: Elkins High School

Sponsor: Dema Deslaurier

Delegate Name: Joseph Babu

Time is changing as a new era is being born. Fire lord Sozin has been waiting for a chance to strike and to colonize the world, and with the death of Avatar Roku he has been granted this chance. We should not be ignorant of the extent of the Fire Lord's desire; the Water Tribes may not be a priority for Sozin, but we are a threat. Water is the natural enemy of the fire, but we cannot be foolish and careless, for we must remember that even the ocean is dried by the sun.

I predict that Sozin will target the Air Nomads first, as they hold the key to the next Avatar. However, we can only help them minimally, drawing any attention to ourselves will only cause greater troubles. With the Air Nomads out of the way, Sozin will start colonizing the Earth Kingdom. This will give us a small buffer of time to prepare for war. I advise the Council to first prepare our defenses and protect any trade routes we have with the Earth Kingdom. We have to proceed with caution and assume that the Fire Nation is attacking us first. Assuming the worst will allow us to develop quickly and with great vigor. The Moon is our teacher and the source of our strength; we must develop our defenses around this cycle. Our Physical barriers and fighting potential, during the day and on the nights of a new moon, when we are at our weakest, must be at its peak. We should then slowly increase our defenses until we are as impenetrable as solid ice. I will assist in the training of the young and make sure they understand the art of bending water. Water is fluid, adaptable, and all around us. It is my duty to teach all young men that water is not only in the sea, it is in the clouds, it is in the very breath we breathe, but most importantly it is within us and all that lives.

Developing our combat abilities is vital for our survival and for retaining peace throughout the four nations. We have been lacking in our technological advancements, while the Fire Nation continues to grow each day. It is time for our weapons, our armor, our shields, but most importantly our bending to surpass what the Water Tribes have ever experienced. The further we push the potential of water bending the further we can catch the Fire Nation by surprise. I personally want to see what limits that waterbending has. If waterbending can heal and give life, then there must be a way to take it away. I know my fellow tribesmen of both the north and the south will not take a liking into what I will research. However, it is for the Water Tribes and maintaining balance throughout the world.

I am the Master Waterbender of the North. It is my duty to develop our people toward a path that we will be just as great as our pride. I shall not claim to be good nor evil, as I only care for wellbeing of the Great Water Tribes. We are as seas; we are mostly calm waters, but when we are a raging storm, pity to those in our way.

Committee: Imperial Diet/Reichstag – Catholic League

Individual: Electorate of Mainz

School: Lawrence E. Elkins High School

Delegate: Brandon Hoang

In the year of our Lord, 1618, the ruminations of insurrection and dissension are evidently clear in the Protestant states of the most Holy Roman Empire. The Peace of Augsburg, though it has done good to help quiet the belligerence of both the Catholic League and the Protestant Union, cannot last forever. Tension rises, and it is clear that eventually this powder keg will be lit. As such, we, as a united league, must prepare for the inevitable conflict that lies ahead. I am not ashamed to proclaim that I ardently hope to see the day when Catholicism reigns over all of Europe once more. To this end, I pledge my support to the steadfast Ferdinand II, King of Bohemia, but looking to within our borders is not enough to fortify ourselves.

Our first priority should be to secure alliances with our neighbors both to the west, east, and south. To the south are the Papal States and the republics of Italy. As a league, we absolutely must gain the patronage of His Holiness Pope Gregory XV. The Pontiff is the key to convincing all other Catholic states to unite against the rising threat of the Protestant kingdoms. Other Italian states such as Venice will be a boon to our efforts, as they can provide us with the economic resources, financial support, and naval power necessary for military endeavors. Just under 50 years ago in 1571, we united with Venice and Spain to combat the Ottomans at Lepanto; to preserve Christendom from internal strife, we must unite again. To the east is the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, a military superpower with the mighty winged Hussars. Their feared reputation and might in battle may prove useful to our operations. To the southwest is the Spanish Empire, another power who will be crucial to any campaign, especially due to their network of Inquisitors.

The most difficult to convince will be the Kingdom of France. King Louis XIII and the House of Bourbon fear Habsburg hegemony and will do whatever it takes to curtail the Reich's power. They will be unwilling to join us. That is why we must recognize the tensions between the Catholic League and the Protestant Union for what they are. Land, money, and glory are all factors, yet at the root of the problem lies religion. We must take advantage of this fact and appeal to Louis' advisor Cardinal Richelieu to see through the shroud that is our temporal kingdoms and realize that the true battle is the Church versus the heretics.

Lastly, I urge my brothers in the knightly orders to remember their heritage as protectors and defenders of the faith, descended from the Crusaders of centuries past. I will request that they, in this time of tribulation, join with the secular authority that is the most Holy Roman Empire to prepare for war.

Ultimately, we, as a Catholic League, and our allies must be prepared for an outright war that may sweep the continent. I am not opposed to preemptively striking against the Protestant Union if necessary, but before any such belligerence takes place, we must ensure that all assets are in place. Peace is far from possible with the current state of the European continent. I fear that we may see widespread conflict soon. But when that day comes, the Catholic League will have allies by its side, equipment and assets mobilized, and devoted soldiers prepared to defend their lands. We will be prepared for all that lies ahead. By the grace of God!

Committee: Imperial Diet/Reichstag – Catholic League

Individual: Electorate of Mainz

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Unbeknownst to the other members of the Catholic League, as I am not yet sure of each member's true loyalties, I believe that the current Holy Roman Emperor needs to go. Matthias is weak and compromising. He has conceded far too many of the Protestants' demands, following a treaty which is an insult to the Church. His likely successor, Ferdinand II, is fortunately pro-Catholic, yet he is too narrow-minded, focused on preserving his Reich rather than Catholicism as a whole. That is why there needs to be a new Holy Roman Emperor, one not corrupted by desires for temporal glory or personal gain; this ruler needs to be one who glorifies God above all else and is one who can stand firm in the face of the Protestants. As an archbishop, I swore an oath to protect the Church from any threats, whether external, such as heretics, apostates, or unbelievers, or internal, including especially weak and compromising Catholics. I will not stand by as other Catholics hand away our kingdom, and I must be ruthless and uncompromising. As the Elector (prince-archbishop) of Mainz, I am second to none but the current Holy Roman Emperor, and I intend to ascend to the throne.

Committee: African National Congress (ANC)

Country: South Africa

Person: Thabo Mbeki

Topic: Apartheid in South Africa

School: The Village School

Delegate: Declan (Yi Heng) Cheah

Greetings ladies and gentleman, I am Thabo Mbeki, director of the Department of Information and Publicity. It was seventy-one years ago, a brilliant individual by the name of Pixley ka Isaka Seme announced a short, effective and powerful statement, "We are one people. These divisions, these jealousies, are the cause of all our woes today." Every one of us in the ANC lives and almost worships this statement. This is a sentence in which we all are all united under. A year later on the eighth of January, 1912; a powerful fighting force against the oppression of the apartheid was formed. Seventy-one years, and we are still fighting strong.

During the 50s, this great organization created the Defiance Campaign. Hundreds and thousands of our brothers and sisters rose to resist the apartheid. This was the first large-scale political mobilization against apartheid laws under a common leader. The government (The South African National Party) attempted to stop us by banning party leaders and enacting new laws. But these petty attacks would not suffice to undermine our passions for a new and fair nation.

In 1955 our organization created the Freedom Charter. The charter expressed the core principles of the South African Congress Alliance. Hundreds of thousands of citizens across the country bellowed, "The People Shall Govern!" Yet five years later the government had yet to listen. To the horrors of South Africans and international citizens around the world, the Sharpeville massacre occurred.

A crowd of approximately 5,000 to 7,000 brave and bold souls marched to the police station of Sharpeville. There, these freedom fighters peacefully engaged in protest against the pass laws. The police afraid of our show against the policies of the government, hailed in armored vehicles, fighter jets, and a 130 police officers armed with machineguns and rifles. Even with the immense amount of danger facing these protesters, they did not budge one bit. The police then tried to arrest the protestors resulting in a scuffle. With the crowd confused, the police unleashed a hail of bullets. 69 people were killed which included 8 women and 10 children. An additional 180 were injured. This event was criticised and heavily condemned by the United Nations and the majority of citizens in our great nation. This event proves the immaturity of the government that risks destroying the country our ancestors painstakingly built.

Today, we stand in battle against the atrocities of the South African National Party. We will not yield to their demands. Our goal is short and simple, "The People Shall Govern!". We will and must abolish the apartheid. No longer shall black, colored, or Indian citizens grovel under the oppression of the white minority. All should be treated equally and judged not by color, but by merit. In honor of the protesters in the Sharpeville massacre, we will not succumb to the frivolous slugs launched from the mouths of corrupt politicians. No, we win this battle for

freedom as our forefathers have long imagined. We will rise above the desolate situation our nation is in now; I promise, we shall prevail.

Sources:

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