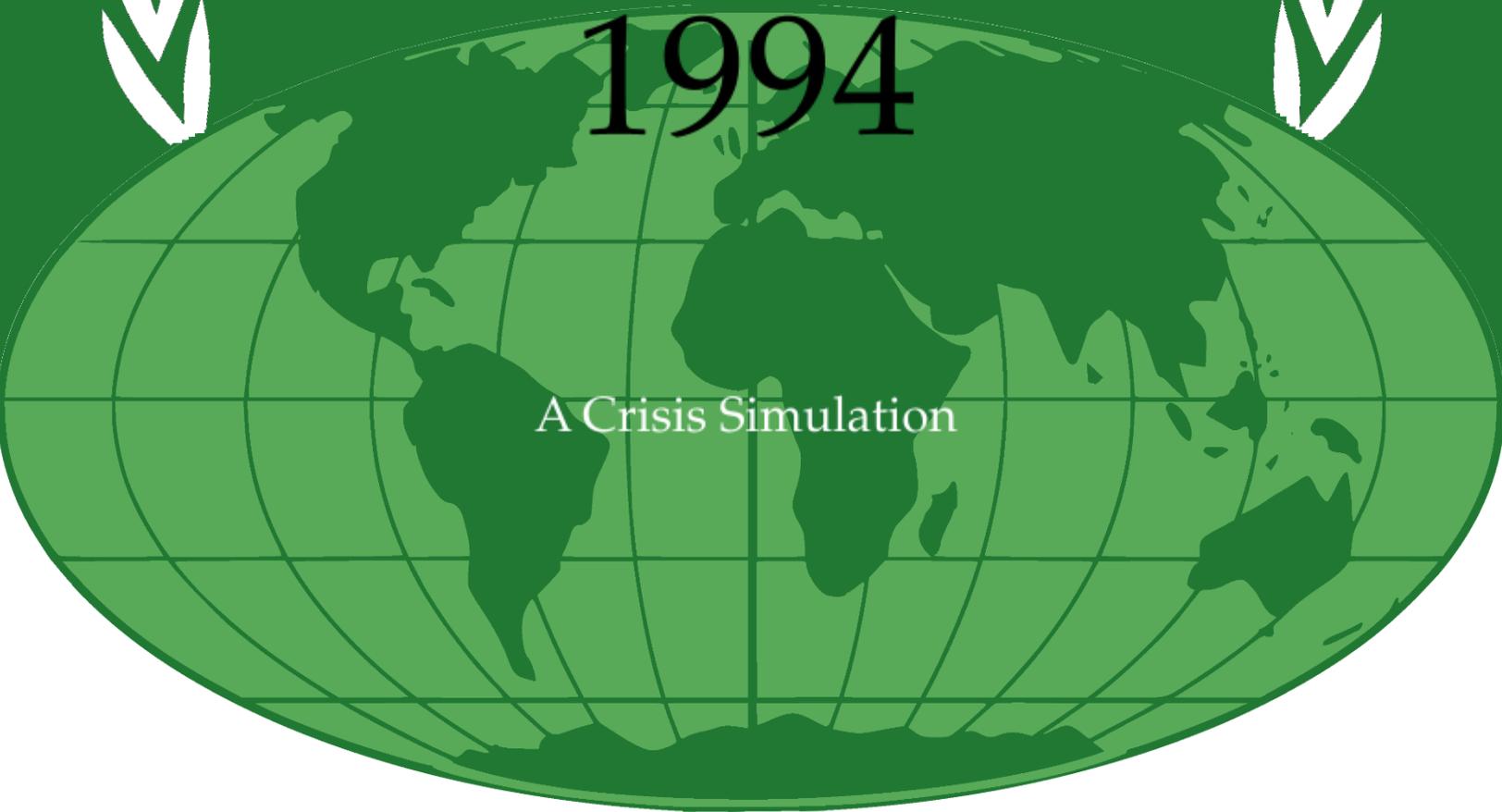


# Death Row Records

1994

A Crisis Simulation



# Background Guide

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Virginia Invitational

V I M  N C

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# VIMUNC X



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Esteemed delegates and sponsors of VIMUNC X,

Welcome to the tenth annual Virginia Invitational Model United Nations Conference. As the MUN year winds down, we hope to provide the best experience yet, with paramount service and attention to detail that creates the greatest conference. From broad UN organizations to regional bodies, from corporations to criminal organizations, VIMUNC has committees that truly serve every interest. With experienced chairs, czars and staff, we will ensure that every delegate truly has a positive experience, and we simply hope that you can enjoy your experience with us.

VIMUNC's 18 committees and over 700 delegates is one of the largest editions of our conference ever, and we look forward to expanding our outreach across Virginia to continue to provide a wonderful experience for all delegates. With a large MUN team that has years of experience, we hope that every single minute of the committee is filled with substantive debate that will create learning experiences that last for years to come.

So much hard work has been put into every single crisis update, background guide and dossier, and we sincerely hope that the work and care placed in every single aspect of this conference is displayed in its quality. If at any time you feel something about the conference is unsatisfactory, please don't hesitate to talk to your chairs, a staffer, or a member of the Secretariat.

Thank you so much for your commitment to VIMUNC X, and best of luck in your committee, future conferences, and ambitions.

Sincerely,

Kalyna Vickers

Secretary-General, VIMUNC X

# Death Row Records

## 1994

(A Crisis Simulation)

TOPIC A: *Black Panther Party vs. Cointelpro*

TOPIC B: *Bad Boy Records and the Crips*

## INTRODUCTION

### to the Death Row Records 1994

The year is 1994, and the East Coast/West Coast rivalry has reached its ultimate peak. From the Crips vs. the Bloods to Bad Boy Records vs. Death Row Records, tensions are rising exponentially toward an increasingly more aggressive America. This large-scale competition is an inundation on the surface of American public media, yet there are significantly more severe problems at hand in Death Row Records. However intense the battle for the rap throne may seem, it is not nearly as intense as the struggle between the fight of Black Liberation Parties and CointelPro. The Counterintelligence Program of the 20th century funded by the American

government was intended to destroy Communist regimes within America, conducting illicit activity against black nationalist parties, videlicet The Black Panther Party. The record company notoriously has strong ties to the Black Panther Party through figures, namely Tupac Shakur and through the Shakur family bloodline, making the Record Label an easy target of Government Intelligence programs and the Anti-Black Nationalist Department. The activity of the counterintelligence program is not disclosed to the public, and due to its classified nature it is an increasingly difficult opposition force. The objective of the Death Row Records committee will be to efficiently fight the forces both broadcasted publicly as well as those hidden from public line of sight.

# TOPIC A: Black Panther Party vs. Cointelpro

## *Background Information/Current Situation*

The Black Panther Party was founded in 1966 by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. Originally, its purpose was to protect black communities and neighborhoods from police brutality, but it developed into a Marxist radical group whose goals included arming African Americans, exemption of African Americans from the draft, release of all African Americans from prison, and compensation for exploitation by white Americans in the past. Poverty and poor living conditions led to urban uprisings, such as the Watts Riots in 1965 in Los Angeles. The riot was a series of conflicts between the police and residents of African American neighborhoods. The initial cause of the riots was the arrest of Marquette Frye, for driving intoxicated; he may have been resisting arrest and excessive force may have been used by the police. 34 people died, more than a thousand were injured, and \$40 million dollars of property was destroyed. The riots are characterized by massive fires that firefighters were unable to put out due to the lack of protection from rioters.

COINTELPRO, also known as the CounterIntelligence Program, was responsible for multiple accounts of psychological warfare, and cold-blooded murder against mostly nonviolent individuals who simply spoke out against the government. This whole operation was controlled by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. It all started in 1956 amid the American fight against Communism. The US felt that they were starting to lose, that's when Agent Edgar Hoover stepped in and explained that they needed to expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, and neutralize any political groups that seemed too subversive for the FBI. Agent Hoover received permission

first from President Eisenhower and then President Kennedy to do whatever he had to do to “Help America” The first style of attack was used to disrupt the inside of the Communist Party USA (CPUSA), they had many ways of doing so but the main one was to make anonymous phone calls from to threaten their lives. FBI agents started infiltrating CPUSA meetings and therefore everyone started turning on each other and everyone would accuse each other of being a traitor. After that they started targeting groups who fought against racial injustice and the beginning point was when Dr. T.R.M. Howard a black American civil rights leader, started calling out the FBI for multiple infamous hate crimes. When he spoke out, Hoover started getting the FBI to target them and other civil rights activists consequently since they were hiding some communist activities, attacking the Black Panther Party, Anti-Vietnam War organizers, Multiple Feminist groups, Environmentalists and animal rights activists, Nation of Islam, Young Lord Puerto Rico Independence Group, and the American Indian movement. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior and Malcolm X were two of the most targeted activists. The FBI was terrified of M.L.K. I Have A Dream speech saying he was getting too powerful and therefore dangerous, that is when they started spying on him by doing things such as bugging his phone to listen in on every single one of his calls because they were actively trying to find blackmail on Dr. M.L.K. to “silence” him. They wanted him to kill himself, they ended up sending him a “Suicide Package” two days before he was supposed to receive his Nobel Peace Prize, the packet contained months of evidence of marital affairs he was having. The pact also contained a harsh racist anonymous letter that insulted him and it ended by trying to get him to commit suicide. When Dr. M.L.K. stood strong and did not take his own life the FBI released all the info to every news outlet possible with the goal of completely humiliating him and destroying his reputation. Meanwhile,

the FBI kept busy by making the Nation of Islam group led by Elijah Muhammad start a feud with the Organisation of Afro-American Unity led by Malcolm X which ended up with Malcolm X's assassination at the hands of Nation of Islam gunmen.

Since the acceleration of the Black Panther Party into popularity, their new and primary target has become solely the BPP. Cointelpro currently stands strong and prevalent yet hidden from plain sight of the public due to previous controversies and has been reactivated by the current director, Louis J. Freeh. It is up to committee members to protect the African American communities and groups of America as the nation's wealthiest public coalition of black Americans.

### *Questions to Consider*

- What is the most effective way to protect these African American communities?
- How can you prevent the Cointelpro from affecting more African Americans in the country?
- What forms of collaboration can occur in order to resolve this crisis in short and long term goals?

## TOPIC B: Bad Boy Records and the Crips

### *Background Information/Current Situation*

The Bad Boy Records also known as Bad Boy Entertainment was founded in 1993 by Sean Combs also known as Puffy. It quickly became popular thanks to artists such as The Notorious B.I.G. (Biggie), Craig Mack, 8Ball & MJG, 112, Bow Wow or even Sean Combs himself. They were a direct competitor of Death Row Records, a label founded in 1991 by The D.O.C., Dr. Dre, Suge Knight and Dick Griffey. Death Row Records became a sensation when they started mainstreaming rappers such as 2pac, Snoop Dogg, Outlawz, Dr. Dre, Tha Dogg Pound. Both labels started out friendly and had a great relationship, both professionally and personally.

However, underlying tensions and many shifts in loyalties led to the inevitable separation of the partnership, sparking a rivalry. A multitude of diss tracks and public interviews were released, and the flurry of anger continued to grow and prevail. The climax struck on Wednesday November 30, 1994 when Tupac was robbed and shot 5 times, when he was on his way to Times Square's Quad Recording Studio to record a track with Uptown Records' Little Shawn. since Biggie and Sean Comb were in the same building to record Biggie's "Warning" video Tupac

initially thought that the assailants were hired by them and were bodyguards, but then they pointed a gun in Tupac and his manager's face and asked for all their money and jewelry, Tupac reached for his own gun stashed on his waistband, that's when the attackers shot him 5 times, twice in the head, once in the thigh and once in the left hand, they then proceeded to take all his jewelry off him and anything else he had. After miraculously surviving the attack, he reached Biggie and Sean who didn't seem surprised by the fact he got shot, but by the fact that he survived. Tupac was sent straight to the hospital and ended up surviving. After he got out of the ER he was sentenced to 9 months in jail for first degree sexual assault. Soon after being sentenced he made a statement about never trusting anyone because his own friends (referencing Biggie and Puffy) organized a murder attempt against him. Biggie Smalls, whether intentionally or not, added fuel to this fire by releasing "Who Shot Ya?", a track that was supposedly meant for Mary J. Blige's album *My Life*, but did not end up on the final tracklist due to it being too violent for an RnB album. Regardless of the true meaning behind the track, its release was ill-timed with the shooting of Tupac, and led ultimately to an escalation of tension between BB and Death Row.

### *Questions to Consider*

- How can you prevent these rivalries from becoming dangerous and violent in the country?
- What are solutions towards allowing these artists from being competitive with one another without creating danger in the public?
- What forms of collaboration can occur in order to resolve this crisis in short and long term goals?

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