

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perspective: American businessman

Description of Event It is 1961, and the Apartheid government of South Africa has established Pass Laws and the Group Areas Act. The Apartheid government was founded by Dutch immigrants to South Africa who adopted a brutal and racial form of government. The Pass Laws required all non-white individuals to carry Pass books with them which described their ability to move freely from one area of the country to another. The Group Areas Act placed restrictions on the movement of native people (i.e. Zulu, Swazi, Hot-tentot) to undesirable lands away from the more prosperous white-owned lands. These actions have angered many native Africans to the point that they have taken up arms against the oppressive government. Two years prior, the Sharpeville Massacre occurred during which approximately 69 people were killed and 186 injured when police fired on a crowd of 3,000 peaceful protestors. Most of the protestors were shot in the back. Now, a political group, named the African National Congress, has decided to abandon peaceful protesting for violence. Nelson Mandela is leading the militant wing called Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK), which means 'tip of the spear.' News has broke that MK has just blown up a regional electrical station causing power to go out to a large all white suburb of Pretoria.

Your Role As a visiting businesswoman from America, you are scared of the recent developments in South Africa. Your company is contracting with gold mines in the country to try to secure massive amounts of gold for the American economy. You have been in the country negotiating the deal for a few weeks and have been able to observe the civil unrest and read about the explosion in the newspaper. You are concerned for your own freedom, but feel relatively safe with your security detail. As an American you are seeing racial tension rising in the southern United States and you believe that it is time for a change. You are not sure, however, about the native Africans. They are blowing up electrical stations and have been accused of storming police stations. They seem very different from the passive marches taking place in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition, you are uncertain about the future of the South African state. The Apartheid has been very good business partners. Your company has made millions buying high quality gold from South Africa and so you hope that the government continues to stay in power. Despite their racist government, they are good business partners which you stand to gain quite a bit from establishing a lucrative deal. The recent actions of the Mk concern you, but you are detached from the outcome because you plan to fly back to America in two weeks.