

GSMUN XVIII

Stand Up, Speak Out



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GSMUN XVIII

Sponsor Handbook

March 20th and 21st, 2015

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for
Government and International Studies

Dedication

The Secretariat of the Eighteenth Annual Governor's School Model United Nations extends its most sincere gratitude towards:

Mr. Max Smith, the sponsor of the Maggie Walker Model United Nations Club, for his unwavering support and guiding expertise throughout the process;

Dr. Ben Bernanke for gracing the conference with experiential knowledge for future world leaders;

Mr. Bill Chapman and Ms. Dee Rubenstein for a harmonious and prosperous partnership with The Richmond Forum;

Ms. Ruchira Gupta for all her work to make the world a more peaceful place and for inspiring others to do the same;

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School administration, including Dr. Jeff McGee, Dr. Wendy Ellis, and Mr. Phil Tharp for their continuing support of both Model United Nations and the school;

Ms. Deborah Snagg for her patience and technological assistance;

The security, maintenance, and custodial staff of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for all they do to support the conference and the school;

Our generous community and corporate sponsors;

Our welcome sponsors and delegates.



January 30, 2015

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

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Director-General

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Purnima Ghosh
Director of
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Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

I am so excited that you plan to join us for the eighteenth annual Governor's School Model United Nations Conference. The Secretariat has invested nearly a year of work in this one weekend in March, and we make every decision with you in mind.

GSMUN XVIII will allow for students to discuss carefully crafted solutions to the world's most pressing problems, challenging our future leaders to think creatively and with a cooperative attitude. Delegates develop critical thinking skills while under pressure, reacting to real-time crises while simultaneously addressing committee topics. Model United Nations, as a whole, encourages students to develop skills in rhetoric and diplomacy. Every committee at this conference presents the same opportunities for growth in a more specialized setting. Smaller committees ensure that each delegate has the potential to exercise the conference theme, *Stand Up, Speak Out*.

The goal of GSMUN XVIII is to provide for each delegate, novice or experienced, a forum for his or her ideas. Though GSMUN has always featured diverse committees and topics, GSMUN XVIII is comprised of a record-high 25 committees, each capped at a maximum delegation count of 20. GSMUN XVIII caters to a wide variety of delegates, offering United Nation General Assembly committees, such as SPECPOL or DISEC, for novices and specialized and joint-crisis committees, such as the Security Council or the First Intifada, for more experienced participants.

This year, the official GSMUN charity is the United Nations accredited foundation meant to eradicate human trafficking, Apne Aap. This charity has been increasing quality of life for victims of human trafficking to significant avail, originating in Mumbai and expanding to Delhi, Bihar, West Bengal, and all around the world. The charity's founder, Ruchira Gupta, will speak at the conference, inviting delegates to take action to apply the solutions engineered in the committee rooms to help the disadvantaged. All merchandise proceeds and committee donations directly benefit Ms. Gupta's mission in India.

The entire staff of GSMUN appreciates your participation in the conference and looks forward to seeing you on March 20th. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns at gsmun.secgen@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General, GSMUN XVIII

Table of Contents

General Information	11
Notes for Sponsors	14
Keynote Speaker	17
GSMUN XVIII Secretariat	18
GSMUN XVIII Chairs	22
Fundraising	24
Model UN Basics	26
Delegate Research Guide	28
Parliamentary Procedure Guide	40
Delegate Recognition Guidelines	54
Background Guides	56
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	60
2015 Election of Aung San Suu Kyi	79
Bandung Conference	93
Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Brain Trust	104
Disarmament and International Security Committee	118
Economic and Social Council	133
Environmental Programme	144
European Union	159
French National Convention	172
International Court of Justice	185
Iranian Constitutional Convention	197
JCC First Intifada: Israel	208
JCC First Intifada: Palestinian Liberation Organization	218
JCC Iranian Hostage Crisis: American Government	234
JCC Iranian Hostage Crisis: Iranian Government	244
Legal Committee	253
Libyan National Congress	267
Lok Sabha	278
Nigerian National Assembly	294
Press Corps	305
Saudi Aramco Board of Directors	314
United Nations Fourth Committee, Special Political and Decolonization	325
United Nations Security Council	339
Weimar Republic	351
World Health Organization	360
Conference Logistics	387
Schedule of Events	389
Conference Location	390
Other Resources	391

General Information

Notes for Sponsors: Country Assignments

We will be sending information concerning your school delegation's positions in GSMUN XVIII committees in the near future. If you have any questions concerning this process, please contact our Charge d'Affaires, Reed Canaan, at gsmun.chargedaffaires@gmail.com. Once you have received your delegation's assignments, please work with your students to determine who will fill each spot.

The beginner committees include all United Nations General Assemblies, including DISEC, ECOSOC, Legal, SPECPOL, and Environmental. All novices, whether in middle or high school, will be welcome in these committees; they provide, due to a stringent delegate cap, ample opportunity for any delegate to gain experience. These committees are additionally the only at the conference that allow, and require, double delegations.

The four remaining General Assemblies, the European Union Parliament, Lok Sabha, ASEAN, and the Libyan National Congress, are suited to delegates with moderate Model UN experience but who perhaps feel more comfortable in a larger committee. These committees will discuss challenging, specific issues facing each of these bodies today.

Specialized and Joint Crisis Committees are the perfect environment for experienced, especially passionate delegates. The four JCCs will move quickly, and delegates are expected to have conducted significant research beforehand. UNSC will move similarly quickly, the delegates responding to real-time crises modeled after concurrent events of the time. The Specialized committees, which include Press Corps, the 2015 Election Campaign of Aung San Suu Kyi, the International Court of Justice, Saudi Aramco Board of Directors, Nigerian National Assembly, World Health Organization, the Iranian Constitutional Convention, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Brain Trust, the Bandung Conference, and the Weimar Government, are all challenging committees that require extensive research. Delegates wishing to participate in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Brain Trust and the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors should be well-versed in economic policy. Delegates interested in Press Corps will be expected to write quickly, coherently, honorably, and investigatively, and should be prepared for a challenging experience.

All delegates are expected to write a position paper as well as abide by the Honor Code outlined on the conference website. Failure to procure a paper or behave honorably will result in disqualification from the competitive aspect of the conference. This handbook contains guidelines on how to write a position paper in the "Delegate Research Guide" section, and example papers are posted on the conference website. That said, GSMUN XVIII's chairs are a wonderful resource for novice paper writers and experienced delegates alike. Their emails can be found at the end of each chair letter in this handbook, and each delegate can expect his or her paper to be read and edited within three days of emailing it to his or her chair. Delegates should bring a paper copy of their papers to the first committee session on the 20th even if they have already emailed their papers to the chair.

Notes for Sponsors: Position Paper Guidelines

An important factor in a delegate's GSMUN experience is the quality of his or her research before the conference. To encourage a thorough understanding of topics before committee starts, all GSMUN committees ask for a position paper written by each delegation (double delegations only submit one paper). This position paper should outline general information about the represented country or person and define the delegation's position on each of the committee's topics. Typical position papers are two to three pages (one page per topic).*

In order to assist delegates in their research, a list of helpful websites relevant to each committee's topics is located at the end of each Background Guide. Additionally, a list of more general resources is located in the "Delegate Research Guide" section of this Sponsor Handbook.

Chairs have provided their contact information at the start of each Background Guide. They are happy to answer any questions a student may have about research, and will respond within 48 hours. Students who submit their papers to their chairs via email prior to the conference will receive helpful feedback and suggestions to help make their GSMUN experience more enriching. It is requested that all students submit a position paper at the start of the first committee session.

Upon request, a position paper workshop may be added to a school's request for pre-GSMUN training by Maggie Walker students.

*Press Corps requires unique preparation. Please see its Background Guide for more information.

GSMUN Honor Policy

The Maggie Walker Governor's School's Honor Code is a core aspect of the school's academic excellence; it assures all students, faculty, and staff that trust in one another is of utmost importance at all times. The maintenance of that community of trust falls largely on the students themselves, as they are held responsible for citing sources. The Maggie L. Walker Model United Nations Program, as an extracurricular body within the larger community of the school itself, practices the policy of maintaining honor at all times.

The Secretariat of the Governor's School Model United Nations Conference does not assign position papers as busywork. The chairs read the papers carefully and take them into account as they award commendations at the conclusion of the conference. Thus, any plagiarism present in the papers will be viewed not only as a breach of academic etiquette and the manifestation of disrespect towards the institution of the Governor's School Model United Nations Program, but also as grounds for immediate disqualification from the competitive aspect of the conference. No matter how well a delegate performs in committee, plagiarism in the position paper will mean disqualification from awards.

At Maggie Walker, however, we maintain that the most important aspect of a conference is not how many awards a delegation wins, but to what degree the members of that delegation have realized their true potential within the world of diplomacy and leadership. The sad state of world politics has provided us again and again with negative examples of leaders struggling to maintain political clout using corrupt strategy. Join with us as we strive to inspire future leaders who hunger for justice in the stead of deceitful accreditation.

Keynote Speaker: Ben Bernanke



Ben S. Bernanke served two terms as chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 2006 to 2014. He also served as chairman of the Federal Open Market Committee, the System's principal monetary policymaking body. Before his appointment as chairman of the Fed, Bernanke was chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, from June 2005 to January 2006, and he served the Federal Reserve System in several roles--as a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from 2002 to 2005; as a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Banks of Philadelphia (1987-89), Boston (1989-90) and New York (1990-91, 1994-96) and as a member of the Academic Advisory Panel at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (1990-2002).

From 1994 to 1996, Bernanke was the Class of 1926 Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He was the Howard Harrison and Gabrielle Snyder Beck Professor of Economics and Public Affairs and chair of the Economics Department at the university from 1996 to 2002. Bernanke had been a professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton since 1985. He served for seven years as chairman of the Princeton Economic Department.

Before arriving at Princeton, Bernanke was an associate professor of Economics (1983-85) and an assistant professor of Economics (1979-83) at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. His teaching career also included serving as a visiting professor of Economics at New York University (1993) and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1989-90).

Bernanke has published many articles on a wide variety of economic issues, including monetary policy and macroeconomics, and he is the author of several scholarly books and two textbooks. He has held a Guggenheim Fellowship and a Sloan Fellowship, and he is a fellow of the Econometric Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He served as the director of the Monetary Economics Program of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) and as a member of the NBER's Business Cycle Dating Committee. In July 2001, he was appointed editor of the *American Economic Review*. Bernanke's work with civic and professional groups includes having served two terms as a member of the Montgomery Township (N.J.) Board of Education.

Bernanke was born in Augusta, Georgia, and grew up in Dillon, South Carolina. He received a B.A. in economics in 1975 from Harvard University (summa cum laude) and a Ph.D. in economics in 1979 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is married and has two children.

GSMUN XVIII Secretariat



Sam Schwartzkopf

Secretary-General

Sam has been enjoying the world of Model United Nations since her first GSMUN as an 8th grader from Moody Middle School. She has served as a crisis worker, a chair, the Director of Specialized Agencies, and the Director-General of GSMUN in the past, and therefore is able to empathize with every soul toiling on behalf of a single weekend in March. Her deepest thanks go out to the Maggie Walker community and the Greater-Richmond community as a whole. Sam has attended conferences at the College of William and Mary, University of Virginia, University of Pennsylvania, and Robert's College in Istanbul, Turkey. In her free time, Sam enjoys listening to the hippest bands, volunteering with the hippest nuns (the Little Sisters of the Poor), and interning at the hippest public law firm, the Federal Public Defender. When she feels she can afford it, she talks to her family and friends, and sleeps.



Tallie Hausser

Director-General

Tallie Hausser is a senior at Maggie Walker and is incredibly excited to serve as the Director-General for GSMUN XVIII. She's been involved with Model UN since eighth grade and her experiences involve serving as Chargé d'Affaires for GSMUN XVII, chairing DISEC for GSMUN XVI, and attending over 12 conferences including RCIMUN in Istanbul. Tallie spends her free time speaking French, writing music, teaching piano lessons, goalkeeping in field hockey and soccer, and traveling.



Radhika Srivastava

Undersecretary-General for External Communications

Radhika is a senior at Maggie Walker. GSMUN has held a special place in her heart since she first attended as a delegate in 8th grade. She has since served as the crisis worker for the Canadian House of Commons, the Co-Chair of the Industrial Workers of the World, and as the Co-Chair for the Mexican Revolution Spanish-immersion committee during GSMUN XVII. She enjoys attending MUN conferences, the most memorable of which was RCIMUN in Istanbul this past spring. Along with editing background guides, Radhika interns at the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, writes for the school newspaper, choreographs dances, and chatters away in Hindi and Spanish. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, travelling, and drinking tea. Radhika is grateful for this opportunity and is excited to make this the best GSMUN ever!



Elizabeth Levit

Undersecretary-General for Logistics

Elizabeth Levit is a senior at Maggie Walker and has been involved in Model UN since eighth grade. This past year, Elizabeth served as co-chair for the African Union, the same committee in which she represented DR Congo at GSMUN XIV. Elizabeth is also co-captain of forensics, co-president of Red Cross, and a devoted member of several honor societies. In her free time, Elizabeth tutors, dances, plays piano, and performs in local operatic productions. She enjoys singing about the French Revolution, talking to her dog, and dancing in the rain.



Ciaran Lowell

Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations

Ciaran is a senior at Maggie Walker who has been involved in MUN since sophomore year. Ciaran has attended VAMUN 2012, NAIMUN 2013, TECHMUN 2013, WMHSMUN 2013, and ILMUNC 2014. He has also vice-chaired GSMUN's own Israeli Yom Kippur JCC and chaired last year's British Parliament JCC. Apart from serving as the co-Treasurer of Maggie Walker MUN, Ciaran also runs the B-Movie Club, and is involved in the leadership of the Maggie Walker Child's Play Club.



Purnima Ghosh

Director of Press and Publications

Purnima Ghosh is a senior at Maggie Walker Governor's School and has been a member of Model UN since she was a freshman. Channeling her Indian ancestry, Purnima won Best Delegate in the Cabinet of Indian Ministers at VAMUN 2012. Following her love for MUN, she was the Under-Secretary General for Logistics at last year's GSMUN, chaired the Organization of American States (OAS) at GSMUN two years ago, and is the current club President. Outside of Model UN, Purnima is class co-treasurer, participates in Model Congress and plays for the girl's tennis team at Maggie Walker. In her free time (however rare that may be) she loves to read and play piano.



Reed Canaan

Charge d'Affaires

Reed is thrilled to serve as the Chargé d'Affaires for GSMUN XVIII during her senior year. She has been attending conferences and participating in Model UN since she came to GSMUN in 8th grade. Most recently, she traveled with the Maggie Walker team to RCIMUN in Istanbul, Turkey. You might recognize her as the Director of Press and Publications from last year, or the girl constantly shoving t-shirts in your face. Reed also serves as the Co-Secretary of the Model UN Club with the lovely Sam Schwartzkopf, Chair of the Maggie Walker Honor Council and President of EduPAC. In her limited free time, she enjoys watching Downton Abbey and Leonardo DiCaprio movies. She is so excited to have the opportunity to help make this the greatest GSMUN yet!



Elena Zhou

Director of General Assemblies

Elena Zhou is a senior at Maggie Walker. She's been involved in MUN ever since her first conference in 8th grade at GSMUN! In addition to writing working papers and learning the quirks of Robert's Rules, she also participates in Future Problem Solvers, is a member of the SCA, and plays on the school's volleyball team. With the free time she has, she likes to watch the newest movies with friends and chill at cafes. Excited to meet everyone at this year's GSMUN!



Anant Kharkar

Director of Specialized Agencies

Anant fell in love with Model UN when he attended GSMUN XIV as an 8th grader. Since then, he has participated in a number of conferences around the state including VAMUN, WMHSMUN, and NAIMUN. Anant served as co-Treasurer for the club last year, in addition to chairing the G20 Summit and the Second Continental Congress at GSMUN XVI and XVII, respectively. Outside of Model UN, Anant enjoys swimming, robotics, and reading.



Feline Lucas

Director of Charitable Giving

Feline Lucas, a senior at Maggie Walker, has been involved in Model UN since the 8th grade when she first attended GSMUN XIV. Since then, she has continued with MUN and has attended conferences such as WMHSMUN, VAMUN, TECHMUN, and ILMUNC. She was also fortunate enough to go to Maggie Walker's first conference abroad, RICMUN, in Istanbul. She has also enjoyed her experience chairing for the Organization of American States at GSMUN XVI and fulfilling the position of Director of Committees for GSMUN XVII. This year she is overjoyed at the opportunity to be the Director of Charitable Giving. Feline is the co-president of the Model UN club with Purnima Ghosh. In her free time she enjoys watching BPL soccer, hanging out with friends, speaking French, and traveling. She looks forward to seeing all of the delegates at the conference and making this the best GSMUN yet!



Srishti Sanya

Director of Technology

Srishti Sanya is a senior at Maggie Walker, and has been involved in Model UN since eighth grade, when she attended GSMUN XIV as an enthusiastic delegate. She has since attended conferences such as NAIMUN, ILMUNC, and WMHSMUN. Having served as a crisis staffer, a vice-chair, and a chair for previous GSMUNs' Press Corps, she looks forward to using her technical skills to create a fabulous GSMUN for everyone! When away from Model UN, she devotedly serves as Website and Photography Editor for the school newspaper and as the Marketing and Media lead on the school's *FIRST* Robotics team, The Mech Tech Dragons. In her limited free time, she enjoys surfing the web, playing video games, and honing her photography and film-making skills.



Max Smith

Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Smith is in his seventh year teaching Global Studies and sponsoring Model UN at Maggie Walker. Previously he taught modern world history and philosophy for Henrico County's International Baccalaureate program. There he received distinctions as a Meritorious New Teacher from the state and New Teacher of the Year from his school. Mr. Smith received his BA from the University of Richmond with majors in History and Drama, with a concentration on Western Europe and Russia/the Soviet Union. He received his endorsement in Gifted Education in 2007 and finished his Master's Degree from the University of Virginia in 2010. He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Phi and Phi Alpha Theta honor societies. One of his favorite pastimes is traveling. He has been on a teaching fellowship to Germany (2005) and another in Korea (2008). In the past, he's traveled to Croatia, Turkey, Italy, Greece, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, England, France, Russia, Mongolia, China and Spain. He also enjoys home improvement, going to the gym, camping, community service and visiting family and friends.

GSMUN XVIII Chairs

Helen Li and Josh Lee <i>Association of Southeast Asian Nations</i>	Kayla Aaron <i>Iranian Hostage Crisis: Joint Cabinet Crisis Americans</i>
Reshini Premaratne and Jack Miller <i>2015 Election of Aung San Suu Kyi</i>	John Li <i>Iranian Hostage Crisis: Iranian Government</i>
Fiza Shaikh and Zoe Nelson <i>Bandung Conference</i>	Brennan Burns and Ana Murias <i>Legal Committee</i>
Jake Zaslav and Elijah Trexlor <i>Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Brain Trust</i>	Robin Schwartzkopf and Brannon Linder <i>Libyan National Congress</i>
Andrew McCullough and Ketty Bai <i>Disarmament and International Security Committee</i>	Harish Tekriwal and Sharvani Mehta <i>Lok Sabha</i>
Lisa Wang and Avery Simmons <i>Economic and Social Council</i>	Kayleigh Meighan and Joanne Choi <i>Nigerian National Assembly</i>
Priya Kundur and Charles Yang <i>Environment Programme</i>	Zada Hall <i>Press Corps</i>
Avery Gagne and Isha Gangal <i>European Union Parliament</i>	Andrew Leffler and Rajiv Tummala <i>Saudi Aramco Board of Directors</i>
Sunita Ganesh <i>First Intifada: Joint Cabinet Crisis Israel</i>	Jessica Kong and Annie Zhang <i>Special, Political, and Decolonization Committee</i>
John Metz <i>First Intifada: Joint Cabinet Crisis PLO</i>	Derrick Wang and Wilton Wu <i>United Nations Security Council</i>
Coly Elhai and Jacob Adams <i>French National Convention</i>	Zach Bampton and Matt Ladocsi <i>Weimar Republic</i>
Cynthia Ong and Priyashma Joshi <i>International Court of Justice</i>	Nivi Saravanan and Ishani Pendse <i>World Health Organization</i>
Anthony Holten and Robert Morris <i>Iranian Constitutional Convention</i>	



Fundraising

Esteemed Delegates and Sponsors,

Every year, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School hosts a Model United Nations conference, GSMUN. This conference is meant to provide students a forum to utilize their diplomatic and communications skills while simulating the United Nations. However, another essential part of our conference is the charity that we support every year. As GSMUN XVIII's Director of Charitable Giving, it is my absolute honor and pleasure to present Apne Aap Women Worldwide as the charity that GSMUN will be supporting this year!

Apne Aap Women Worldwide is a non-profit organization that was founded by Ruchira Gupta. This grassroots organization provides services to girls and women that have either escaped the world of human trafficking or are at risk of entering it. The mission of the organization is to ensure that these girls and women are provided four basic rights: legal protection, education, a dignified livelihood, and safe and independent housing. Over the past years, Ruchira Gupta and Apne Aap have worked to help over 15,000 young girls and women in attempt to curb the exponentially growing number of females being exploited through prostitution and trafficking in India. All the money raised will go directly to protecting these women from the growing human trafficking business.

Last year, over \$12,000 was raised at GSMUN in support of the Afghan Institute of Learning. This year, we are hope to raise even more money for Apne Aap Women Worldwide. This will not be a simple task, however we believe that with the cooperation of the delegates, we will be able to surpass last year's total! Furthermore, the secretariat of GSMUN XVIII is thrilled to announce that Ruchira Gupta will be speaking at the conference herself. She will be able to explain in depth the inner-workings of Apne Aap and the long standing problem of human trafficking in India.

We have been working extremely hard to reach our fundraising goals this year, and these efforts will continue throughout the weekend of the conference. We are counting on the support of the delegates to help us provide for such a worthy charity. For more background information on our charity and speaker, visit <http://gsmun.net>. Furthermore, for more information on Apne Aap, visit <http://apneaap.org/>! Thank you all in advance for donating your time to a weekend that will change your lives and will change the lives of others!

Best Wishes,

Feline Lucas
Director of Charitable Giving, GSMUN XVIII

Model UN Basic

Delegate Research Guide

Delegate Research Guide

Dear Delegate,

We at the Governor's School Model United Nations Conference are sure that you are excited to embark on a new journey full of learning and discovery. In our increasingly integrated world, understanding international policy is crucial to being an informed citizen. Foremost among global policymakers are organizations such as the United Nations. You, the delegate, are now about to take on the role of a participant in this organization as you begin to make these critical decisions for yourself.

Your excitement about researching your committee's topics and country's policies may likely be combined with feelings of apprehension about the workings of committee. In order to ease these fears, we have prepared the Delegate Research Guide which follows.

As in past years, the Governor's School Model UN Club teamed up with the school's Media Center Specialist to put together a "Model UN Research Guide." The Research Guide is designed to help focus research and make conference preparation more meaningful. The document walks delegates through the research and position paper process from start to finish and includes position paper guidelines and a sample to use as a template. In order to streamline research and give delegates a solid starting point, the guide provides links to helpful sources as well. It is highly recommended that delegates utilize this resource in preparing for the conference. You can access the Model UN Research Guide by following this link: <https://sites.google.com/site/dragonlibraryguides/club-commons/model-un>.

Delegate Research

Once you have received your country and committee assignments, the guide will help you with your research while writing your position paper. You should email the paper to your chair(s) prior to the conference; if this is done far enough in advance, chairs will be able to provide you with feedback. The position paper serves several purposes:

- ❖ To familiarize you with the foreign policy of your nation or the views of your particular person (for specialized committees)
- ❖ To familiarize you with the topics you will be discussing in committee
- ❖ To help you find appropriate resources for further research

It will be helpful to follow the process outlined below in order to prepare yourself for the conference and the position paper. Good luck, and enjoy!

1. Start by carefully reading the background guide for your committee. Highlight, question, and make note of its key points. Pay attention to the instructions from your chair(s). They may include the chair's philosophy and expectations for your paper.
2. Determine what kind of resources the author used. Read these for further depth and insight.
3. Contact your chair if you have any questions at all about the committee or the topics.

4. Once you are familiar with the topics, it is time to find your nation's views on the issues. Start by researching the general policies of your country:
 - a. With whom does your nation usually work? Who are your allies?
 - b. Is your nation involved in any significant regional organizations?
 - c. With which countries do you not get along?
 - d. What are your major foreign policy concerns?
 - e. What are your most important domestic issues?
 - f. How does your country view the role of the UN?
 - g. Use the "Nation Guide: Basic Research" found on page 29 to guide you and to help you organize your research.

5. Follow this with research on the specific topics for your committee:
 - a. Do the issues relate to your nation in any specific way?
 - b. Has your country printed any material on your topic, or does it belong to a group that has?
 - c. What solutions to the problems have been attempted by your country?
 - d. What kinds of solutions is your nation likely to support?

Answering these questions will require substantial research. Fortunately, the Internet has made this process manageable. The following websites will be especially useful:

- ❖ <http://www.un.org> – This site will tell you everything you need to know about the structure of your committee, past actions that have been taken, and items on the upcoming UN agenda. You can discover which nations voted in favor of and against UN resolutions. Spend a significant amount of time here!

- ❖ <http://www.un.int/wcm/content/site/portal/lang/en/home/websites> – This will take you directly to the home pages of the UN missions for your nation. Most pages are in English or have English versions. If you invest some time looking through this website, you may find actual speeches and press releases by your country on your topics.

- ❖ <http://www.ciaonet.org> – Columbia International Affairs Online is an excellent site that has compiled resolutions, working papers, policy briefs and other relevant information. It does require a subscription, but you can sign up for a free trial, which is highly recommended!

- ❖ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html> – The CIA World Factbook will give you basic demographic and map information about all UN nations. It is good basic resource to help you learn about your nation.

- ❖ <http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php> – This website has all the statistics you could possibly want! Create your own graphs comparing developed and developing nations in terms of rates of female literacy, or rank African countries based on the number of refugees in each. This is a lot of fun, and it has interesting, unusual statistics.

- ❖ <http://diplomacy.state.gov/education/c23812.htm> – The United States Department of State received so many questions about Model UN that they created their own Model UN website. This is great if you are interested in United States policies, and it also has links to other student resources.

· <http://www.library.yale.edu/govdocs/un.html> — Yale University has been a depository for UN documents since 1945. According to the website, the collection includes official records of the main organs of the UN, sales publications, periodicals, UN Treaty Series, UN Development Programme and UN Environment Programme publications, and other generally distributed documents and publications of the United Nations.

❖ <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com> — Links to online newspapers from nations around the world.

❖ <http://www.inkdrop.net/dave/news.html> — English only online newspapers.

Tips for Students in Specialized Committees

- ❖ Read your background guide carefully. Email your committee chair(s) if you are unsure about committee structure or content.
- ❖ It is important for you to understand the overall role of your country or your specific person within your committee. If you are representing a specific nation, you can conduct research much as you would for any other committee. Try to discover the dynamics of your committee- who are your allies and adversaries?
- ❖ If you are representing a specific person, you must learn their role in the body you are simulating, in addition to your nation's overall policies. For example, the Prime Minister might come from a different political party than the Minister of Defense, and they might therefore disagree on policy issues. Try to also discern your person's responsibilities--do you lead or tend to follow another member of the committee?
- ❖ Be ready to think on your feet and to be flexible. These committees are often more informal than General Assemblies in terms of procedure, but they will require you to think and act as a group to deal with specific events and to grapple with the consequences of your own actions.
- ❖ Look over the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure for Specialized Agencies and acquaint yourself with the standard operating procedures unique to smaller, crisis-focused committees.

Nation Guide: Basic Research

Official Country Name:

Governmental System:

Head of State/Government:

Official Language(s):

Major Political Parties:

Allies/Blocs:

Major Religions:

Population:

Environmental Stance:

Standard of Living:

Developmental Status:

Has the UN ever had to intervene in any conflict involving this nation?

Has the UN ever cited this country for human rights violations?

Ethnic/Cultural Issues?

Trade blocs/associations?

Military power and weapons capabilities?

Economic system?

Major trade partners?

Industries and Natural Resources?

Sample Position Paper for General Assemblies

Committee: United Nations Security Council

Country: Russian Federation

Delegate Names: Vladimir Putin and Dmitry Medvedev

School: Moscow Prep

Country Introduction:

The Russian Federation is the ninth largest economy in the world with a GDP of 1,954,000 U.S dollars (USD). Since the Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991, the exploitation of natural resources has allowed Russia to reemerge as a major player on the world stage. Supplies of oil, natural gas, metals (nickel, palladium, iron), and timber have reignited Russia's economy and further linked Russia to the rest of the world. With 80% of its trade coming from these commodities, Russia's fate depends largely on the price swings of the marketplace and the economic standing of other countries.¹

Furthermore, Russia's immense size and expansive resources have granted the country regional powerhouse status and global political clout. One-fourth of Europe's natural gas, which keeps the continent warm during the harsh winter, comes from Russia. As of December of 2012, Russia recorded a trade surplus of 17,132 USD which has helped its economic status in international affairs. Currently, Russia's military is the world's fifth largest by manpower, with 1,040,000 active soldiers. Russia's military budget is 71.2 billion USD, the third largest military budget in the world. This, however, accounts for only 3.2% of Russia's GDP.²

Topic 1: Militarization of Russia's Neighboring Countries

Since the end of the Cold War and the rebirth of Russia as an independent country, Russia and the United States have endured a difficult relationship. The United States rose as a victor, while the Soviet Union crumbled. Distrust of the United States is seeded deeply in Russia's national character and in the relationship between Russia and the United States. This is clearly evident today with the militarization of Russian borders by Russia and the United States.³

In the past years, the United States has started efforts to create allies with nations near the Russian borders, as well as militarize them. Currently, the United States gives military aid to Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Uzbekistan has remained in Russia's sphere of influence for many years. However, in recent years it has begun to align itself with Western powers, alarming the Kremlin.⁴

The United States' arming of Uzbekistan has increased its influence in the region. The U.S has supplied Uzbekistan with night-vision goggles, body armor, and GPS systems. In reaction to this, Russia has tried to counter American power in the region by arming both Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. It has spent 1.3 billion dollars in supplying these countries with weapons. This aid will provide

¹ CIA Intelligence Agency. "Russia." The World Factbook. Accessed July 10, 2013. <https://www.cia.gov>.

² Ibid.

³Kucera, Joshua. "Are the U.S. and Russia Fueling Tension Between Uzbekistan and Its Neighbors?" [EURASIANET.org](http://www.eurasianet.org). Last modified March 26, 2013. Accessed July 10, 2013. <http://www.eurasianet.org>.

⁴ Ibid.

Tajikistan with air defense system upgrades and discounts on fuel. In return Russia's lease on the military base in Tajikistan will be extended.⁵

For the same reasons, Russia hopes to strengthen its ties with its fellow members in the Collective Security Treaty Organization through arming them. Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Kazakhstan are all members of this alliance. The Kremlin has often expressed its concern over the United States' growing power in central Asia and the CSTO has allowed Russia to gain some leverage. As a member of the CSTO, Russia is allowed to veto the creation of foreign military bases in any CSTO nation.⁶

Russia's leverage over these countries also results from the fact that it supplies many member countries with oil. For example, Russia has threatened in the past to cut off Kazakhstan from its oil supply and other commodities. Russia's relations with the Ukraine point to another case study. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Ukraine has tried to distance itself from Russia with multiple attempts to join the EU and NATO. It has tried to align itself with Western powers and this has created hostility with the Russians. Russia is fully aware of Ukraine's need for natural gas and is ready cut off some or all supply of natural gas or oil, as occurred in 2006. Russia will not stand to allow the US to gain power in Central Asia and is prepared to take whatever measures necessary to ensure that this does not occur.

Topic 2: Nuclear Non-Proliferation in North Korea

Determining how to deal with nuclear non-proliferation in North Korea is a controversial topic that the UN and the United Nations Security Council have yet to solve. However, none of the resolutions that the UNSC enacted have convinced North Korea to dismantle their nuclear program.

Russia plays an important role in the Security Council due to its close relations with North Korea, as a result of their mutual involvement in the "Six Party Talks." The "Six Party Talks" started in 2003 after North Korea withdrew from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, The United States, and Japan are involved in these talks. The main goal of these talks is to find a peaceful solution for the controversial nuclear weapons programs in North Korea.⁸

Russia is in favor of finding a diplomatic solution for the North Korean predicament, as are countries such as China that are closely allied with North Korea. Whereas the United States urges for the immediate and permanent disarmament of North Korea's nuclear program, Russia believes in a step-by-step approach combined with economic incentives.⁹

Russia strongly opposes any sort of sanctions that will bring harm to the people of North Korea. It believes that military intervention is not acceptable because it will only ensure that

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Basic Facts." ODKB. Accessed July 10, 2013. <http://www.odkb.gov.ru>.

⁷ BBC. "Russia Country Profile." BBC News. Last modified March 2012. Accessed July 10, 2013. <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

⁸ Bahoria, Jayshree. "The Six-Party Talks on North Korea's Nuclear Program." Council on Foreign Relations. Last modified March 8, 2013. Accessed July 11, 2013. <http://www.cfr.org>.

⁹ "The Global Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime." Council on Foreign Relations. Last modified June 25, 2013. Accessed July 11, 2013. <http://www.cfr.org>.

relations with North Korea become even more hostile.¹⁰ The Kremlin argues that political negotiations are the only way that North Korea will respond effectively. Also, with the number of North Korean nuclear weapons unknown, military intervention proves the least certain option.

Russia is of the opinion that increasing food aid to North Korea will possibly be an incentive for the Koreans to disarm their nuclear program. An estimated 1/3 of North Korea's population is malnourished and the famine in North Korea has been one of the longest in history. 10,000 people died in January of 2013 alone due to the famine. In 2011 the country received 47 tons of food aid. However, this has not helped to abate the hunger that is very prominent among the citizens of North Korea.¹¹

Furthermore, Russia is in favor of removing some economic and political sanctions from North Korea once the Hermit Kingdom has complied with Resolution 1874. This resolution was passed on June 12, 2009 after it was discovered that North Korea had done an underground nuclear weapons test. The main provisions of this resolution are that North Korea must return to the "Six-Party Talks" to discuss the steps that must be taken to resolve this conflict peacefully. Another provision of this resolution is that North Korea must re-join the Treaty on Nuclear-Non-Proliferation immediately.¹² Finally, Russia believes that the problem of Nuclear power in North Korea can be solved peacefully and effectively through debate amongst the members of the United Nations Security Council.

¹⁰Grove, Thomas "Russia, China oppose military intervention in North Korea." Reuters. Last modified February 22, 2013. Accessed July 11, 2013. <http://www.reuters.com>.

¹¹"Russia sends food aid to North Korea." The Voice of Russia. Last modified June 15, 2012. Accessed July 11, 2013. <http://english.ruvr.ru>.

¹²"Resolution 1874." United Nations Security Council. Last modified June 12, 2009. Accessed July 11, 2013. <http://www.un.org>.

Sample Position Paper for Specialized Committees

Committee: The Second Continental Congress

Role: John Dickinson

Delegate Name: John Doe

School: American University

Introduction

Dear Sir,

The “immedicabile vulnus” (irreparable injury) is at length struck. The rescript to our petition is written in blood. The impious war of tyranny against innocence has commenced in the neighborhood of Boston.

Thus wrote John Dickinson to Arthur Lee of Virginia on April 29th, 1775 in response to the Battles at Lexington and Concord. This letter, composed less than a fortnight before the Second Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia, displays Dickinson’s characteristic nuance. First he establishes the facts, then and only then does he draw his conclusions. Firstly, the colonies and the British Empire had entered in a state of war, for “this most unnatural and inexpressibly cruel war began with the butchery of unarmed Americans at Lexington.” Secondly, “that the continent is preparing most assiduously for a vigorous resistance.” Most importantly, “while we revere and love our mother country, her sword is opening our veins.” Nothing could be more characteristically “Dickinsonian” than juxtaposing sincere love of mother country with the cruel truth of British aggression in the early stages of the American Revolutionary War.¹³

With the skills of an international relations analyst, Dickinson cautioned against alliances with France and Spain, for fear of having to “wear their chains” as the oppression of one colonial power was traded for the domination of another. Yet, at his core, Dickinson realized exactly what it meant to be an American and summed it up in a few succinct sentences. “Our towns are but brick and stone,” he wrote, “and mortar and wood. They, perhaps, may be destroyed. They are but the hairs of our heads. If sheared ever so close, they will grow again. We compare them not with our rights and liberties.”¹⁴ Stirring as the letter remains today, those words reflect Dickinson’s mental state as he embarked upon the odyssey of the Second Continental Congress. Part outraged, part cautious, Dickinson demonstrated time and again, true to his Quaker roots, that peaceful measures should be the Congress’ first recourse, and violence reserved as only a last, defensive resort. Neither radical nor loyalist, Dickinson could be considered a pragmatist, a leader unafraid of compromise for the sake of both national unity and the general good.

Topic 1: Legal Issues

With the passage of the “revenue-enhancing” Townshend Acts in 1767, the young lawyer Dickinson made a name for himself as a constitutional critic of parliamentary overreach. Arguing against the constitutionality of the Townshend duties, Dickinson concluded that, rather than only providing the revenue needed to quarter troops in the colonies, the duties were also being used to siphon away the “power of the purse” state legislatures had possessed to control Royal Governors’ salaries. Or, as Alden writes in *A History of the American Revolution*, Dickinson persuasively argued that “the primary purpose of Britain was to strengthen her hold upon America, not to compel the Americans to assume their faire share of the burdens of empire.”¹⁵

¹³ John Dickinson, "John Dickinson to Arthur Lee," 1775, in *The American Revolution: Writings from the War of Independence*, comp. John Rhodehamel (New York, NY: The Library of America, 2001), pp. 21-24.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ John R. Alden, *A History of the American Revolution* (New York, NY: Knopf, 1976), p. 96.

The American Colonists rallied around Dickinson's *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*, his chosen vehicle for disseminating logical, reasoned argument against the Townshend Acts. "If the Parliament may lawfully deprive New York of any of her rights, it may deprive any or all the other colonies of their rights....to divide, and thus to destroy, is the first political maxim in attacking those who are powerful by their union." Realizing the strength of the American colonies as a united front, Dickinson opposed violence that would only galvanize British opposition to American self-government, writing, "I am by no means fond of inflammatory measures; I detest them...but a firm, modest exertion of a free spirit should never be wanting on public occasions."¹⁶ Instead of resorting to violence, Dickinson supported the boycotts of British products which ultimately led to the Acts' repeal, pioneering an early form of highly effective protest for which he would advocate on multiple occasions later on in his political career.

Earlier experience representing Pennsylvania in the 1765 Stamp Act Congress established his belief, later transformed into the pithy motto "No Taxation without Representation," that "no taxes be imposed on them [the colonies] but with their own consent, given personally, or by their representatives."¹⁷ Beyond his opposition to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts, Dickinson's legal perspective rested on a few assumptions. First, he considered the American colonists as British citizens permitted to a certain degree of self-government by right of royal charter and by necessity of 3,000 miles of ocean separating *patria* and colony. Thus, Americans were entitled to the same rights as British citizens, including proportional, not virtual, representation.

Topic 2: Economic Consequences

At the time a wealthy aristocrat and owner of the largest plantation in the colony of Delaware, Dickinson undoubtedly possessed a vested interest in stability and reconciliation with Great Britain, the colonies' largest trading partner. Higher taxes and trade restrictions certainly cut into his profit as a planter, and like many of the merchant and planter class, Dickinson's views aimed to preserve and enhance the status quo rather than bring forth a new order, like American independence.

Topic 3: Social Consequences

Although lacking the propagandistic tendencies of New England firebrands like Samuel Adams, Dickinson's skill with the pen allowed him to rouse sentiments in those who read his works, such as the 1768 "Liberty Song," which goes, "In Freedom we're born and in Freedom we'll live. / Our purses are ready. Steady, friends, steady; / Not as slaves, but as freemen our money we'll give."¹⁸ One solution to the growing crisis between Britain and her colonies, according to Dickinson, was the peaceful boycott; he favored reconciliation over war.

¹⁶ Letter by John Dickinson, "Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania," December 1767, accessed February 12, 2013, Web.

¹⁷ Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnes, "John Dickinson: The Signer Who Never Signed," in *Signing Their Rights Away: The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed the United States Constitution* (Philadelphia, PA: Quirk Books, 2011), p. 127.

¹⁸ John Dickinson, "The Liberty Song," 1768, in *The Quotable Founding Fathers*, ed. Buckner F. Melton, Jr. (Washington, D.C.: Brassey's, 2004), pp. 169-170.

Parliamentary Procedure Guide

Parliamentary Procedure Guide

For novices, the most confusing aspect of Model United Nations is usually parliamentary procedure. “Parli Pro” provides order to large gatherings, such as UN committees. Even if the following descriptions don’t seem clear, don’t worry. Once you are actually in committee, everything will be much clearer. Remember, you can always ask your chair a question about procedure by raising a point of parliamentary inquiry (more about that later).

INTRODUCTORY RULES

1. Scope of the Rules

These introductory rules, in their entirety, apply to all Governor’s School Model United Nations Conference committees and should be followed by all delegates.

2. Attire

All delegates are expected to wear Western Business Attire during the conference. For boys, this entails a shirt and tie. For girls, this means a skirt, slacks, or a dress. Delegates must wear professional attire befitting the professional setting of the conference.

3. Conduct

All delegates are expected to maintain courteous conduct and decorum during all sessions by respecting staff rulings and other delegates.

THE COMMITTEE

4. Functions of the Committee Chairperson

A chairperson shall open and close each session, enforce the rules, recognize speakers, put questions to a vote, and announce rulings. All of these actions are subject to the chair’s discretion with the best interests of the committee in mind.

5. Roll Call

Roll call is the first order of business for any session; it is crucial because a quorum (one-half of the members plus one) is required for a committee to take action on an issue. If a delegation is present, it shall answer either “present” or “present and voting” when the name of its country is called.

Answering “present” simply means that the delegation is attending the committee session, will vote on all procedural matters, and can vote “yes,” “no,” or “abstain” on resolutions. However, a delegate who answers “present and voting” is obligated not only to vote on all procedural issues, but also to either vote “yes” or “no” on all resolutions.

If a delegate arrives after the opening roll call, he or she must send a note to the dais informing them of his or her presence and voting status.

6. Voting Rights

In General Assembly committees, each member state shall have only one vote. Abstentions on a matter may only take place when voting on a resolution or an amendment. All delegations must vote on procedural matters.

Note: Observer states may vote only on procedural matters, not on amendments or resolutions.

DEBATE

7. Setting the Agenda

To begin debate on setting a topic, a temporary speakers' list will be created by a delegate's motion. In the event of a delegate making a motion to set the topic, one speaker in favor and one against will address the committee for 30 seconds each. A simple majority sets the topic, and if the motion fails, the speakers' list continues until a topic is selected.

8. Speakers' List

After a topic is selected, a speakers' list will be created with a set speaking time by a delegate motion. Speakers may comment on the topic, as well as any resolution or amendment pertaining to the topic. Once a speakers' list is exhausted of all names, debate on the topic will cease, and the committee will move into voting procedures.

9. Closing and Re-opening the Speakers' List

A delegate may make a motion at any time either to close or to re-open the speakers' list. When it is closed, debate continues, but no more nations can be added to the list. The list can be re-opened at a later time. To do either action, one speaker for and one against are required, as well as a simple majority vote.

10. Time Limit

A strict time limit shall be placed on all speakers in order to promote the flow of debate. To change the speaking time, a motion may be made on the floor. One speaker for and one against are required, as well as a simple majority vote.

11. Yielding

A speaker who is discussing a substantive issue may yield his or her time to the following: points of information from the body, the Chair, or to another member, who cannot yield that time to another. A yield must be specified by the speaker, and if time is yielded to the chair, no comments are allowed. Any yield must be made before a delegate begins his or her speech. Sitting down without yielding is considered a yield to the chair.

12. Right of Reply

If a delegation feels a remark made was unjustly injurious to them or their country, a right of reply may be granted at the Chair's discretion. In order to request this, the delegation must immediately send a note to the dais explaining how their country was insulted. The Chair's ruling may not be appealed.

POINTS AND MOTIONS

13. Points in Committee

Point of Order: This is made when a member wishes to draw attention to a possible procedural error by the Chair. The point of order and the Chair's ruling must be immediate.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: This is made when a question exists regarding these rules and is used for clarification.

Point of Information: This is a question to a speaker made when the speaker yields to points of information. Once recognized by the Chairperson, a delegate may ask a concise question; only the answer shall count against the speaker's time limit. If any clarification of the question is needed, it will be made by the Chair, who will ask the questioner.

Point of Personal Privilege: This point may be made if at any time a delegate experiences a personal discomfort which impairs his or her ability to participate in the proceedings. The Chair will attempt to relieve the cause of discomfort if possible. This is the only point which may interrupt a speaker.

14. Motions

Motion to Postpone Debate: If it becomes necessary to postpone debate on a topic, this motion should be made. To re-open debate, rules regarding the speakers' list will be followed, and the old speakers' list will be used.

Motion to Close Debate: If a member wishes to close debate and move into voting procedure, this motion may be made. There will be two speakers for and two against this motion, and a two-thirds majority is required.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus: The committee may digress from the speakers' list and the Chair will moderate. The delegate raising the motion must recommend a total time for the caucus as well as a speaker's time and the subject of debate.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus: During debate, this motion may be made at any time. The time limit is set at the discretion of the Chair and will not exceed thirty minutes. The motion will be put to immediate vote and will require a simple majority to pass. No rules of formal debate will exist at this time, and delegates are free to discuss committee matters with others.

Motion to Recess: This motion can be made at any time at the Chair's unappealing discretion. It requires a simple majority to pass.

RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

15. Resolutions

All business at the conference is passed in resolution form. A resolution is introduced by one or more members of the committee who wish to sponsor it. For it to be introduced and considered, one-fifth of the members present must place their country's signatures on the resolution. These signatories do not necessarily have to support the resolution, but they must wish to see it considered. More than one resolution may be signed by a delegation. A resolution is called a "working paper" until it has gone through the above steps and has been formally read to the committee. After the paper has been introduced, it is henceforth referred to as a "draft resolution." At the discretion of the Chair, a moderated caucus may be given to the sponsors in order to discuss the resolution and to answer questions.

16. Amendments

An amendment changes a working paper, draft resolution, or resolution by adding, striking out, or substituting a word or phrase in an operative clause. A friendly amendment is one agreed on by all sponsors and must be submitted to the Chair with the signatures of all sponsors. After being reviewed by the Chair, the amendment becomes part of the original document. An unfriendly amendment is one that is not supported by all of the sponsors. Therefore, it requires the signatures of one-fifth of the members present to be considered. Unfriendly amendments are voted on before the draft resolution to which they correspond and in the order in which they were submitted. An unfriendly amendment requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

17. Withdrawal of Resolution or Amendment

If all sponsors agree on the withdrawal of an amendment or draft resolution, it will be formally removed from debate and all discussion on the former resolution will immediately cease.

VOTING

18. Voting on Procedure

Members present must vote on all procedural matters.

19. Voting on Resolutions

Resolutions require a simple majority to pass. A member who answered “present and voting” during roll call may not abstain.

20. Conduct

When voting begins, the chamber will be sealed and silent, and no entry or exit is permitted. All points or motions not pertaining to the vote are out of order.

21. Roll Call Votes

Upon request by a member and with the Chair’s permission, a roll call vote will commence. The Chair shall call out each member’s name, and they shall respond with: Yes, Yes with Rights, No, No with Rights, Abstain, or Pass. Once the list is read through, all members who passed shall then vote; delegates who pass may not then abstain. Explanations from those who voted with rights should be concise and concern only those instances when a vote goes against policy. If a member answered “present and voting” during roll call, then they may not abstain from voting on a resolution.

22. Resolution Reordering

If multiple draft resolutions exist, they are considered in order of submission. However, a motion for reordering may be made before voting. When it is made, the new order of voting must be stipulated by the member who requests the adjustment. There shall be one speaker for this motion and one against, and it requires a simple majority to pass.

23. Dividing the Question

Immediately after debate is closed and before unfriendly amendments are considered, a motion for division may be made. This means that a member wants two or more parts of a draft resolution to be considered separately; these parts shall be specified by the speaker. Two speakers both for and against are required. Once the speakers are finished, a vote on the division shall be made. The motion requires a simple majority to pass. Should it pass, the sections that were divided shall be voted on separately. If there is more than one motion for division, the Chair shall decide their order of consideration.

OTHER

24. Appealing the Chair’s Decision

A delegate can move to appeal rulings on a discretionary matter by first speaking in favor of a reversal, after which the Chair will speak in favor of his or her ruling. A two-thirds vote must be made to overturn a ruling.

Note: All of the above rules are derived from modified versions of Robert’s Rules of Order and other Model United Nations Parliamentary Procedures.

RULES OF PROCEDURE – SHORT FORM

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS (NO ABSTENTIONS)

Motion	Speakers	Vote to Pass	Comments
Setting the Agenda	1F, 1A	Majority	
Postpone Debate	1F, 1A	Majority	
Close Debate	2F, 2A	2/3	
Moderated Caucus	None	Majority	Subject to Chair's Approval
Unmoderated Caucus	None	Majority	Subject to Chair's Approval
Recess	None	Majority	Subject to Chair's Approval
Closing Speaker's List	2F, 2A	Majority	
Time limit on speech	2F, 2A	Majority	
Division of Resolution	2F, 2A	Majority	
Question of Competence	1F, 1A	2/3	Subject to Chair's Approval
Roll Call Vote			Subject to Chair's Approval

POINTS

Point	Comments
Order	Calls attention to possible procedural error
Parliamentary Procedure	Inquiry to Chair regarding the rules
Information	Questions to Speakers
Personal Privilege	Personal Discomfort

RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS (ABSTENTIONS PERMITTED)

Rule	Comments
Resolutions	Require signatures from 1/5 of body
Friendly Amendment	Automatic inclusion with signatures of all sponsors
Unfriendly Amendment	Requires signatures from 1/5 of body and 2/3 vote to pass

COMMENTS AND YIELDS

Yield	Comments
Chair	No comments/questions allowed
Points of Information	To questions from the Floor
Another Delegate	He/she may not re-yield the time

RESOLUTION FORMAT

Committee Name:
Official Name of Sponsoring Country or Countries:
Signatories:
Topic:

SKIP TWO LINES AND CENTER THE TITLE, WHICH CANNOT BE CHANGED BY
AMENDMENT

The General Assembly (or other organ),

Recalling that five spaces should be indented before each preambulatory phrase,

Recognizing that one line should be skipped after the title and before and after every phrase,

Gravely concerned that delegates may forget to use a comma at the end of preambulatory phrases,

Noting that every resolution begins with the name of the organ, not with the name of the committee,

Recalling that preambulatory phrases cannot be amended,

Aware that the format of a resolution may be changed by the Chair,

1. Nevertheless recognizes that this format is used at most conferences;
2. Urges that three lines separate the preambulatory portion from the operative portion of the resolution;
3. Welcomes clear and simple wording and splitting complex ideas into sub-operative clauses with:
 - (a) A colon introducing the first sub-operative,
 - (b) One line between each sub-operative, and
 - (c) No underlining within the sub-operative;
4. Observes that a resolution, being only one sentence, always ends with a period.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCTORY PHRASES

Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming
Alarmed by
Approving
Aware of
Believing
Bearing in mind
Cognizant of
Confident
Declaring
Deeply concerned
Deeply conscious
Deeply convinced
Deeply disturbed
Deeply regretting
Desiring
Emphasizing
Expecting
Expressing its appreciation

Expressing its satisfaction
Fulfilling
Fully aware
Fully alarmed
Fully believing
Further deploring
Further recalling
Guided by
Having adopted
Having considered
Having considered further
Having devoted attention
Having examined
Having heard
Having received
Having studied

Operative Clauses

Accepts
Affirming
Approves
Authorizes
Calls for
Calls upon
Condemns (UNSC only)
Congratulates
Confirms
Considers
Declares accordingly
Deplores
Draws attention
Designates

Emphasizes
Encourages
Endorses
Expresses its appreciation
Expresses its hope
Further invites
Further proclaims
Further reminds
Further recommends
Further requires
Further resolves
Has resolved
Notes

Proclaims
Reaffirms
Recommends
Reminds
Regrets
Resolves
Solemnly affirms
Strongly condemns (UNSC only)
Supports
Takes note of
Trusts
Urges

Keeping in mind
Noting further Noting
with regret Noting with
satisfaction Noting
with deep concern
Noting further Noting
with approval
Observing
Realizing

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Disarmament and International Security Committee

Sponsors: Afghanistan, Bolivia, China, Guinea-Bissau, Malaysia, Philippines

Signatories: Yugoslavia, Canada, USA, Luxembourg, Peru, South Africa, Zambia, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Finland, Mexico

Topic: Disarmament

RESOLUTION 1-2

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the need for international compliance and trust while moving toward the eventual goal of disarmament,

Recalling the original goal of the UN to promote a healthy global environment through cooperation,

Believing that participation in the Conventional Arms Register, although voluntary, would benefit the global community,

Noting with concern the lack of a diverse population in the current Conventional Arms Register,

1. Defines conventional arms transfer as a movement of conventional arms from Nation “A” to Nation “B” by sale, trade, or barter;

2. Further defines transparency as the act of making known to the global community clear, concise, and easily understandable information concerning arms;

3. Designates a participatory nation as one that yearly submits to a register by April 30th, declaring what conventional arms it may have traded; and

4. Calls for the establishment of incentives for participatory nations in the form of:

(a) Non-military technology including:

- i. Agricultural,
- ii. Medical, and
- iii. Educational;

(b) Refers the designation of incentives to:

- i. Regional bodies,
- ii. Committee on Sustainable Development, and
- iii. Committee on Science and Technology.

PARLIAMENTARY RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

See the standard **Parliamentary Procedure Guide** for general rules.

Cabinets, country-specific security councils, and other specialized agencies will function by default in a **moderated caucus** for the purpose of moving debate along quickly. Chairs will determine speaking time. Chairs will also recognize speakers, who may stand up at their table or at a podium depending on the Chair's discretion. Chairs will **NOT** ask for Points and Motions between speakers. Therefore, delegates must make a point or motion before the chair calls on the next speaker by raising their placards to get the Chair's attention. Since resolutions are not used in most specialized agencies, unmoderated caucuses will be allowed only if necessary.

After a cabinet sets the agenda for the first topic, the delegates will move between both topics continuously in response to the crises that will follow. Thus, there is no need to vote to "close debate" or "postpone debate."

Memoranda:

Each memorandum should follow the example provided below. Although there are no specific clauses for memoranda, the wording of the writing should be diplomatic since other countries' leaders will be reading communiqués and press releases.

Communiqués, Directives, and Press Releases will be introduced by the writer after submitting the memorandum to the Chair. The Chair will ask the writer to give a brief introduction to the memorandum before reading the memorandum to the committee. All memoranda requiring approval by the entire committee will be passed by a simple majority vote.

Information Requests will be sent directly to the Chair, who will forward the question to the appropriate department.

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR SPECIALIZED AGENCIES – SHORT FORM

PROCEDURAL MOTIONS (NO ABSTENTIONS)

Motion	Speakers	Vote to Pass	Comments
Setting the Agenda	Minimum 1F, 1A	Majority	Subject to Chair's approval
Unmoderated Caucus	None	Majority	Subject to Chair's approval
Recess	None	Majority	Subject to Chair's approval
Question of Competence	1F, 1A	2/3	Subject to Chair's approval
Roll Call Vote	None	None	Subject to Chair's approval
Adjourn	None	Majority	Subject to Chair's approval

POINTS

Point	Comments
Order	Call attention to possible procedural error
Parliamentary Procedure	Inquiry to Chair regarding the rules
Information	Questions to Speakers
Personal Privilege	Personal Discomfort

MEMORANDA

Memorandum	Comments
Communiqués	Sent out to correspond with cabinets of other countries (Example: <i>see below</i>)
Press Releases	Can be used to send condolences to the public after failed missions or inform the public of any news Example: <i>The Pakistani Government would like to offer its condolences to the families impacted by the attack last night in Karachi and inform the public of the ongoing investigations on suspect groups behind the attacks.</i>

Directives	Used to instruct any groups under the jurisdiction of the agency Example: <i>Move the troops to the border of Pakistan and be ready for any action in case of emergency.</i>
Information Requests	Sent to respective departments under the jurisdiction of the agency (“home government”) for information on current crisis or debate topics Example: <i>Has the CIA gathered any new information regarding the mobilization of troops on the Pakistani border?</i>

FORMAT OF MEMORANDA

EXAMPLE OF COMMUNIQUÉ FROM CHECHNYA TO RUSSIAN CABINET

To: Russian Cabinet
From: Chechnya

Chechnya would like to remind the Russian Cabinet of the demands sent regarding the negotiations. If the demands are not met within an hour, Chechnya will declare its independence from Russia and establish itself as an independent nation.

Chechnya Independence Movement

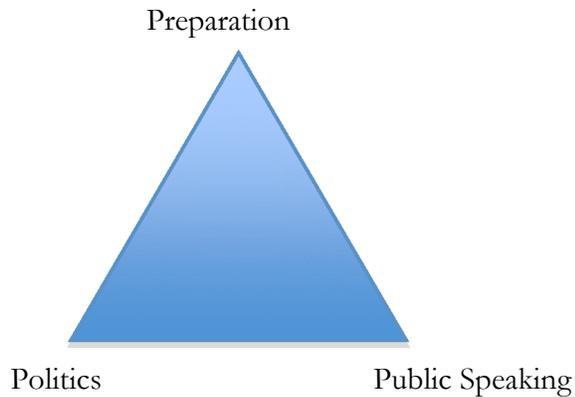
Technology Code of Conduct

1. All computer users have the responsibility to use computer resources in an efficient, effective, ethical, and lawful manner. The following policies, rules, and conditions apply to all users of computer resources and services. Computer resources include, but are not limited to, the following: host computers, file servers, workstations, stand-alone computers, laptops, software, data projectors, and internal or external communication networks.
2. Any student who intentionally damages or destroys Maggie L. Walker Governor's School's (MLWGS) hardware, and/or software, whether directly or indirectly, shall also be responsible for all costs associated with repair and/or replacement.
3. Fraudulent, harassing, embarrassing, indecent, profane, obscene, intimidating, or any unlawful material shall not be sent by email or any other form of electronic communication or displayed on or stored in Maggie L. Walker Governor's School's computers and networks. Users encountering or receiving such material must immediately report the incident to the Director of Technology for investigation.

Delegate Recognition Guidelines

GSMUN should not be viewed as a competition. The conference serves as an educational forum in which students learn and practice diplomacy through discussion, debate, research, and analysis of the social, cultural, political, and economic policies of member states. Above all, GSMUN strives to teach delegates that member states must work together to overcome “real life” crises and policy conflicts, which will arise during the course of the simulation.

In past years, we have observed that the most successful delegates master all three vertices of the Model United Nations delegate triangle:



Preparation means completing enough research to possess a mastery of the issues at hand in committee, writing a standout position paper, and thinking of credible solutions. Public speaking is what will comprise most of the time in committee – best to organize speeches well, focus on persuasion, and avoid repetition. Politics refers to building coalitions, winning votes, and treating fellow delegates with respect.

Those delegates who commit themselves to the spirit of diplomacy may be recognized for their efforts. Recognition will be at the discretion of the chair of each committee and will incorporate the following criteria:

- ❖ Quality of pre-conference research and position paper
- ❖ Relevant contributions to debate and focus on solutions
- ❖ Knowledge of committee topics and accurate representation of national or personal interests in both voting and speaking
- ❖ Ability and eagerness to work with other delegates
- ❖ Demonstration of the spirit of diplomacy

Background Guides

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

January 10, 2015

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Elizabeth Levit
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director of General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of Specialized
Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Respected Sponsors and Delegates,

My name is Radhika Srivastava, and it was my great pleasure to create this year's conference handbook. The Model United Nations club at Maggie L. Walker Governor's school works assiduously to offer authentic, innovative committees each year. This year, we are proud to present 25 committees, our widest and most diverse selection yet. Over the summer, the chairs of GSMUN XVIII wrote detailed, original background guides that will serve as the starting point of research for delegates. During the fall, it was my privilege to meet with each committee to edit background guides. The papers you see now have gone through numerous revisions in order to ensure exceptional quality.

For the past several months, I have worked closely with GSMUN XVIII's chairs and Secretariat in order to produce quality background guides and conference handbooks that are as informative and constructive as possible. I am very grateful for all their assistance. I would like to give special thanks to Mr. Max Smith, Sam Schwartzkopf, Tallie Hausser, Elena Zhou, and Anant Kharkar for their meticulous support during the editing process. These background guides would not be so substantive and comprehensive without their patience, encouragement, and guidance.

The background guides following this letter are to be used as an introduction to topics that will be debated in committee sessions. Delegates are encouraged to augment the information provided with their own research. The "Questions to Consider" and "References for Further Research" sections of each background guide give delegates crucial points and sources to consider when researching and writing their position papers. Delegates who come prepared to each committee session with a strong foundation in the topics will surely find debate intriguing and enjoyable.

I look forward to meeting all the sponsors and delegates at GSMUN XVIII. Please feel free to email me if you have any further questions.

Warm Regards,



Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-General for External Communications, GSMUN XVIII
gsmun.externalcommunications@gmail.com

ASEAN

Helen Li

Chair

Josh Lee

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
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Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure and honor to welcome you to GSMUN XVIII and to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations committee, ASEAN for short. We are happy to see you practice diplomacy and debate amongst your peers. As your chairs we hope that we can guide you through the process efficiently and effectively. Hopefully this background guide will help guide your research as you learn about the South China Sea Dispute or Asia's deteriorating environment.

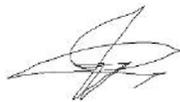
Helen Li, your chair, is a senior at Maggie Walker. It's a bittersweet year for her since this will be her last GSMUN. From being a delegate in middle school to fundraising, crisis acting and chairing in high school, she has thoroughly enjoyed her GSMUN experiences and knows that this year's will be even more spectacular! Helen is an Asian American/Chinese-American and has always been interested in the evolution of foreign relations between the various Asian nations. Outside of school, she loves to coordinate and perform the Chinese Ribbon Dance with her friends at local community events. In addition to Model UN, she participates in her school's We the People team and Future Problem Solvers Club. Sometimes, Helen likes to sit down and read a good science fiction book or cook delicious vegan (yes, she is vegan) food. She looks forward to meeting her delegates and listening to committee debate on these hot topics!

Josh Lee, your other chair, is a junior at Maggie Walker. This is Josh's third year helping GSMUN, serving the last two years as a staffer. Josh, as an Asian/Korean-American, is fairly knowledgeable in Asian history and foreign affairs, so he is excited to chair this particular committee. After MUN and his homework load, Josh enjoys a fair number of extracurricular activities. He loves playing and watching basketball, from high school games to the NBA (#HoustonRockets). Josh has a feel for cinematography and photography, and can be often caught with his camera. He loves to learn by watching high-grade films in his spare time. Josh hopes he can effectively guide you through the sessions and make your GSMUN experience great through this committee!

GSMUN is a great experience for any kind of delegate, whether experienced or not. Chairs want to see effective participation out of everyone. Not by the amount you speak, but how. We wish that you contribute great quality, novel ideas and solutions to the debate. We would like to remind you to come to committee prepared with a position paper written from your character's historic point of view. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. You can find guidelines and advice about writing a position paper at gsmun.net. Be sure that this paper is your own work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat.

We hope you got to know your chairs a bit better and cannot wait to see the high quality of discussion with a committee as difficult as ours. Come prepared for the best committee GSMUN has seen yet!

Regards,



Josh Lee
gsmun.libyan@gmail.com



Helen Li
gsmun.libyan@gmail.com

Committee Overview

In Bangkok, Thailand, the ASEAN Declaration established the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on August 8th 1967. In order to achieve “peace, progress, and prosperity,” ASEAN ties together the member nations to create “equality and partnership.” ASEAN began with five members, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The association has now grown to 10 permanent members now including Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei along with many other Asian countries representatives. This intergovernmental organization brings foreign ministers and officials together to meet and discuss topics in forums. Members talk and diplomatically try to reach joint statements together. According to the United Nations Population Division, ASEAN’s population will increase at a rate of 0.85% per year from 2015 to 2035. Along with this population growth, ASEAN nations plan on furthering its rapid economic growth through the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015, which will increase business trade and investment in the world market.

During this session, ASEAN will address the South China Sea Dispute and Environmentally Stable Economic Integration. Nether topic has passed a joint resolution that all members could agree on. ASEAN does not give itself the authority to intervene in conflicts or disputes as a higher governmental power. Instead ASEAN represents a mediator between members, in order to solve problems peacefully and to encourage members to act in transparency. This committee will focus on successfully making resolutions to the aforementioned issues, while keeping in mind the varied interests of member states.

Topic I: South China Sea Dispute Introduction to the Problem

The economy controls political agendas in Southeast Asian Countries. The South China Sea, located between the coasts of Vietnam, China, Malaysia, and the Philippines, is a hub of

economic activity, not only for the surrounding nations, but also the entire world. It has provided a source of economic growth for the inter-governmental organization. Trade routes cross over the body of water carrying natural resources and finished products from different nations. Natural resources lay beneath the waters, waiting for exploitation near the Spratly and Paracel Islands. This prosperous economic zone has garnered interest from many nations, including members of the ASEAN community and the “Big Three” (China, Japan, South Korea).

Background

Trade routes and lines of communication lay across the sea. Vessels fitted with finished products and natural resources use the South China Sea to transport their cargo. An estimated \$5.3 trillion bilateral annual trade crosses the waters, \$1.2 trillion belonging to the US. By 2035, a prediction of 90% of Middle Eastern Fossil Fuel Exports will go through the waters. ASEAN-6, which consists of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, has predicted average real GDP growth rate of 4.56% for 2014-2018. Their growth rate doubles the rate of the US in 2013 (1.6%). This region supports an international state of trade reflecting the growth of the surrounding nations. The region’s value to the ASEAN community is marked at a high price.

New sources for economic exploitation are required for economic growth. Asian countries see an increased demand for primary energy in the future. Global demand for energy will increase a third by 2035. Asia will double its demand to around 9 billion TOE (Tonnes of Oil Equivalent) by 2035. Energy demand of industries and infrastructure grows directly with the success of the economy. China, Indonesia, Vietnam, and other nations rely on oil imports as primary energy sources. Domestic production of primary energy scarcely exists in many Asian countries in the forms of hydrocarbons. The South China Sea’s potential can change the future of energy consumption in Asia. Beneath

the waters, the World Bank estimates more than 900 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 7 billion barrels of oil. Hydrocarbons like oil and natural gas produce primary energy to drive industries. Domestic production of primary energy curbs the need for imported oil, thereby cutting expenditures and using capital efficiently.

The South China Sea now represents a source of domestic primary energy, a source valuable enough for a dispute to occur and continue. The two main disputed waters in the South China Sea include the Spratly and Paracel Islands. Both groups of islands boast rich fisheries and natural resources near the rocks and reefs. In order to exploit the lucrative potential of the islands, a nation must be able to show proof of sovereignty and obtain an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) established maritime laws and regulations including the establishment of EEZs. An EEZ allows the sovereign nation to have jurisdiction for “exploring an exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources.” An EEZ allows the nation to have complete control of the surrounding 200 nautical miles. The nation has the authority to restrict access of the territory. UNCLOS establishes the rights of an EEZ, but it does not have authority to rule on resolutions to sovereignty claims. The 3rd UNCLOS did establish a separate court that can, along with many other things, settle maritime disputes. The standoff between China and several ASEAN members seeks to resolve the issue of sovereignty. Each nation claims that they have established an EEZ and another nation has violated their rights to the territory.

Since the fall of the Japanese Imperial Empire, Asian countries have seen a steady increase in military production. Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore have doubled their conventional arms. China remains a superpower in the Pacific region, but a coalition of ASEAN nations with their combined armaments keeps China wary. Increasing arms and defense budgets have led to concerns for a potential

naval arms race. The increased spending can be seen as a byproduct of modernization, an infrastructure cost increase for the growing economies. However, Japan and South Korea have sold high grade military weapons and vehicles to smaller nations. Their interest in the militaries of the Southeast Asian countries worries foreign policy makers in the Western Hemisphere, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, United States and more. Japan donated \$110 million worth of coast guard ships to the Philippines. A military conflict does not serve in the best interest of any country, but the economic potential of the region calls for it as the final option to resolve the dispute.

Developments

ASEAN members and Chinese diplomats recognized conflict in the South China Sea in 2002. They wrote the Declaration on The Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in hopes of not escalating disputes any further. The DOC states that all parties should resolve any future and present conflicts as peacefully and diplomatically as possible. Many smaller scale disputes involving standoffs and collisions between Chinese and other national fishing, shipping, or military vessels took place.

In April 2012, a Philippine vessel attempted to arrest Chinese fishermen in Scarborough Shoal until a Chinese coast guard ship appeared. A standoff ensued, naval blockades set up, and the dispute escalated. An ASEAN Regional Forum (AFR) took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. China extended its economic control over Cambodia, the acting chair, bringing sharp division between ASEAN members. It led to the first failure to finish a final communiqué in the 45 year period history of the inter-governmental organization. After the summit, Indonesia’s foreign minister, Marty Natalegawa, over a two day period visited 5 capitals to lobby other ASEAN members to find common ground. The members unanimously agreed to 6 principles in “ASEAN’s Common Position” on the South China Sea. These principles included the full

implementation of the previous DOC in 2002 and an early conclusion of a Code of Conduct on the dispute (COC).

In 2013, the Philippines submitted a case to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). China does not recognize neither the authority nor the effectiveness of the court. Several other members have submitted different cases to the International Court of Justice. Chinese claims originate from maps published officially in atlases in 1947. Maps of the South China Sea marked Chinese territory by encompassing the majority of the sea with 9 line segments, referring to it as the “Nine Dash Line.” Chinese officials claim historical evidence, including that the “Nine Dash Line” supports China’s “indisputable sovereignty” of the South China Sea.

In 2014, the 47th ASEAN Foreign Minister’s Meeting (AMM) took place in Myanmar. Many countries outside of ASEAN, including South Korea, and Australia participated. China rejected several motions for any type of serious action in the South China Sea. US officials called for a “Freeze” in action within the disputed area, while other ASEAN members motioned for other plans. Philippine representatives presented a “Triple Action Plan” (TAP) to motion for decreased activity in the disputed waters while submitting a joint case to resolve the issue. All sides hoped for a resolution to keep peace and stability within the Pacific region, but no resolution formed by the end of the AFR. However, the forum concluded with a joint statement reaffirming the resolve to deescalate the dispute, noting the DOC and the 6 point common principles.

Analysis of the Dispute

China has received the blunt of the blame for the escalation and absence of a resolution. However China, like ASEAN members, simply seeks the best for its people. Each country claims its own EEZ to benefit its national economy. In fact, ASEAN members Brunei, Vietnam, Philippines, and Malaysia claim territory that conflict even each other. All parties involved issue statements and

declarations for other nations to follow the DOC, and to ease activity in the South China Sea until a solution can be formed. A Chinese company began drilling in 2012 while India’s nationalized Oil and Natural Gas Corp partnered with PetroVietnam to also drill in the waters. Instead of a decrease in movement, China and ASEAN members have increased their activity.

Resolving the dispute could go many different ways. The military option strikes fear into every nation. China by far has the largest force in the Asia-Pacific region, but the rest of the Asia-Pacific region is building its force as well. Experts concerned over a potential escalation of the South China Sea dispute see the Asia-Pacific region as a possible repeat of 20th century Europe when war devastated the continent. A conflict in the South China Sea activates treaties, drawing the US and other Western allies into a foreign conflict. Escalation will occur, with China and the United States pitted against each other, and actual war will be entirely possible. Legally a case can be submitted to ITLOS or the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to determine the sovereignty of the sea as the Philippines have in 2013. The court predicts a ruling in 2016. The dispute strains relationships within ASEAN and can put off the Economic Community past 2015.

ASEAN Secretary General Le Luong Minh stated “The South China Sea issue is not just about competing claims; it’s about peace and stability in the region.” Achieving peace and stability is no small feat. Exploiting the economic potential remains the top interest for each nation. Exploiting the sea together gives all parties an incentive to work together. In 2008 in the East China Sea, China and Japan agreed to a co-development of a gas deposit. The idea of co-development ensures all parties involved will benefit from the potential of the South China Sea. China and ASEAN can look to the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1920 as a model. Newly discovered mineral deposits led to a territorial and maritime dispute in Svalbard (Spitsbergen), Norway. Spitsbergen treaty states that Norway had full sovereignty over the Svalbard

archipelago, but other countries have access to the minerals, fishing, and hunting in the waters. ASEAN can vote to create a process to mediate between all sides during conflicts. Admiral Robert Willard, Pacific Naval Command, states “the South China Sea, a vital interest to the region... an area that carries an immense amount of commerce, and an area in which we must maintain maritime security and peace.”

Conclusion

In order to keep stability in the Asia Pacific region, ASEAN should work to mitigate any current and future conflicts in the South China Sea. The South China Sea has the potential to boost an entire country’s economy with the abundance of natural resources. Claimants completely giving up control over each of their EEZs is highly unlikely. However with economic integration on the way in 2015, ASEAN members can also broaden cooperation to the possibility of sharing the region’s potential. Delegates must factor in that any resolution passed, participation by member countries is voluntary. Passing a resolution with all members voting “for” would be a great achievement.

Questions to Consider

- How fast is the Asia-Pacific region growing economically, politically, and militarily? What feeds the rapid growth of this region?
- How valuable is the South China Sea to the claimants? Specifically, why is military conflict worth risking over the South China Sea?
- Growing nationalism in Asia concerns experts, who fear 21st century Asia can become war torn like 20th Century Europe. What can be done to curb hate and racial discrimination toward other nationalities?
- The Asia-Pacific region has strengthened its military and conventional arms significantly in the 21st century. Should this raise

any concern? Does it raise the stakes for ASEAN to settle the dispute?

- Every month more vessels are captured on both sides, fueling the dispute. What can be done now to help these fishermen and cargo vessels? Is there any way to decrease activity in the South China Sea?
- Can the nations share and profit from the territory together or can there only be one? What barriers are there to stop either choice from happening?

Additional Resources

- <http://www.cfr.org/> - Council on Foreign Relations has material on recent and past foreign policy issues.
- <http://www.nbr.org/> - The Nation Bureau of Asian Research provides reports, publications and interviews on Asia-Pacific situations.
- <http://www.sipri.org/> - Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has resources on all national militaries from spending to size.
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/world/special/south-china-sea-timeline/index.html> - A helpful timeline that can guide you through the many conflicts surrounding the South China Sea dispute up to 2012.
- http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/part5.htm -UNCLOS definition of what a EEZ defines itself as.

Topic II: Environmentally Stable Economic Integration

Introduction

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has set 2015 as the target year for economic integration. This will bring the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), first envisioned by the leaders at the Bali Summit in October 2003, with four key characteristics: a single market and production base, a highly competitive economic region, a region of equitable

economic development, and a region fully integrated into the global economy. At the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007, the member states adopted the ASEAN Economic Blueprint to transform ASEAN into a single market “with free movement of goods, services, investment, skilled labour, and freer flow of capital.” Within the AEC Blueprint, the member states emphasized their commitment towards sustainable development, especially recognizing the limited global reserve of fossil fuels and strengthen renewable energy development.

Declining Natural Capital (Stock of Natural Assets in the Ecosystem)

As Vice-President Stephen P. Groff of the Asian Development Bank said in a speech in June of 2013, “unfortunately, not enough attention has been paid to the region’s declining natural capital. Without action, this decline in both quality and quantity threatens to undermine the gains made these past few decades.” ASEAN’s developing member states should consider policies that effectively sustain and expand the environmental resource base since economic growth that disregards environmental consequences will hinder future development. As the Finance Secretary of the Philippines Cesar Purisima points out:

“More than 500 million ASEAN citizens are dependent for their food, livelihood and other needs on the resource base of forests, seas, rivers, lands, and other ecosystems. Their protection must therefore be reconciled with the growth rate targets of the ASEAN economic integration, in 2015 and beyond. Being inherently vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and other environmental challenges, ASEAN cannot afford to grow and clean later.”

Deforestation and Agricultural Management

The majority of ASEAN’s member states are experiencing rapid deforestation in

order to satisfy their economic developmental needs. Deforestation threatens the biodiversity of the Mekong Region, and which includes Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, which is home to thousands of unique species discovered annually. In Vietnam, forests have been cut down for furniture export, an industry worth more than \$2.4 billion annually. The deforestation also has served to make way for the planting of coffee bushes, where the country currently ranks second, behind Brazil, in global coffee production. Vietnam’s economic development goes hand-in-hand with the rise in deforestation. After an economic restructuring in the mid-1990s, its economy has grown by an average of 7% each year for the past decade, while from 1973 to 2009, Vietnam and Thailand each lost 43% of their forest cover. If the present rate of deforestation continues for the Mekong Region, then according to the World Wildlife Fund, by 2030, only 14% of the region’s forests will consist of contiguous habitat capable of sustaining viable populations of many wildlife species.

World Bank, the incidence of poverty in Southeast Asia is 21%, with Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, and the Philippines having more than 20% of their respective populations below the poverty line. People who live in extreme poverty in ASEAN nations live in areas that depend on biodiversity for food, health, and livelihood. Thus, their household income relies on natural resources, such as collection of wild food, materials, and medicine. With continuing land degradation, the immediate impact will be on the rural poor. Therefore, sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity could have an overall positive impact on the livelihoods of the poor.

Analysis by Experts & Examples

In a published paper, “Balancing Trade Growth and Environmental Protection in ASEAN: Environmental Issues in Trade and Investment Policy Deliberations in the Mekong Subregion,” the International Institute for Sustainable Development proposes new possibilities that may arise with the ASEAN Economic Integration. Along with the formation of ASEAN’s economic community by 2015, the reduction in trade barriers may reinforce the tendency for the exportation of commodities that make use of resource intense production factors. Secondly, countries could also lower their environmental standards to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to become more competitive in a global market. Therefore, it is more important than ever that in order to continue economic development successfully in the future with the economic integration, ASEAN must implement policies that promote sustainable development. Greenpeace Southeast Asia, Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration and the Ateneo School of Government debated their vision regarding the ASEAN community’s green future.

This group of environmental experts suggested actions such as drafting a clean production framework for industrial production and creating a level playing field where renewable energies can compete with other

energy sources. In addition, they recommended that ASEAN draft policies shift the funding support from industrial agriculture to sustainable farming practices, and collaborate on the protection and conservation of the remaining forests and peat lands of Southeast Asia.

Big Three’s Commitment and Other Examples

As the world’s most populous country with the fastest developing economy, China realizes that its future prosperity also relies on today’s actions. The People’s Republic of China released its 12th Five year Plan for 2011-2015, emphasizing “green growth” and investing \$473.1 billion on clean energy investments over the next five years. China hopes that within five years, non-fossil fuel will account for 11.4% of primary energy consumption and carbon dioxide emission per unit of GDP will be cut by 17%. Furthermore, in combating deforestation problems, China hopes that its forest coverage rate will rise to 21.66% and that forest stock will increase by 600 million cubic meters. Since 1978, China has continued the Three North Shelterbelt Project, or the “Great Green Wall” along China’s northern deserts, with billions of trees stretching 4,500 km and covering 405 hectares by 2050. As the world’s top investor of renewable energy, China has also encouraged its partially state-owned power generation conglomerates to generate solutions for increasing transmission efficiency, and gives tax credit or subsidies to hybrid car consumers and solar and wind power plants.

Another Big Three country, Japan, has also made significant steps towards reducing environmental harm. Japan’s Ministry of the Environment Government states in their philosophy that:

“Due to the cumulative effects of individual environmental problems and the great impact they can have on the earth-our base for survival, it is vital for central and local governments, enterprises and individuals to cooperate and coordinate actions, both on the

international and domestic levels, to effectively respond to these issues.”

In the 1950s, the Japanese people experienced Minamata Disease and Cadmium contamination as a result of inadequate control of river contaminations and subsequent fish poisoning. After ignoring the environmental impact in the midst of rapid economic growth in the 1950s and 1960s, Japan implemented a series of reforms, known as the Pollution Diet, such as the Water Pollution Control Law and the Interim Law for Conservation of the Environment of the Seto Inland Sea, which regulated the total amount of pollutants in effluents. Japan has also set national emission standards for factories and vehicles to combat air pollution. It seems that proper law enforcement and restrictive limits effectively improved Japan’s environmental quality.

South Korea underwent a major reforestation after the excess cutting and resource exploitation during the Japanese occupation and Korean War. Since the 1970s, South Korea increased its forest resources by 11 times through a series of government-driven forest rehabilitation plans that encouraged the public to plant trees. Now, as 64% of the country is covered in forests, South Korea serves as a green growth model nation. It shares its experiences through international conventions to prevent problems such as desertification and land degradation in other developing countries. China and Mongolia have adopted similar reforestation models.

Brazil, a country with effective environmental economic practices, is also a currently developing country that has vast land resources that could be potentially exploited for economic development. In 2006, Brazil’s president announced the creation of a 6.4 million hectare conservation area, with 1.6 million hectares set off limits for logging and deforestation, greatly preserving biodiversity as well. Thus, Southeast Asia may choose to look at other countries that have instituted land protection policies and lead in sustainable land usage for inspiration.

Conclusion

In order to continue future economic development, ASEAN members must cooperate to implement an agenda that will alleviate environmental stresses such as deforestation and water management problems. The land degradation as a direct result of industrial growth will harm biodiversity and impact the poor, as well as exacerbate the pollution across these countries. In the midst of economic integration, ASEAN should possibly consider looking at other models such as the Big Three to balance growth and sustainability.

Questions to Consider

- What could the formation of ASEAN Economic Community mean for legislation enforcement?
- What types of environmental challenges does each ASEAN member nation face? As a group? Are there any similar occurrences in other nations?
- What types of environmental policies have been successful in developing nations in the past?
- How does current land degradation affect the population’s future prosperity?
- What effect would regulation be on certain pertinent industries?
- How can ASEAN improve the effectiveness of its environmental policies?
- What actions can ASEAN take to encourage renewable energy usage or curb harmful environmental practices?

References for Further Research

http://www.env.go.jp/earth/coop/coop/english/dialogue/asean_3.html -The International Environmental Cooperation toward Sustainable Development website with more information on past ASEAN +3 Environment Cooperation

<http://www.asean.org/archive/5187-10.pdf> - ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint, with more information regarding the integration vision

<http://environment.research.yale.edu/documen>

[ts/downloads/h-n/koh.pdf](http://www.asean.org/asean/external-relations/china/item/declaration-on-the-conduct-of-parties-in-the-south-china-sea) -A paper published analyzing ASEAN's regional system for environmental management, and how it may possibly hinder the effective implementation of programs

<http://www.rieti.go.jp/en/special/policy-update/039.html> -An overview on Japan's environmental policy

http://www.iisd.org/tkn/pdf/balancing_trade_growth_asean_brief.pdf -A paper published by the Trade Knowledge Network discussing environmental reforms that each ASEAN nation has begun to implement

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2015 Election of Aung San Suu Kyi

Jack Miller

Chair

Reshini Premaratne

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

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Elizabeth Levit
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Srishti Sanya
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Salutations!

Welcome to Aung San Suu

Kyi's Election Committee of 2015, GSMUN XVIII!

You represent some of Suu Kyi's closest advisors during this influential period in her life, and your actions will help dictate the future of Myanmar. Chairing your committee are Reshini Premaratne and Jack Miller, with the help of vice-chair Catherine Qian. Together, we will resolve some of the major topics concerning Suu Kyi's election -- election fraud and her campaign platform. First, here is a little introduction to your dias!

Reshini Premaratne, a junior, is extremely excited to be serving as the Co-Chair for this committee with her good friends Jack and Catherine. She has participated in Model UN for the past four years and has attended six conferences. Reshini also co-chaired the SPECPOL High School committee at last year's GSMUN Conference. Along with being an avid participant of Model UN, Reshini serves as the Co-Captain of the Debate team and Vice President of Spanish club. Outside of school, Reshini volunteers with The Community Foundation, teaches young kids how to ice skate through the Learn-to-Skate Organization, and spearheads her own youth-led service campaign, X-Out Homelessness. In her free time, Reshini loves catching up on the sleep that she always seems to be lacking and drooling over Dr. McDreamy on Grey's Anatomy.

Jack is a junior at Maggie Walker and is extremely excited to be chairing the 2015 Election of Aung San Suu Kyi committee this year! Jack's love of Model UN began in 7th grade when he attended GSMUN XIV, and he continues to love debating relevant global issues with his peers. Aside from Model UN, Jack serves as the Junior Class President and is captain of the school's tennis team. In the little free time that he has, Jack can be seen playing piano or watching horror movies. Other of his passions include bowties, Vans shoes, and the ukulele. Ultimately, Jack is thrilled to chair this committee with his good friend Reshini, and he is excited to meet all of the delegates!

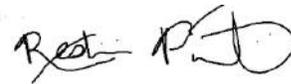
However, before we can get to the fun of debating new solutions to our topics and listening to guest speakers, we are going to need you to do several things. First of all, each delegate must submit a position paper. It should provide background on the person or organization that you are representing, as well as thorough background and an analysis of the listed topics. Each position paper should take a stand on the issues and more importantly propose possible solutions for all parties involved. Due to the strict censorship enforced by the Burmese government, some delegates should represent the broader ideology of their organization, rather than their specific person. Papers should be a minimum of 500 words, double-spaced, and 12-point Times New Roman font. Please remember that plagiarism will be checked for and not tolerated if found.

Now that you're familiar with the scene at GSMUN and the layout of the Election of Aung San Suu Kyi Committee 2015, take some time to read the background guide, prepare for committee, and write your position paper. Your position paper should reflect the views of the organization that you are representing accurately while still proposing solutions for all parties involved. Use the questions at the end of the background guide to start thinking about how you would like to deal justice. If you have any more questions, feel free to e-mail us at gsmun.suukyi@gmail.com.

Best Wishes,



Jack Miller



Reshini Premaratne

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Committee Background

Overview of the Committee

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, also known as Burma or Myanmar, is a unitary presidential constitutional republic under their 2008 constitution. Historically, Burma has been under the rule of various dynasties. Originally, Burma was colonized by the British and was under the rule of the British Raj until 1937. Then, Burma was considered a British colony until it was granted independence after World War II. After gaining independence, Burma was initially a democracy, until being overtaken by a military coup in 1962. The military government, or junta, was in power until 2011, when Burma returned to its original democratic state.

Since the establishment of the first constitution in 1948, Burmese ethnic minorities have been denied their Constitutional rights, access to lands, and participation in government. Religious and ethnic conflicts have induced a strain on the current and past political institutions. The State Peace and Development Council, the Burmese military junta in power until 2011, displaced many citizens, both from within and outside of Burma. This displacement of people has meant the violation of human rights and further political strife.

This committee aims to combat the election fraud taking place in Burma and establish a proper platform for Aung San Suu Kyi to campaign for her upcoming election in 2015. As this committee is unprecedented, most notably due to her house arrest for 15 years, starting in 1989, the chair and delegates will duly shape its parliamentary procedure and proceedings as seen fit. In order to ensure that fair elections do take place in 2015, which give the National League for Democracy and its General Secretary, Aung San Suu Kyi an equal opportunity at leadership, this committee must determine how best to approach the current situation in Burma.

Topic I: The Platform of Aung San Suu Kyi

A History of Aung San Suu Kyi:

Aung San Suu Kyi was born on June 19, 1945 to one of the most influential families of Burma. Her father is considered the “Father of Modern Myanmar” and founded the Communist Party of Myanmar, while her mother served as the ambassador to India. When Suu Kyi was just 2 years old, her father was killed by rebel leader U Saw, who protested the concessions made to the British government during independence peace talks. Despite this, her mother Khin Kyi went on to become a Burmese diplomat, while Aung San Suu Kyi continued her studies at the University of Oxford.

After marrying British citizen Michael Aris and having two children, Suu Kyi returned to Burma in 1988 to look after her ill mother. While visiting Burma, she witnessed soldiers of leader U Ne Win kill innocent protesters, inciting Suu Kyi to speak out against the atrocities committed by the Burmese government. As Aung San Suu Kyi began her widespread campaign for democratic rule, the military placed her under arrest in July 1989, under the condition that she could be exonerated if she left Burma. Suu Kyi refused, instead choosing to stay in Burma until her goal of civilian, democratic government was reached. In the early 1990s, Suu Kyi became affiliated with the National League for Democracy (NLD), eventually earning the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize for her commitment to nonviolent protests. Since the Peace Prize brought global attention to the oppressive military regime of the Burmese government, General Saw Maung, the leader of Burma at the time, initiated a widespread campaign to vilify her name. Over the next twenty years, Suu Kyi served several sentences under house arrest, and attained freedom on November 13, 2010, just six days after parliamentary elections.

After her release, Aung San Suu Kyi continued her work towards a free and democratic Burma under the civilian leadership of Thein Sein. In April of 2012, she won a parliamentary election by a large majority, and now serves as the Leader

of the Opposition for Burma's House of Representatives.

A Review of the Issues Facing Burma:

One of the greatest obstructions to Burmese modernization is a lack of infrastructure. As of 1996, only 12% of their 17,523 miles of roads were paved. Since Burma has intense, harsh climate changes, many of these roads are in states of disrepair as a result of monsoons. Throughout the 1990s, the government made attempts to fix transportation problems, though many went largely unfinished. A late 1990s project to reconstruct the Old Myanmar Road from Mandalay to China failed and resulted in several civilian casualties, while attempts to renovate the rail system of the 1990s led to very little lasting change. Most remote areas are only reachable via a large network of canals and rivers. Aside from transportation, Burma is unable to provide consistent energy to businesses and homes. Though a relatively large amount of energy (38%) is hydroelectricity, about 68% of their energy comes from fossil fuels. In addition to the environmental repercussions of using fossil fuels, the government is unable to supply the energy needed for businesses to run, and the system frequently short circuits, cutting off energy for anyone. As a result, most businesses rely on their own diesel-run generators, stifling business growth in Burma. Prior to Thein Sein's election in 2011, the government worked to strictly regulate internet access; all internet modems had to be provided from the Ministry of Post and Telegraph, and the possession of unauthorized modems resulted in a 15 year prison sentence.

Aside from infrastructure, Burma's healthcare system is severely lacking. From 1990-95 the infant mortality rate ranged from 7-10%, while in 1995, per capita spending was less than US \$2 per capita. For the past 20 years, Burma has struggled with supplying access to clean drinking water. In 1990, just under 60% of the Burmese population had access to clean drinking water. As a result of this deficiency, malaria and tuberculosis remain the two biggest diseases in Burma.

Burma also struggles with supplying proper education to its people. In 1988, hundreds of students rebelled against the military regime,

advocating democratic rule. To avoid future unrest, the government shut down most universities. In 1996, when more educated citizens protested the lack of access to higher learning, the government began reopening the schools, though it placed harsh restrictions on the curriculum for each area of study.

Current Analysis of the Situation:

Following the democratic elections of 2011, Burma made radical improvements to infrastructure, education, and healthcare, although major issues still plague these systems. Though the current government acknowledges the need for better infrastructure, they lack the necessary funds to complete projects; Burma's GDP per capita is just 868 USD. As a result, in 2013, Burma opened up to foreign investment for the first time. In the past two years, the government has attempted to build a new airport in Hanthawaddy to accommodate the recent influx of tourism, though few nations or businesses are willing to invest in the project. A risk assessment company, Business Monitor International (BMI) stated, "there is scope for a breakdown in political stability within [Burma] and this poses a major downside risk to these airport projects," and that "a failure to address the most pressing issues in the current Constitution ... could destabilize [the] already challenging business environment." This new airport, costing 1.1 billion USD, would quadruple the current capacity of air travel at the main airport of Rangoon, Burma. Though Burma's Constitution allows for deficit spending, the country does not have the GDP to support such an expensive endeavor and relies on foreign support to complete the airport, and several other infrastructure projects. Aside from the financial risk associated with political instability in Burma, many investors do not wish to finance infrastructure projects, because they take far longer than any other investment to earn their money back. Additionally, the public-private partnerships (PPP) necessary for completing government projects are difficult and tedious arrangements that stall the construction of many buildings and roads.

Regarding healthcare, Burma lags far behind that of its region. In 2012, the World

Health Organization ranked Burma 190th out of 190 countries in their category on “overall health system performance.” Despite these numbers, in 2011, the Minister of Health Yaw Myint opposed a congressional bill to increase medical spending for the poor, calling them unnecessary. In 2013, just 2.1% of Burma’s GDP came from the healthcare industry, compared to about 20% that the military provided. In 2013, the government significantly decreased military spending and funneled the money into medical improvements, but most of the necessary adjustments are costly and require foreign investment and other issues remain. One major priority of the government is to increase the number of doctors graduating from Burmese schools, while also raising the education standards of these doctors. In a March 2013 survey, 47% of respondents said that quality was their greatest concern regarding Burmese healthcare, compared to only 29% of respondents that stated cost as the biggest problem. Though the government provides slim healthcare, most citizens prefer using small clinics where they pay all of the costs associated with their medical operations or medications. Though the use of foreign drugs could completely combat many of the top diseases facing Burma including tuberculosis, privatized American TB drug companies are unwilling to provide medication to the Burmese people as a result of the lack of disposable income. With the recent rise in drug-resistant malaria and tuberculosis, Burma desperately needs the technology and research of the first world to properly aid its people.

In 2001, UNESCO reported that Burma spent just 1.3% of its budget on education, a policy that continued for many years later. According UNCEF report in 2008, only about 70% of students attend primary school regularly, and 50% of students do not attend secondary school. These low numbers are a direct result of extremely low teacher salaries, fighting along the Thailand border that prevents many kids from attending school, and a lack of widespread schools in rural areas. Currently, NGOs provide schooling in areas of fighting and provide a more structured curriculum and a program that trains students to become teachers. As a result of this schooling, thousands of Burmese citizens in neighboring regions visit

refugee camps for educational purposes, which leads to overcrowding of camps along the southeastern border.

Though the government transition to democratic elections in 2011 helped increase popular freedoms of speech, press, and assembly, there are still political problems present in the government. A Freedom House report in 2012 stated that Burma lacks “governmental transparency, a democratic electoral process, and basic rights.” There are also issues with the election of Aung San Suu Kyi. Currently, article 59 (f) of the Burmese Constitution forbids anyone married to a foreigner from running for President, attacked as a direct way to keep Suu Kyi from becoming President. Additionally, the Constitution states the army awards 25% of the seats of Parliament to nominees of the army, but any vote to amend the Constitution requires more than 75% agreement in Parliament. Since the President is chosen by the members of Parliament, Aung San Suu Kyi requires widespread support from both army nominees and elected officials to become President. Nevertheless, Suu Kyi is optimistic about her chances for the presidency in 2015 and continues to have widespread support from the people of Burma.

As Aung San Suu Kyi’s closest advisors, it is your job to assess which issues facing Burma are the most pressing, all while working to elect Suu Kyi. Focusing on Burma’s budding tourism industry will increase government revenue, but will leave the population of Burma without necessary healthcare, and funding a tourism industry without proper infrastructure could hurt the economy. Focusing on infrastructure and healthcare allows for other industries to grow, but also require a large amount of capital that the government is not able to supply. Failure to resolve the current issues facing the educational department could leave Burma with a generation of largely uneducated people, and the influx of students in refugee camps puts a heavy burden on NGOs while also accelerating the spread of disease.

Questions to Consider:

- What should be Suu Kyi’s number one priority for reforming Burma:

infrastructure, healthcare, education, or something else? Why?

- Which reform would affect the greatest number of people? Which reform would have the best effect on Suu Kyi's approval rating?
- With the lack of paved roads and limited access to technology, how should Suu Kyi spread her campaign to the people or Burma?
- How can Burma fund large projects like the Hanthawaddy airport? To what extent do these projects rely on foreign investments?
- How can Burma assure foreign investors that funding infrastructure and healthcare projects is worthwhile?
- What are low-cost improvements that can be made to improve infrastructure, healthcare, and education without the need for foreign investment?
- If elected, what should Suu Kyi recommend to increase employment in Burma, especially for the thousands of uneducated adults who grew up during the military regime of the late 20th century?
- What restrictions should be placed on healthcare officials? Increasing the stringency on medical degrees would increase the quality of healthcare but contribute to the shortage of doctors in Burma.
- How can Suu Kyi ensure that she is eligible to run for the 2015 presidency? What is her plan of action if the government does not loosen restrictions on Article 59(f) of the Constitution?

Sources for Additional Research:

- <http://www.who.int/countries/mmr/en/> - This website provides accurate, up-to-date information on the healthcare industry in Burma.
- <https://tavaana.org/en/content/aung-san-suu-kyi-leading-burmese-democracy-movement-0> - This website gives a thorough and complete biography of Aung

San Suu Kyi, including a timeline of her achievements.

- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/aung-san-suu-kyi> - This website provides a list of the most recent articles regarding Aung San Suu Kyi and is a great resource for current information on her campaign.
- *Letters from Myanmar* by Aung San Suu Kyi - Written in February of 2010, this is Aung San Suu Kyi's account of her life under Burmese house arrest. It also chronicles several of the atrocities committed under the military government.
- *Freedom from Fear* by Aung San Suu Kyi - Written in 1995, this is another one of Suu Kyi's accounts of life in Burma.

Topic II: Combating Election Fraud History

Elections in Burma are not common. Until 2011, Burma's government was under the control of a military junta, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Coincidentally, during its rule, the formation of any opposition parties was banned. Before the junta's rise to power, the most recent elections were in 1951-1952, 1956, and 1960.

In 1962, the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) seized power under Ne Win's one party rule system. This party then legally outlawed the rise of opposition parties. Then, in August of 1988, the BSPP collapsed following the 8888 Uprising, in which pro-democracy marches, demonstrations, protests, and riots were held. It was also during this uprising that Aung San Suu Kyi emerged as a national icon. Subsequently, the military planned another coup d'état, reporting that they would hold "free and fair elections." The first elections to the lower house of the government, known as Pyithu Hluttaw or People's Assembly, that following September of 1990 were led by newly renamed military administration, State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). However, the major opposition party of the time, the National League for Democracy (NLD), swept the elections, garnering 392 of the 492 seats. The National League for Democracy (NLD) is a political party in Burma that advocates non-

violently for a multi-party democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and national reconciliation following years of civil war and strife. Aung San Suu Kyi serves as the General Secretary of the NLD.

As a result of the elections, the NLD should have gained the majority in the People's Assembly, but the SLORC refused to substantiate the results of the election. Since then, the NLD has not been able to participate in any elections. After the NLD's victory in 1990, the military junta put Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the NLD, under house arrest. Though SLORC was abolished shortly after in November of 1997, and replaced with the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), this change brought little to no actual changes. In August of 2003, Prime Minister Khin Nyunt introduced a seven-step roadmap to democracy, which would transition the government of Burma from its current leadership by the military junta to a representative democracy.

In 2008, the SPDC announced that a public voting, a referendum, on the new constitution would be held. The SPDC also set elections to be held in 2010. Although the NLD was excluded from participating, the first general election since 1962 took place in 2010. The 2010 elections were widely considered fraudulent, even though both China and Russia praised Burma for holding elections to begin with. The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), which was supported by the military, won 259 of the 330 contested seats, and subsequently declared victory. The results of this election left Burma in much of the same state as before because the military still had such a strong hold on the government.

However, in 2012, the NLD was allowed to take part in the 2012 by-elections. Suu Kyi, who had been released from house arrest in 2010, won a seat in the Pyithu Hluttaw in those 2012 by-elections. The NLD also won 43 of the 44 seats it contested, which was out of 46 seats. Because NLD did not participate in the 2010 elections, 2012 was the first year in which the NLD gained actual representation in the Burmese government. The next election in Burma is scheduled to be in 2015.

Current Status

Following Suu Kyi's release from house arrest in 2010, she has participated in the government, even garnering a position in the Pyithu Hluttaw in 2012. As the General Secretary of NLD, who was put under house arrest due to NLD's undeniable popularity in the 1990 elections, Suu Kyi became an international symbol for the non-violent movement to democracy and against oppression. However, the fraudulent elections in 1990 and again in 2010 have made it especially difficult for Suu Kyi to see her dream of a democratic and just Burma come to fruition.

In the 1990 elections, the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by General Secretary Aung San Suu Kyi, won over 80% of the parliamentary seats with more than 60% of the public vote. Nonetheless, the SLORC, who was in power at the time, refused to relegate power to the NLD. At that time, the SLORC declared that its party would form a national constitutional convention composed of its elected officials instead of a parliament. Then, the SLORC started developing the "Seven Step Road Map to Disciplined Democracy", which would eventually lead to Burma's reintroduction to democracy.

The elections of 1990 were relatively free and fair, following a strictly regulated campaigning process. During the campaigning, authorities arrested advocates for the opposition and failed to conduct polls in large ethnic minority areas. As a result of this lack of democracy in what were intended to be democratic elections, armed conflicts broke out in the underrepresented or unrepresented states of Burma. An example of such fighting can be found in the Kachin State of Burma, where the Kachin Independence Army fought violently with the Myanmar Army to address complaints of underrepresentation of ethnic and minority groups and their rights.

In the 2010 elections, not only were fraudulent practices taking place on the day of elections, but also many instances of pre-election fraudulence were reported. There were a plethora of reports of voting abnormalities before November 7, many of which were committed by member of the military-backed USDP. Even local officials were vessels of the corrupt election

practices; some were reported to have entreated voters to complete advance ballots with the incentives of money or scholarships. Even more drastic are the measures taken by officials to threaten residents that infrastructure projects would not be finished if votes were not secured for the USDP. Unfortunately, due to the censorship of the Burmese government, it is impossible for foreign entities to get involved to ameliorate this situation, similarly to the futile attempts shown by domestic groups hoping to rid the country of corruption.

Additionally, USDP candidates and party members have been falsely taking credit for development initiatives in local areas. For example, many citizens believe that the USDP is responsible for the institution of roads, clinics, or security of a water supply because of this false advertising by USDP candidates. The Union Election Commission (UEC) has banned all media from recording video or photographs around polling stations, so it was effectively impossible for voters to gather credible and accurate information prior to voting on November 7, 2010. Foreign journalists are also prohibited from covering any portion of the campaigning in Burma or the election, further preventing the populace from receiving the correct information.

Because it is illegal for citizens to speak out in criticism of the election processes under the 2008 election, many are afraid to voice their opinion or call out any corruption that may be taking place. Due to the fact that Burma is adverse to coverage by the media, it is difficult to evaluate the level of corruption occurring on a local level. However, some rural states have described local officials instructing residents that they do not need to vote because the officials will do so for them. Though instances like this differ across the nation depending on the presence of the military and the local government officials, many states, especially rural and border ones, such as Rakhine, have recounted instances of election fraud and corruption. Some political parties have even gotten involved in the arguments against election fraud; the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) filed complaints with the UEC that recalled accounts of harassment against their party

leaders as a result of the party mobilization and upcoming elections.

Intimidation of voters is another prevalent aspect of Burmese elections. Again, because of the absence of national or international monitors of elections and campaigning, it is difficult to determine the level of intimidation that is arising in the states of Burma. In fact, many communities may not even recognize the intimidation that political candidates are waging due to decades, even centuries, of acculturation to local intimidation. Residents know not to speak out or resist in any way because it will attract the unwanted attention of the authorities, and in some grave cases, the military. The legal system even grants latitude to local officials to conduct such intimidation; they are allowed to arbitrarily arrest, detain, or thwart civic participation in governmental activities.

Analysis of the Issue

One possible solution to creating more just and fair elections would be to implement national regulations concerning the campaigning and polling process. Because there are no concrete laws regarding the election process, it makes it that much easier for the ruling party at the time to influence the process and create a bias in the system. Also, the Burmese government currently bans journalist, both national and international ones, from recording and presenting information on the campaigns and elections. In order to create a more informed populace, the government needs to allow at least national journalists to conduct coverage and give accurate information to the public.

More importantly, though, along with creating stricter laws, there must be a stricter enforcement of all laws, specifically those concerning the elections. As of right now, the corruption is taking place on a local basis. Many of the current local government officials were appointed by the USDP and therefore support the military and the progress of that one party. Some officials will even go to dire lengths to ensure that the USDP attains as many seats in parliament as possible. In situations like this, the local officials must be held accountable by the national

government so that a true and fair democracy is developed, instead of a weak and corrupt one.

The local and national governments both need to encourage and support the participation of residents. Because of past corrupt practices, many citizens shy away from participating in governmental activities. An election in which so few citizens participate is also not a proper or fair election because a true democracy is a representation of all citizens, or at least as many as realistically possible.

Overall, upcoming elections in Burma, especially the 2015 election with candidate Aung San Suu Kyi, must be proper democratic elections that allow all citizens to vote of their free will. These elections should not involve tactics of corruption or intimidations, and should not exclude any specific party or platform from running for a position in the government. In the future, it is crucial that Burma institutes laws and enforces laws that will protect the democracy of the nation.

Questions to Consider

- What do the past election practices of Burma foreshadow for the 2015 election?
- How will Aung San Suu Kyi's unique history of house arrest and oppression influence her election and campaign in 2015?
- Intimidation and corruption on local levels are a major part of the fraudulent elections taking place. What is the best way to combat these practices?
- How can you, personally, create change in the corrupt election system currently existing in Burma?
- How can Burma regulate its overzealous military while still providing equal democracy and representation to all?
- How can the Burmese government enforce just election practices without giving the military too much power in the system?
- In what ways can the military change to better serve the democratic system of Burma?
- What roles do the other political parties of Burma have in ensuring the democratic

institution? Can these political parties be trusted to uphold that responsibility without one party taking too much power? Why or why not?

- In the past, many individuals have been persuaded to vote a certain way in elections because of financial incentives. How can the government best combat this given that needs for financial assistance will always exist?
- How can Burma best provide accurate information to voters before elections? Through what avenues will this be most efficient?
- If the Burmese government were to allow journalists to cover the campaigns and elections, can those media outlets be trusted to accurately portray the events of the country? Why or why not? What actions should be taken if the media is not being truthful in its presentation?
- What backlash might the government, media, or both receive if media were to be allowed during campaigning and elections? How can this best be dealt with?

Additional Resources

- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11685977> - This website provides a comprehensive and thorough biography of Aang San Suu Kyi. It is especially useful when trying to understand the process through which she has arrived at her current status.
- <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/01/24/a-free-woman?currentPage=all> - This website has a meticulous analysis of Burma's political history and the role that Aang San Suu Kyi has played thus far. It is a perfect resource for getting an understanding of the political scene in Burma today and how it has evolved to that position.
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/bm.html> - This resource is a great tool to get a further understanding of the nation of Burma, its geography, demographics, culture,

languages, and much more. It sets the scene for the elections that have been taking place and the one that will take place in 2015.

- https://www.ndi.org/Burma_Groups_Expose_Fraud - This is a link to National Democratic Institute's analysis of Burma's 2010 election. It provides an interesting insight in the fraudulence and corruption of the first democratic elections in Burma's history for almost 50 years.
- http://www.hrw.org/news/2010/11/02/qa-elections-burma#_What_occurred_during - This is an excellent source when studying the history of corrupt elections in Burma. It provides questions and answers involving past elections and corrupt practices, specifically those of 1990 and 2010. It is a great starting point for resolutions as it provides the many downfalls of the current election system.

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Bandung Conference

Fiza Shaikh

Chair

Zoe Nelson

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to GSMUN XVIII! We are thrilled to welcome you into the meeting of the Bandung Conference as we prepare to tackle the issues of Pre-and-Post Colonial Africa and Asia. Chairing your committee will be Fiza Shaikh and Zoe Nelson along with our wonderful vice chair Thomas Green.

All delegates are expected to arrive at GSMUN with an understanding of the topics assigned to their committee. This includes the necessity of understanding how the country or individual that the delegate is representing in debate has historically viewed these issues. The best starting point for your research is to read the background guide that we have prepared for you, which can be found on gsmun.net. After conducting your research on these topics, you will be expected to write a position paper with a minimum of 500 words that gives a brief overview of the relevance of each topic in terms of how it pertains to the country that you are representing. Your paper should also include possible solutions to address problems raised by the two topics mentioned earlier. It may be helpful to use the questions that we have posed at the end of each topic summary in the paper as a guideline for what you should do. If you are unsure of the format of a position paper, there are numerous examples online that should be helpful. Please note that although this is not a school assignment, and footnotes are not mandatory if a bibliography is provided, plagiarism of any kind is still unacceptable. Every paper will be checked for possible plagiarism, and if any cases are found, the delegates in question will be reported to the conference's Secretary General, as well as the delegate's school sponsor. However, we appreciate in advance the hard work and diligence that we are sure you will put into writing this paper. It is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards.

Delegates may also find it helpful to review Model United Nation's Parliamentary Procedure, commonly known as "parli-pro." This is essentially a series of rules, norms, and phrases that we will use to keep decorum during committee and to help foster debate as well as to simulate the procedure of the actual United Nations. However, we will be happy to spend several minutes going over parli-pro at the beginning of the first committee session and to answer any subsequent questions about it as the conference proceeds.

Now that you have a basic understanding of the layout of the Bandung Conference, as well as our procedure, we hope that you will find it easier to research these topics and apply them to your country's position via your paper. Once again, it may be helpful to use the questions that are listed in the background guide as a reference for addressing certain points in your paper as well as prompting ideas for possible solutions to these issues. It is also important to consider both the long-term hostility and short-termed crises that have resulted from colonial occupation of these two conferences. If you have any subsequent questions, please feel free to email us at gsmun.bandung@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas on our topics!

Sincerely,



Fiza Shaikh
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Zoe Nelson
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Overview

On April 18, 1955, key officials from 29 different countries will meet in Bandung, Indonesia to discuss the sovereignty and self-government of nations, equality of individuals, residual issues of colonialism, and non-interference. It will be presided over by Ruslan Abdulgani, a member of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Hosted by Indonesia, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), India, Myanmar (Burma), and Pakistan, the 24 additionally invited nations will almost exclusively be from Asia and Africa—representing roughly half of the world's population. Even the organization of this conference is an unprecedented amount of cooperation between Africa and Asia, and both citizens and leaders of countries are anxious to see if a solution to the problems put forth can be reached that is culturally sensitive to the citizens of both continents.

During the estimated six day conference, the representatives are planning on structuring their ideas and core philosophies off of the pre-existing Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence; a series of ideas listed in the 1954 Panchsheel Treaty between India and China. Essentially, these five principles are aimed at creating a peaceful atmosphere between the two aforementioned countries, by stating non-interference and non-aggression regarding the actions of the opposing country's government. Delegates at this conference must also consider how active of a physical, political, or military presence they wish to have in the conflict of the Cold War, as well as considering the impact that this decision will have with foreign powers, who could potentially help develop their infrastructure. This is a conference where policy making and diplomacy are to be used to enforce goals, instead of the power of a military.

Controversy Surrounding the Conference

Several nations were purposely excluded from this conference, despite being located in the geographical areas that most other countries were invited from. These nations are North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan, Israel, and South Africa. They were excluded over concern for their opinions; the rest of the colonies are all currently thought to be more or less in unison in terms of

their ideas. The aforementioned countries are currently involved in controversy of various types and could throw off the desired unity.

There is also significant concern over the support that Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China has expressed for the aims of this conference. Their support is understandable, as the root of communism has to do with equality, and equality is not granted in colonialism. However, this has worried western countries, especially the United States, who feel as if these two countries will make anti-western statements at the conference, which could in turn cause anti-western sentiment.

History of the Problem

A desire to extend trading routes, harvest raw materials, establish political dominance, and bring "civilization" and Christian ideals to the "dark continent" all spurred the so-called "Scramble for Africa." This was essentially a mad frenzy amongst European nations during the mid-19th century to colonize or govern portions of Africa. The Berlin Conference of 1884 made this possible, with different western nations laying claim to "spheres of influence" within Africa. This entailed European powers deciding amongst themselves to colonize and rule the majority of Africa; a decision made without actually allowing African representatives to attend the conference. The majority of this land was distributed to Portugal, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, or France. Due to the results of this conference, roughly 110 million people within 30 different colonies became subjects of foreign rule.

After this conference, many of these European nations attempted to make treaties with the local leaders of the area of Africa that they planned on occupying. Despite the fact that sizeable portions of these leaders agreed to these treaties, many of these leaders had misinterpreted the terms of the agreement to which they had signed. Instead of the diplomatic or economic treaty they thought they had agreed to, they soon realized that they had actually opened the door for foreign militaries and for European powers to reap the raw materials of the land, for profit. This caused a variety of uprisings; both in terms of formal military action, and guerilla warfare. One of the few semi-successful movements led by the rebels was the Igbo tribe's progress against the British in Nigeria. Although they were eventually beaten by the British, they still progressed further than most

other rebels; usually, African dissidents stood no chance against the superior weapons and technology of the Europeans. Others leaders simply felt coerced into signing these treaties; intimidated by the strength, power, and technological advancement of these foreign powers. However, some leaders did knowingly agree to the treaties, with the rationale that it would boost the economy of their area.

There are several different reasons and ways that the various colonies were ruled. In some cases, companies were allowed to colonize Africa on behalf of their nations. This benefitted the ruling country in that they profited economically from increased trade and a wider variety of products, yet did not have to pay to set up the system of government or to cover other expenses. However, most of these companies were forced to turn over their power to Britain by the end of the nineteenth century. For instance, the British East Africa Company began ruling Kenya in 1888; five years later it was forced to return control of Kenya to Britain itself, both for political and economic reasons. The most common method of British rule was indirect rule. For this method, assigned local leaders were designated as “chiefs” and given the authority to rule over individuals in their assigned region, on behalf of a European nation. However, assigning a leader to a certain group of people posed difficulties. In some areas of Africa, only stateless societies existed, rather than tribes or formal governments. This proved problematic, because Britain had assumed that Africans would be either in tribes or in communities that would already have a default leader of some sort. In decentralized areas, this was not the case, and giving enormous amounts of power to individuals not used to being politically or socially significant caused some abuses of authority. It was also problematic because these “chiefs” were assigned to areas without the British taking into consideration the different languages and cultures already presiding there, and which might conflict with one another. By contrast, the French usually employed direct rule. This meant that they had Europeans directly ruling over their subjects within their colonies. They used the tactic of “divide and rule,” exploiting the geographical, political, language, and social barriers of the people that they

ruled to ensure that their power as the colonial force remained dominant. Finally, settlers sometimes came over with the individual leaders of colonies, in what was called settler rule. This was most common in southern Africa.

In all types of rules, and especially direct rule, Europeans tried to assimilate and Anglicize their African subjects. As mentioned above, one reason for colonization was the feeling of racial superiority, and the perceived need to “civilize” Africans, who were viewed as savage. This attitude is perfectly captured in Rudyard Kipling’s wildly popular 1899 poem, “The White Man’s Burden,” which asserts a duty for whites to civilize “your new-caught, sullen people/half-devil and half child”. Part of this assimilation was done through the spread of religion; 40% of Africans identified as Christians by the early 1900’s.

The world wars also affected colonial rule. For instance, after World War I, as part of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany was forced to turn over its’ colonies to the League of Nations. This meant more power being given to certain countries, such as France and England. During World War II, American President Theodore Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill issued the document “The Atlantic Charter”. This charter issued a variety of goals for a post-war world, including the self-government of nations; an idea that planted sparks of nationalism and hope for independence within the colonies of Allied Powers. However, it was Roosevelt that pushed for this aspect of the charter, and Churchill was displeased with this part of the charter’s vision. Additionally, many Africans also became disillusioned with the fact that they fought in World War II against the Axis Powers, supposedly against countries that were depriving humans of rights, yet they themselves were not able to experience true freedom under what they were assured was the “good” side of countries fighting.

Recent Resistance to Imperial Rule

Some of the resistance to imperialism has been passive-aggressive; subtle, day-to-day actions that attempt to undermine the authority of the imperial powers in question. There has also been economic resistance. From the 1920’s-1930’s, there were several unsuccessful attempts throughout Africa to have workers unionize and push for more rights. Around this time period, farmers in Mali also managed to circumnavigate the rules on the production of cotton that their colonizers had set forth.

Religion has been another point of conflict. In addition to early uprisings, African Independent Churches have sprung up around the continent; placing an emphasis on preaching equality, freedom, and justice.

There have also been revolts as means of protesting colonial rule. One of the most famous of these revolts is the 1929 Aba Women's War, a protest that occurred in Nigeria. This "war" was actually a series of riots spanning over several months, in which 25,000 Igbo women fought back against the restrictive policies of the British through both mocking songs and dances and physical fighting. Roughly 100 people were either killed or injured during these riots when the British fired into a crowd, spurring outrage amongst African Citizens.

Finally, tension has been rising in the form of organized leadership and organized opposition. Kwame Nkrumah is one such figure of leading importance in the independence movement. Already a member of the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC), Nkrumah recruited thousands of people to his organization, the Convention People's Party (CPP). They have since been instrumental in both rebellions and strikes. Another key figure in the independence movement is Jomo Kenyatta, who is working for Kenyan independence. He is responsible for helping to expand and lead the militant Mau Mau group against the British. A state of emergency was declared in 1952 as a result of Mau Mau's violence; thousands have been killed so far in uprisings against the British.

Analysis of the Issue

For decades, nearly 90% of Africa has been under colonization by various European powers. Prior to this conference, less than five African Nations have been able to formally declare independence from their colonial rulers. Despite this low number, numerous nations have expressed their displeasure at being ruled by foreign powers. This issue is ongoing; even in the nineteenth century, there were numerous revolts and attempts at undermining power of the European rulers. Currently, rebellion is manifesting itself in a variety of ways; from organized groups going into revolt, to farmers that refuse to produce the amount of

crops that they are required to. Regardless of what is decided at this conference, it is clear that some sort of action needs to be taken.

All of the countries invited to this conference have an interest in the decolonization movement. However, not all countries, and not all individuals, share the same view on how this should be done. To some nations, it is enough to gradually break off ties with their former rulers, and even maintaining their economic ties with them. Others steadfastly refuse to take any other path than immediate emancipation from their colonizers. Each solution presents problems. If not enough ties are broken with colonial powers, those that are sympathetic to the independence movement might continue to revolt. Conversely, breaking off all ties to more powerful countries leaves the newly formed country vulnerable to attack or to a coup, where a dictator could come to power. The lack of infrastructure in a new nation also presents problems in terms of education, sanitation, housing, public works, and the governing of both local and international affairs.

Finally, it should be taken into account that these former powers may prove resistant to change. The fact that communist nations such as Soviet Russia and the People's Republic of China are supporting the goals of this conference has also put the adversaries of those countries on guard; several nations, especially the United States, are concerned that these two countries have the ability to spread anti-western sentiment amongst the countries at the conference.

The issues of non-interference, involvement in the Cold War, and decolonization need to be addressed in a way that satisfy a variety of different cultures, in a variety of geographical settings. The tension over decolonization has been building for decades, and chaos and revolutions could soon erupt if a solution is not reached soon. Regardless of how these issues are solved, it is clear that it will require diplomacy and dedication of all of the delegates involved- a solution needs to be reached, and it needs to be reached before any more violence or disorder can erupt.

Asia's Perspective on Post-Colonialism

To understand Asia's role in the Bandung Conference, Asia must first be defined. Historically, the term 'Asia' has been used from a Western perspective- a term used in context of an imperialist history. Asia has

been the negative space of the West, always compared to the West in qualitative differences. As the historian Harry Harootunian said, “It has been one of the enduring ironies of the study of Asia that Asia itself, as an object, simply doesn’t exist.” Asia had been a land of colonies to Western powers before 1945- much of its modern standing in world politics developed in the Cold War. In 1955, at the time of the Bandung Conference, 15 independent nations went from Asia, including Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. For the purposes of the conference, any former colony on the Asian continent represents the perspective of Asia.

Each country attended the conference to represent matters in the interest of their own sovereignty, but unwittingly brought with them ideas and interests of their former colonial powers. The Bandung Conference, as the first major postcolonialism conference between Africa and Asia, strove for multilateralism, but often fell into European post-structuralism, or relying too heavily on the systems of government and organization that European powers had left in the countries they occupied.

The nation-states we know today originated mainly from the aftermath of World War II. After the war, when colonial troops fought alongside their Western powers against the Axis Powers, decolonization movements such as the 1941 Atlantic Charter gained momentum. Fighting against the Nazi ideology of fascism, many colonies found it hypocritical to return to a government under white supremacy. After the founding of the UN in 1945, many colonies pushed for independence. The difference between European countries and Afro-Asian countries is that after the war, the European countries had to adjust their foreign laws to the new expectations of international government, namely the United Nations. However, the parts of Asia and Africa that were formerly under imperial rule did not even have their own government systems formed, let alone their foreign affairs.

The new dimension of international politics expected multilateralism, multiple countries working together on an issue. For example, 44 Allied nations negotiated monetary policy and rebuilt the international monetary system during World War II in the Bretton Woods conference. In

the past, colonies of Allied powers had played a part in the Second World War, supplying arms, provisions, and soldiers, but they acted in the capacity of their imperial power.

The impetus for the Bandung Conference was the 1945 call for support for Indonesian sovereignty. The Bandung Conference represents the first major multilateral Afro-Asian cooperation initiative. From the beginning, the countries decided to proceed only with unanimous decisions, so no majority or power bloc could determine the results of the conference. European powers, especially those that colonized many of the Afro-Asian countries held the unanimity rule in high regard. The Bandung Conference has its roots in the meeting of Colombo Powers, between Communist China, India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and Indonesia to outline their support for the latter country’s push for independence. In the countries’ desire for unanimity, they excluded countries that would cause violent controversies and virulent debate. Protection of their own homelands against threats to their newly realized sovereignty prioritized the debate for the first day.

As the date of the conference draws closer, keep in mind that each region desires support for their immediate struggles- for example, the Middle Eastern nations want to mobilize Afro-Asian opinion in support of their fight against Israel and France’s crushing imperialism on Northern Africa. India, on the other hand, wants the other countries to follow its example of neutrality between the East and West. China intends to put at rest fears of Western endangerment. Most of the countries will arrive at the conference newly freed from their colonial ties, but the economic and military ties still remain in several countries. Thus, their opinions could be influenced by the systems of government left in place by their former imperial powers. Russia and the United States are both excluded from the Conference in the interest of excluding ardent ideologies; however the countries invited represent all three frames of thought: pro-West, neutral, and Communist. As much as the Bandung organizers try to remain uninvolved, the Conference still echoes beliefs of the Cold War. The decisions of the Conference will require a great deal of compromise, because when the countries shed their colonial powers they did not lose their cultures, and now each represent a unique blend of Western and Afro/Asian thought. Delegates, please remember to prepare position papers. Also, keep in mind that you not

only represent the ideals and perspective of your country, but the subtle colonial influences that continue to underlie many of their governments. The conference serves as a forum for your beliefs, but to plan and execute effective policies, you and your fellow attendees must compromise. As a delegate of the Bandung Conference, you represent a unique viewpoint- that the so-called “first world” should not have the final say in the futures of your countries.

Questions to Consider

- Why were certain countries (Israel, North Korea, South Korea, South Africa and Taiwan) purposefully excluded from the Bandung Conference, even though they resided in areas that most other major countries were invited from? What tension or issues could this have created between countries? What issues rose as a result of it? Should these nations have been invited?
- What attributes should qualify a country as being “third world”? What, if any, are potential problems with terming a nation “third world”? What are better ways to classify and assist underdeveloped countries?
- What problems could manifest themselves in a country with little to no infrastructure and government? Would these problems be economic, political, or humanitarian? How could these problems be addressed?
- What are the similarities of the problems with colonialism and post-colonialism faced by Asia, versus faced by Africa? What are the similarities between them? What solutions would address the problems faced by each geographical area, while still being sensitive to the unique needs and cultures that each one has?
- Is it reasonable for foreign countries to act as a “guardian” over underdeveloped countries, and assist in establishing an infrastructure and temporarily protecting them, even if it potentially compromises the authority and sovereignty of the occupied nation?
- How, if at all, should the former colonial powers be addressed? Should business be

- done with them? Should they be allowed to help build the infrastructure of countries that they had formerly occupied, by way of retribution?
- If these countries should cease to be colonies, should their colonial powers pull out immediately or gradually? What are the pros and cons of each of these options? Should these former colonial powers be forced to pay reparations or assist the newly developing countries?
- Is violence ever justified as a means of changing unfair or harmful laws or practices? Are the rebels in countries currently revolting justified in using violence against those that have colonized their countries? What is the most effective way of making a political change?
- What do Soviet Russia and the People’s Republic of China have to gain by encouraging the independence of African nations? Conversely, how will their encouragements for independence negatively affect western or democratic countries?
- What are potential problems with having so many countries attend this conference? What are potential benefits? Which countries are most likely to be allies, or least likely to be allies? Should the excluded countries have been invited? Should the colonial powers have been invited, in order to be formally addressed? How should decisions made at this conference be both announced and enforced?

References for Further Research

- http://ignca.nic.in/ks_41062.htm- The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence are listed here, as well as details of the conference at which these principles were made. Since the Bandung Conference is expected to follow a similar format to this previous conference, this link may be helpful in preparing delegates for what to expect.
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/afri-ca-through-a-lens-the-colonial-office-photo-collection> - This link provides access to thousands of different photos from the time period of colonial Africa. These pictures show both everyday life and working condition, allowing the viewers to get a mental image of what living under a foreign power was like.

- <http://www.the-map-as-history.com/maps/5-history-europe-colonization.php> - A variety of maps here show pre-colonial Africa, the effects of colonialism on the boundaries of individual countries in Africa, and how the overall borders within Africa changed during the late-19th through early-20th centuries. This is useful to understand the changes within Africa, and to get a sense of the scale of colonialism.
- <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/08/02/independence.africa.colonialism> - This article provides an overview of colonialism in Africa, as well as a picture gallery of the conditions during colonialism.
- http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_16912.htm - A copy of the Atlantic Charter is included here. Since it helped to spark nationalism and to bring hope of a post-colonial world, it is helpful to read, especially when read with the mindset of a subject of a European Empire.

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Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Brain Trust

Jake Zaslav

Chair

Elijah Trexler

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up, Speak
Out*

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Hello delegates,

Welcome to Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Brain Trust. The year is 1933 and America is stuck deep in the Great Depression. The weak response of the Herbert Hoover administration accomplished almost nothing and the future of America looks bleak. The banks are failing, millions are unemployed, the agricultural industry is in shambles, and all confidence in the government has been lost. Franklin Delano Roosevelt has just been elected and the people demand change. This is why you, some of the greatest minds of your time, have been assembled- to solve this crisis. As his revered Brain Trust, you must help the president formulate the economic and social policies that will become the New Deal. President Roosevelt has asked that the policies you create be grouped into three different phases: relief, recovery, and reform. The first phase, relief, will be focused on providing aid to the unemployed and impoverished. This will include public employment programs as well as efforts to improve conditions for the poor. Policies under the recovery stage will concentrate on bringing the economy back to normal after the Great Depression. This will include legislation that regulates the farming and manufacturing industries, as well as, attempts to fix issues plaguing the economy like deflation. The final group of laws will work to reform the country's financial system and enact long-lasting welfare programs to act as a safety net for future crises. The country is in dire need of change and it is your job as members of the Brain Trust to create this change and help save the country from sinking deeper into this depression.

We are excited to be your chairs for such an exciting weekend! We'd also like to remind you to write a position paper; the guidelines for this are on gsmun.net and if you have any questions feel free to email us at gsmun.braintrust@gmail.com. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. We'd like to remind you that all of your work on your position paper must be original; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat. We look forward to meeting you and hearing your well-prepared debate!

Your Chairs,



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Committee Background

Introduction

The Brain Trust was first formed in 1932 in order to help with Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidential election campaign. Originally composed of three professors from Columbia University in New York City, the group soon expanded to include bankers, journalists, and politicians in Roosevelt's cabinet. While the Brain Trust never actually met together in an official setting, all of the members were extremely influential in forming both the economic and social policies of Roosevelt's New Deal.

Causes of the Great Depression

The Great Depression was a culmination of many financial factors. An unexpected stock market crash led to widespread bank failures. A weak federal response, combined with a few unforeseeable problems such as a sweeping drought all exacerbated the problem. This left banks in a very precarious position in 1933, as they had overinvested before the economic crash. Over 5,000 banks were shut down and most others faced a host of problems as most members had had their confidence in the bank system shaken.

The American economy rapidly expanded during the 1920's, and as a result the stock market grew. Investors saw the boom in prices (from 1920 to 1929, stocks' values increased by over 300%) and assumed the market would keep growing. They often borrowed money, banking on a rise in stock prices to provide them the means to pay off their loans. This is referred to as "buying on margin". This effectively had the effect of magnifying any change in the stock market. If a stock's price went up by even a small fraction, then the investor's earnings were much larger than if they did not buy on margin. Unfortunately, the same was true for any losses. This "get rich quick" attitude pervaded American society, as many inexperienced, ordinary people took out large

loans and mortgaged houses to purchase stocks without even considering the possibility of stock prices falling. Even banks were not immune to this fervor, as many of them invested large portions of their deposits into risky stocks. As this occurred, the stock market began to outgrow the economy, and peaked in August 1929, when the stocks were vastly overpriced.

This "bubble" popped on October 24th, 1929, when many investors, fearing the inflated values of stocks would fall, sold stock in a panic. Over the next few days, the market crashed. In November of that year, the Dow Jones plummeted, dropping from \$400 to \$145. This was hugely detrimental for two reasons. First, many Americans, ranging from millionaire margin investors to middle class families who dabbled in the market, effectively became bankrupt. However, even those who stayed out of the stock market felt the effects. Most banks invested a dangerous amount of deposits in the stock market, and when it crashed, they lost many people's savings. The crash caused a loss of \$145 billion in deposits. This especially hurt what are known as isolated banks. There are two types of banks-isolated and branch. Branch banks, as the name implies, are all connected to a system of banks. When the stock market crash and subsequent runs on banks occurred, branch banks were better prepared (though not nearly fully prepared) to handle it by sharing funds. However, isolated banks had no support system to rely on and were especially unprepared for the crash and its effects.

The stock market crash was only the beginning cause of a series of economic woes for the American people. A series of bank runs began in 1930. Essentially, a bank run is when most bank patrons withdraw all deposits from the bank, because they are worried about the stability of the bank. These runs were often sparked by a realization of the banks precarious situation and lack of physical money. By this time, many rural banks were

plagued by a downturn in crop prices, which had led to many farmers defaulting on loans. Urban banks also faced large amounts of investors and middle class patrons defaulting on their loans. This was all in addition to the aforementioned problem of the banks losing massive amounts in the stock market.

Bank runs were dangerous to the economy because the panic they caused spread like wildfire. What could start with a few families worried about the stability of the banks once they caught wind of the problems banks were facing, often exploded into many of the patrons demanding their deposit. During this period thousands of banks declared bankruptcy. This situation continued for several years.

After the Depression first struck, the federal response was poor, ineffective, and at times, damaging to the recovery efforts. A strong emphasis on Protectionism, a lack of action by Hoover, and poor monetary policies implemented by the Federal Reserve all served to dampen recovery efforts. It is hard to say decisively how much of an effect they had upon the economy, but it is safe to say these were not very effective.

As the Great Depression took hold, so did Protectionism. This was the policy of using tariffs to protect a country's own economy, at the expense of global trade. It had its roots in the 1922 Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act, which raised tariffs and gave the president limited authority to alter the tariff levels. This was not a huge detriment to international trade by itself. However, in 1930, the Smoot-Hawley tariff was passed. This was a much larger tariff, and it had many harmful side effects. It was initially created and passed to bolster the American agriculture sector, as overproduction in the 1920's had lowered crop prices, which as mentioned before harmed many farmer's abilities to repay loans, which posed a huge threat to rural banks. It also sparked a global Protectionism fever. Between 1929 and 1934, international trade declined by 66%. US exports to Europe fell by over 50% and decreased by a total of roughly

one and a half billion dollars. The global economy was already weak, and the selfish policies implemented by both the US and many other countries harmed it even more.

One notable aspect of the Depression is its widespread effects. Not only did it affect the American economy, but due to the spread of Protectionism, among other factors, the entire global economy actually slumped. The lack of international trade severely harmed nearly every country in the world. In addition, unstable currency rates plagued nations and decreased investor confidence.

There are a few unrelated but still important factors in the Great Depression. A drought swept the plains region, known as the "Dust Bowl". This further harmed the already devastated rural economies and provided another obstacle to recovery. There was pre-existing wealth disparity, caused by the general raising of the wealthy's wages but not the middle class. This was due to the rise of mass production. The dangerous side effect was the lowering of buying power of the average American, which plunged businesses profits after the situation took hold. This phenomenon was known as "production shock". Private debt increased by roughly 50% at this time, and spending at this rate was unsustainable ultimately contributing to the collapse of the economy. Another side effect was the increase of the amount of product available on the market, which outpaced the growth of the buyers in the market. Thereby deflating American currency.

Banks During the Great Depression

The bank situation during the Great Depression was very poor. Thousands of banks had declared bankruptcy and ceased to function, while the rest were running low on reserve funds and found themselves vulnerable to bank runs. Compounding the already difficult situation were different problems faced by rural and urban banks.

Urban banks were especially susceptible to economic problems, such as the stock market crash, or the issues associated

the “production shock”. The banks also faced this major issue of corruption. The New York Bank of the United States was shut down in 1930 due to a host of corruption-linked occurrences. It had repeatedly bought its own stock, driving up and artificially increasing stock prices. In addition, they had \$37,000,000 in risky loans, which the heads of the bank had ignored and lied about in reports to shareholders. When, in December of 1930, these problems were made public, a huge rush by worried investors shut down the bank, despite large cash injections provided by the American government.

Rural banks avoided some of the pitfalls of the financial system, and were not affected as much by it. However, they faced a host of other problems. For ten years leading up to the Great Depression, farm prices had been very low. This resulted in many non-repayable loans. This often caused banks to not have as much cash reserves as projected, and in some cases they would actually lose money on loans. Banks with limited reserves were weak to runs and panics.

As banks began to fail, so too did the American economy. From 1929 to 1933 the national GDP fell almost 50%, while the value of goods and services that the economy produced fell by about 42%. By 1933, over 100,000 businesses had failed. As a result, a wave of unemployment swept throughout the country. At its height, the unemployment rate reached over 25%. Major companies like Ford and General Electric began getting rid of a large percentage of their workers and closing down factories across America. Those who were still employed often encountered cuts in wages and working hours. For example, in 1932, one Congressman in Birmingham, Alabama noted that only 8,000 of the 108,000 workers in the city were employed full time. In addition, all workers had “serious cuts in their wages and many of them [did] not [earn] over \$1.50 per day.”

Poverty During the Great Depression

Massive poverty ravaged American life

as an increasing number of unemployed workers lost their homes and assets. Soon shantytowns, known as “Hoovervilles” after then president, Herbert Hoover, began appearing across the country. Starting in Seattle, Hoovervilles were made up of poorly constructed one-room huts where homeless workers would live in destitution. These towns posed a number of dangers to those that inhabited them, including increased susceptibility to disease and fires. Despite these dangers, Hoovervilles continued to grow in popularity as they provided inhabitants with a sense of community and a form of shelter.

With unemployment rates rising and schools closing, over 250,000 teenagers left their home to live a nomadic lifestyle known as “riding the rails.” These teens, called “boxcar children”, would sneak onto trains to travel around America seeking employment and new adventures. However, “riding the rails” also posed many risks to young adults. Those caught trespassing were brutally beaten or sent to jail. Exposure to vermin, as well as, malnourishment and a general lack of cleanliness led to the spread of diseases among these destitute children. Unfortunately, hospitals would rarely admit these teens, thereby increasing the likelihood of death.

Although the Great Depression affected all Americans, African-Americans suffered especially harsh conditions. By 1932, half of all African-Americans in southern states, such as North Carolina Georgia, were jobless. Moreover, as unemployment increased among whites, animosity towards the black population increased as well. Groups like the Black Shirts began organizing campaigns against African-Americans calling for “no jobs for [black men] until every white man has a job.” Whites also vandalized African-American’s homes and resorted to violent acts such as lynching, in order to intimidate the African-American community. During this period, millions of blacks began to migrate from the South to northern industrial cities like New York and Detroit to escape racism and find new jobs. Unfortunately,

unemployment levels for blacks remained the same in the North as they had in the South. Latin and Asian Americans encountered similar discrimination and unemployment rates and many, especially Mexicans, were effectively forced to leave the country.

The elderly population in America also faced many issues during the Great Depression. Prior to the Great Depression, retirees supported themselves with the money saved while employed, which was usually very little. Businesses rarely provided pension for their workers. In fact by 1932, only 5% of elderly Americans were receiving money from a retirement plan. There were no federal government programs to provide care for the elderly, so the burden commonly fell upon charities and family members. However, supporting elderly relatives became increasingly hard for most Americans as unemployment rates grew and wages shrunk.

Rural Life During the Great Depression

Additionally, the Great Depression was not exclusively an urban problem. Even before the height of the Great Depression, rural America was suffering. In the 1920's, although demand for agricultural products had decreased, new technologies, like tractors, made it easier for farmers to reap larger harvests than ever before. Therefore, there was a much greater supply than the demand required. Furthermore, as the Great Depression worsened in Europe, demand for agricultural products decreased even more. All of these factors caused farm prices to drop dramatically in the early 1930s, resulting in a 60% decline in farm income between 1929 and 1932.

Life for the American farmer became more challenging as the decade progressed. Unsustainable, agricultural practices in rural America, like dry-land farming and over-grazing, rendered miles of farmland useless. In 1930, a severe drought swept across the plains and southwest region eliminating even more farmland and creating a barren area called the Dust Bowl. Soon massive winds swept up

large amounts of overused soil resulting in dust storms. Known as Black Blizzards, these dust storms destroyed homes, suffocated farmers' livestock and whisked away soil from farmland. The drought severely weakened the already struggling rural economy.

As drought and dust storms devastated farms and rural towns, farmers began to leave their homes and move westward. During the 1930's, over one-fourth of farmers migrated to search for new jobs in western states like California. Most of these farmers and their families came from the state of Oklahoma, causing them to be called Okies. However, people migrated from all over the southwest and plains regions including Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas. These farmers would travel across the West working for extremely low wages as agricultural migrants. Unfortunately, many of these migrants faced discrimination in the areas they moved to. For example, a "Bum Blockade" was established in Los Angeles to prevent migrants from coming to the city.

Throughout America, agricultural communities lacked many of the basic amenities and services found in urban areas, especially electricity. By the 1930's, only 10% of rural America had access to electricity. Most families used only kerosene lamps for light. However, without electricity, farmers and their families lacked access to running water posing many sanitation and health issues. The absence of electricity also made food refrigeration and preservation extremely difficult. One author noted that spoilage from the lack of refrigeration caused the loss of "25% of the value of all hogs slaughtered on farms." However, these rural areas lacked the infrastructure like dams to support efforts to provide electricity. These conditions exacerbated the effect of the Great Depression.

Response of the Hoover Administration

Before Roosevelt took office, his predecessor Herbert Hoover, made several attempts to end the Great Depression. A

staunch Republican, Hoover preferred to take a more hands-off approach believing that the government's job was to "bring about a condition of affairs favorable to the beneficial development of private enterprise." During his term as president, Hoover avoided government interaction in the economy and declined to sign laws that would increase the country's debt. Instead, in the early stages of the depression, he advocated for volunteerism within communities, requesting private charities and local governments to provide aid to the impoverished. Hoover also met with business leaders in Washington, requesting that they hold off on firing employees and cutting wages. However, by 1931, volunteerism proved ineffective.

Ultimately, as the Great Depression worsened, Hoover finally acquiesced to demands for federal government aid. In 1931, President Hoover called for Congress to provide \$423,000,000 for public works projects, while calling upon state and local governments to increase their own public construction efforts. Unfortunately, this increase was not enough to stymie the depression and Hoover became even more reluctant to increase national debt through providing federal aid. However, in early 1932, Herbert Hoover signed a new bill establishing the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The RFC would grant federal loans to financial institutions and businesses while also funding local public works and aid programs. Once again, this attempt was unsuccessful. Instead of helping small businesses and communities, federal loans were only given out to large business and banks. The RFC also only gave out 10% of its funds allotted for local relief efforts and 20% for public works because as author Alan Brinkley wrote, "at Hoover's insistence it only helped finances those public works projects that promised to pay for themselves." By the end of his term in 1932, Americans were angry at Hoover, blaming him for the continuation of the depression. This anger was the foundation of the political rise of FDR.

Call to Action

Delegates, the year is 1933, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt has just been inaugurated as President of the United States of America. As his revered Brain Trust, you must help the president formulate the economic and social policies that will become the New Deal. President Roosevelt has asked that the policies be grouped into three different phases: relief, recovery, and reform. The first phase, Relief, will be focused on providing aid to the unemployed and impoverished. This will include public employment programs as well as efforts to improve conditions for the poor. Policies under the Recovery stage will concentrate on bringing the economy back to normal after the Great Depression. This will include regulation of the farming and manufacturing industries, as well as, attempts to fix issues plaguing the economy like deflation. The third phase, Reform, will work to reform the country's financial system and enact long-lasting welfare programs to act as a safety net for future crises. The country is in dire need of change and it is your job as members of the Brain Trust to create this change and help save the country from sinking deeper into this depression.

Questions to Consider

1. In your opinion what was the biggest factor contributing to the Great Depression? What can be done in retrospect to combat that issue?
2. What are some immediate steps that can be taken to alleviate some of the issues such as unemployment and poverty that afflict the American people?
3. How can America rebuild global trust?
4. Are there any measures that can be taken to protect minorities and other groups who have specific troubles? What?
5. What are the similarities and

differences in the problems faced by rural and urban communities? What are some different solutions to those specific problems?

6. What were some of the issues with how Hoover approached the situation? What should be done differently?
7. What steps can be taken to stimulate the economy so that it can return to pre-depression levels?
8. What can be done in the long term to prevent a depression such as this from happening again, once recovery is complete?

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Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Dear Delegates,

We're excited to welcome you to this year's Governor's School Model UN Conference! The Committee on Disarmament and International Security is among the most powerful and influential bodies in the United Nations and is responsible for carrying out the core mission of the UN: demilitarization and the security of our global community. As delegates, you will carry out this committee's mission while focusing on our topics of the Arms Race in Space and Foreign Interventionism. Both topics are important to the peace and security the United Nations works to preserve and require the ingenuity and hard work of all the delegates in this committee if these issues are to be addressed.

Andrew McCullough is thrilled to serve as one of your chairs this year! In addition to Model UN, he participates in Model Congress and runs on the Maggie Walker Cross Country and Track teams. In what little free time remains, he enjoys reading, running, programming, researching political policy, and spending time with his dog, Kali.

Ketty Bai, your other co-chair, is a sophomore at Maggie Walker. She is very excited to hear your ideas and opinions regarding the topics of this committee. Besides Model UN, she enjoys figure skating and playing piano. She is on a competitive synchronized skating team, a sport that is quickly gaining popularity. This is her third year involved in GSMUN, and wants to provide you as great an experience as the one she got when she was a delegate.

Yashna Nainani is also a sophomore and is thrilled to serve as your vice chair this year! This is her second year involved in GSMUN. In addition to Model UN, Yashna participates in Model Congress, Robotics, Future Medical Professions, and many other clubs that she can't keep track of. In her limited free time, she likes listening to music, singing said music off-key, obsessing over Disney movies, making references to anything and everything, and dancing through the night. Yashna is looking forward to this year's conference and hopes it opens up a whole new world for all participants.

In preparation for this committee, please take the time to read the background guide provided by your chairs and research your country's position on these issues. Although you need to adhere to your government's general stance on these issues, you should also develop your own opinion on these topics. Additionally, you need to write a position paper on both of the topics to be discussed in this committee prior to the conference. Make sure you bring at least 2 copies to your first committee meeting on Friday. Please keep in mind that honor is very important to both the organizers of this conference and the other delegates who are participating in it. Breaches of this honor, including plagiarism, will result in award disqualification. While GSMUN may look daunting, we want you to realize that the most important thing is not how well you embellish your work or how often you speak, but the quality of your ideas. We look forward to meeting you all in committee! If you have any questions or need help researching, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at gsmun.disec@gmail.com. Good luck!

Sincerely,



Andrew McCullough

gsmun.disec@gmail.com



Ketty Bai

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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The Committee on Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It seeks solutions to disarmament and international security issues among nations and promotes the preservation of peace and cooperation. DISEC, also known as the First Committee, was created following the events of World War II. The leaders of each nation met for the first session in January of 1946. The structure of each session is separated into general debate, then discussions on certain topics, and lastly the drafting of resolutions.

Topic I: Foreign Intervention in International Conflicts

Introduction

Since ancient times, Romans, Mongols, and dozens of other ethnic groups have conquered hundreds of civilizations and politically intervened in thousands more. The British empire is the most recent example of such dominance. At its peak, Great Britain controlled 13 million square miles of the planet, nearly a quarter of the Earth's land. Yet the gradual disintegration of the British empire throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries indicated the end of foreign domination at such a scale. During the twentieth century, the United States and the Soviet Union overtly and covertly interfered in dozens of nations across the globe, constantly trying to defeat the other in an ever-shifting and fast-moving conflict that lasted decades. Today, developed nations like the United States and Great Britain rarely intervene in international conflicts unless human rights are at stake or their domestic security is threatened. Since 2001, the United States, the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the United Nations have waged a "War on Terror," invading and intervening in countries considered terrorist threats or flagrant

violators of human rights, like Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia.

It is important to keep in mind that a specific distinction between invasion and intervention has yet to be created. While foreign interventionism is technically defined as "the policy of intervening...in the affairs of another state," the line between invasion and intervention remains blurry. In this document, the primary distinction is the intent behind the conflict. Foreign intervention (by this definition) is intended to protect the intervening country's national security or modify the policy of another nation — whether economic, foreign, or governmental — while invasion is intended to simply gain land and natural resources. Accordingly, intervention could be compared to puppet rule (if the intervention was solely self-serving for the country intervening), while invasion would be more analogous to direct rule. Furthermore (and as mentioned above), most interventions today are aimed at bettering the country experiencing the intervention, not just the country intervening, as in Iraq and Libya.

The topic of foreign interference in international conflicts has never been more relevant. As civil war rages in Syria, conflict between Israel and Hamas continues, militant groups like ISIS tear across Iraq, rebels fight the government in Ukraine, and violent unrest persists in Libya and Egypt, the United Nations — and specifically, this committee — must clearly define intervention for the world and decide who should be allowed to conduct interventions and when they are necessary.

History

The first real example of foreign interventionism, at least by this definition, is the First Opium War. During the conflict, Great Britain clashed with the Qing dynasty, whose attempts to reduce the smuggling of opium from the area rendered British traders unable to keep up with their own nation's

demand. When the war finally ended in August 1842 after nearly 20,000 Chinese casualties, the Daoguang Emperor was forced to sign the Treaty of Nanking, which ceded Hong Kong Island and port cities in China, Taiwan, Korea, and Japan to the British Empire and destroyed China's monopoly on trade — most importantly, of opium — within the region. Nearly fourteen years later, the Second Opium War erupted. As China became more reluctant to follow the exorbitant terms of the Treaty of Nanking, Great Britain, this time with France at their side, struck at the Qing empire again, with similar results. After the Chinese defeat, the Xianfeng Emperor was forced to sign the Treaty of Tianjin, which ceded more Chinese ports to the British, loosened trade restrictions on opium, and allowed Christian missionaries to enter the country. As the Treaties of Nanking and Tianjin prove, the Opium Wars were an intervention, not an invasion; Great Britain did not gain direct control over China or its land, but instead modified China's economic and foreign policies so as to wield indirect control over the country, its resources, and its economy.

China was again the recipient of foreign intervention in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion, when the Chinese “Militia United in Righteousness” led a rabidly nationalistic anti-Christian rebellion against foreigners throughout the country. In June 1900, Boxer fighters, believing they could not be defeated by foreign weapons, marched on Beijing, wielding the slogan, “Support the Qing, exterminate the foreigners.” Then-empress Dowager Cixi supported the Boxers and allowed them into the city. Diplomats, foreign civilians and soldiers, and Chinese Christians fled to the Legation Quarter, and remained under siege by the Imperial Army of China and the Boxers for 55 days until military forces of the Eight-Nation Alliance — the United Kingdom, Russia, Japan, France, the United States, Italy, and Austria-Hungary — defeated the Imperial Army, captured Beijing, executed any suspected to be associated with the Boxers, and plundered the capital and the

surrounding countryside. In this instance, the nations intervening in China did so both for economic stability (as the British and French did during the First and Second Opium Wars) and the security of their own citizens, another distinction between intervention and invasion.

The next great example of foreign interventionism occurred 3,000 miles to the northwest, when, in 1917, the Russian Bolsheviks (dubbed the “Red Army”) rebelled against pro-government forces (the “White Army”) in the country. Throughout the conflict, the Allies provided munitions and supplies to the White Army, and after World War I, backed the anti-Bolshevik forces in Russia. With the Allies hampered by war-weariness, they soon withdrew, allowing Russia to fall to the communist forces of the Red Army. The Allies' motivation to intervene in Russia was for reasons of both national security and political policy, classifying their involvement in the conflict as an intervention, albeit a failed one.

In fact, the Bolshevik Revolution led to nearly seven decades of proxy conflict between communist and capitalist forces across the globe, called the Cold War. From 1918 to 1992, frosty diplomatic relations and dozens of proxy wars filled the conflict with plenty of examples of foreign interventionism. In the Vietnam and Korean Wars, the United States intervened militarily in an attempt to slow the spread of the “Iron Curtain,” the capitalists' term for communism's growing influence. Lesser-known interventions occurred in Iran and Guatemala, where Central Intelligence Agency operations toppled communist regimes without the help of military forces. During the Cold War, it was evident that conflicts were motivated by interventionism, not a desire for land — both Russia and the United States were fighting to change the political policies of the countries they were fighting in, not expand their borders in a grab for more land.

It is only in recent decades, however, that the United Nations has begun to involve itself in and even condone interventions during specific conflicts. The first example of

U.N. involvement in an intervention occurred during the Gulf War in 1990. The catalyst for the conflict was Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a sovereign nation on the northwest coast of the Persian Gulf. Within hours of the invasion, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 660, condemning the invasion and demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops. When Iraq failed to respond to the resolution, subsequent resolutions were passed placing economic sanctions on the country and enforcing it with a naval blockade. Iraq's invasion was also met by the coalition forces of thirty-four nations, including the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and many other members of the United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization. After a decisive coalition victory, Iraq withdrew from Kuwait and passed United Nations Security Council Resolution 687, which established the terms of the ceasefire. Clearly, the United Nations played a large and invaluable role in orchestrating military operations and resolving the conflict.

U.N. involvement also occurred during and after an intervention in the Kosovo War, a year-long conflict in Kosovo, a now-independent nation in southeastern Europe that remained under the governance of Yugoslavia during the Cold War. As the Soviet Union began to disintegrate, so to did satellite states like Yugoslavia, which splintered throughout the late 1980s and early 1990s into Serbia, Montenegro, and the semi-independent nation of Kosovo. Though not formally recognized by any nation but Albania, its ethnic distinction from the other nations that once were part of Yugoslavia made it aspire for independence. Serbia did not support those aspirations, a sentiment which was further reinforced after armed rebels in Kosovo began attacking Serbian military and police forces in the country. When Serbian and Yugoslavian military forces began fighting back, they displaced more than 230,000 people in Kosovo and led to the United Nations' concern over "the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Serbian

security forces and the Yugoslav Army." (Resolution 1199) Further resolutions demanded Yugoslavian withdrawal from the region and humanitarian aid for injured civilians and refugees. While the U.N. did not authorize military intervention in the region, NATO did after attempts at a diplomatic solution failed. The war ended with the Kumanovo Treaty, which stipulated the withdrawal of Yugoslavian forces from the region and, with the help of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, authorized an international military presence in the country. International supervision continued until 2012, after Kosovo declared independence from Serbia.,

Intervention against Iraq occurred for a second time in 2003, when the United States brought allegations of human rights violations and the use of weapons of mass destruction against Iraq to the United Nations. The Security Council had passed Resolution 1441 six months before the invasion, which offered Iraq "a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations" as set out in previous resolutions. In March 2003, the United States stated that "diplomacy had failed" and that it would proceed to use military force against Saddam Hussein and his forces. The U.N. Security Council was highly divided over the invasion. The United States, the United Kingdom, and Spain supported an invasion of the country, while other members of the Security Council were more hesitant, with many echoing France's sentiment that "...military intervention would be the worst possible solution." The supporting nations withdrew the resolution, as it was clear the motion was unlikely to pass, and invaded Iraq without the explicit support of the U.N. or its Security Council. Despite the invasion's success, then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated in 2004 that, "From our point of view, from the charter point of view, it was illegal." The decision to invade Iraq remains highly contentious today, three years after the United States withdrew from the country., A poll conducted by Gallup in June 2014 found that 57% of Americans believed that sending

troops to Iraq was a mistake, and 54% believe that the United States should not intervene despite the aggression of the Islamic State.

The latest major United Nations intervention occurred in response to the Libyan Civil War in 2011. When protestors supporting the ousting of then-ruler Muammar Gaddafi were fired upon by government security forces, the riots devolved into rebellion. The U.N. responded to the conflict with Resolution 1970, imposing sanctions on the Libyan government, freezing the assets of Gaddafi and his inner circle, and condemning the use of violence by Libyan forces against unarmed civilians. When the government continued to use force against civilians, the Security Council passed Resolution 1973, which supported an immediate ceasefire in the country, imposed a no-fly zone over the area, and tightened sanctions on the Gaddafi regime. The U.N. authorized the use of military strength to enforce the resolution, and naval blockades and airstrikes were implemented by the countries involved. NATO provided much of the military support called for by the resolution. The intervention ended with a decisive coalition victory and the death of dictator Mummer Gaddafi. While it does draw criticism, the intervention was largely well-received by the media and the governments of the world.

Current Situation

Today, the United Nations is actively involved in sixteen peacekeeping missions across the globe, in locations ranging from Kosovo to Haiti to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and everywhere in between. Nearly 120,000 U.N. personnel from 122 countries staff these locations, serving important roles like monitoring peace agreements, protecting civilians, and securing dangerous locations. The job of peacekeeping is not entirely peaceful, however: nearly 1,500 U.N. staff lives have been claimed by the sixteen operations that are active today. These fatalities should be considered in any

proposed intervention or peacekeeping operation.

Delegates should also consider the mixed success of past interventions. While dozens of U.N. peacekeeping operations have been quite successful, many highly publicized interventions like the Gulf and Iraq Wars and the intervention in Libya have proven to be less successful over time than originally hoped. After the combined efforts of the U.S., the U.K., and Spain were able to defeat Saddam Hussein's forces, a new threat has appeared on the horizon. An extremist militant group called the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria has been capturing cities and towns across Iraq and slaughtering and displacing thousands of Iraqis and Syrians as a result of their aggression. Because Iraq has been largely unable of stopping ISIS in their tracks, it has led some to believe that the U.S. intervention in Iraq was largely unsuccessful in establishing a stable, reasonable, and strong government that could successfully lead Iraq. The U.N. intervention in Libya has also left the country with no clear leader. In 2014, Libya's parliament voted 111 to 13 in favor of requesting foreign intervention to protect citizens from skirmishes between rival militia groups, some of whom aided in the defeat of Muammar Gaddafi. In light of these failures, delegates should consider what went wrong (and even if an intervention should have occurred) and how to best structure an intervention for success.

Delegates should also be mindful of that the U.N.'s decision to refrain from intervening in a conflict is just as important as their decision to intervene. In fact, this choice of non-intervention can be even more telling of the motivations and political mindsets of the members of the United Nations. Many journalists and activists have questioned why the U.N. has not intervened more extensively in Syria's civil war, where most allegations of human rights abuse have gone uninvestigated and unaddressed. While the organization did intervene when chemical weapons were used on noncombatants, this was just the tip of the iceberg: the Assad regime has shelled

neighborhoods, allowed government soldiers to pillage homes and rape civilians, has murdered children in cold blood. A debate continues to rage if intervention in Syria's civil war falls within the U.N.'s purview, and some even suggest that Russian arm-twisting may be responsible for the lack of United Nations involvement in the conflict. The U.N. also refrained from involving itself in Russia's invasion and annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, despite the fact that any member of the United Nations is restricted from attacking another U.N. member state. The U.N.'s decisions not to intervene in a conflict should be studied as thoroughly as their decisions to intervene.

Possible Solutions

The approaches to interventionism are as varied as the members of the United Nations themselves.

The policy of noninterventionism has grown in popularity with American citizens and many other first-world nations; countries that are largely responsible for providing the forces behind an intervention. Many believe that their country (and by extension, the United Nations) should reduce its attention to conflicts outside its borders and focus more intensely on problems within. Proponents of this solution argue that interventionism actually causes more civilians casualties, and that Western intervention, especially in the Middle East, often exacerbates existing conflicts and creates long-lasting resentment to the country or countries intervening. Their argument is supported by interventions in Iraq and Libya, where the interventions were unsuccessful in creating long-term stability and created resentment (primarily towards Americans) in the countries.

But many disagree with this stance on intervention, and instead believe that the United Nations should function as a police force that monitors and diffuses conflicts in countries across the globe. Proponents of this argue that it is the duty of the U.N. and its members to prevent violations of human rights and to work to keep peace across the

world. Those who support this position also believe that interventions should be executed with a long-term goal in mind — creating a stable and moderate government that is liked by its people — not just a short-term mission like dethroning a dictator.

In all likelihood, the ideal solution will be a mix of both paradigms. There is no right or wrong answer, and even if there is, we will almost certainly never conclusively identify it. As delegates of the United Nations and of the committee responsible for regulating international interventionism, you must work together to make intervention distinct from invasion, assemble a plan to regulate and organize interventions, and learn from the successes and failures of interventions that have come before. You must also identify if any conflicts occurring today require an intervention by the United Nations and its member states. The nations of the world look to you and your fellow delegates for a solution?

Questions to Consider

- What is the definition of “intervention” and how is it distinct from invasion? Should DISEC and the United Nations standardize this definition?
- What are the motivations behind an intervention for both the country being intervened within and the country intervening?
- To what degree should the United Nations support intervention? Should it be banned, regulated, or supported? What criteria must be met if an intervention is to be supported by the United Nations?
- Should certain countries be allowed to intervene while others are disallowed such a privilege? What would the criteria be to distinguish countries that have intervention permission from those who do not?
- Was the United Nations justified in its intervention in Libya's recent civil war? Why or why not?

- Should the United Nations have intervened or authorized intervention in Syria's recent civil war? Why or why not?
- Should the United Nations have intervened or authorized intervention in Egypt's recent uprisings and unrest? Why or why not?
- Should the United Nations intervene or authorize intervention in the conflict between Israel and Hamas? Why or why not?
- What political parties (not just in the U.S. but also overseas) are for or against intervention in international conflicts? What political party is dominant in the country you are representing? Make sure you act in accordance with the stance of your country's government when you are in committee.
- ISIS has been sweeping across Iraq and Syria, and Iraq's military forces have been unable to stop it. Because of this, the United States has been forced to reintervene after withdrawing only three years ago. What should the United Nations and the countries of the world learn from the United States' failure in establishing a stable government and military after intervening in 2003?

summarizing the basic debate at www.debate.org/military-intervention.

- Explore the dilemma of American military intervention at www.northeastern.edu/news/2012/09/mckiernan.
- Read about the pros and cons of military intervention in the Syrian civil war at www.madisondodgeronline.com/news/2013/09/27/the-pros-and-cons-of-us-intervention-in-syria.
- National Interest provides an excellent article weighing the pros and cons of NATO's and the U.N.'s intervention in Libya at nationalinterest.org/feature/keeping-score-the-libya-intervention-good-idea-or-tragic-11119.
- Read NBC News' article on potential strategies to combat and defeat ISIS in Iraq and Syria at www.nbcnews.com/storyline/iraq-turmoil/what-are-obamas-options-stomping-out-isis-iraq-syria-n187136.

Topic II: Preventing an Arms Race in Space

Introduction

As space exploration technologies advance, the possibility of an arms race in outer space has become a serious issue on the UN Disarmament agenda. An arms race is a competition between nations to develop and accumulate technology to be used as weapons. The weaponization of outer space means that it may become another front for war between nations. Space weapons are not like conventional weapons used on ground, and there may be severe consequences if the weapons are used.

PAROS (Prevention of Outer Space Arms Race) was a United Nations response to the fact that there was no multilateral treaty prohibiting the weaponization of outer space at the time. It also addresses the possible militarization of outer space, as many current technologies used for peaceful or commercial

Further Research

- Learn more about current United Nations peacekeeping missions at www.un.org/en/peacekeeping.
- Read nearly a dozen articles recommended by a Model U.N. conference in Slovakia on this topic at www.zamun.sk/disec-international-intervention-in-civil-wars.
- Go to debate.org to read about the controversy over foreign intervention in different places, or read an article

purposes may be abused in the future and used for military reasons (such as espionage or target support systems). This has provided basic framework, but more work needs to be done in order to have no conflicts between nations. Especially since many nations have started developing space technologies, other nations may feel compelled to develop their own weapons to protect their own interests against potential threats.

History

From the time when the outer space was first explored, many treaties and agreements have since been signed pertaining to the arms race in space. One significant article is the Outer Space Treaty (Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies), which provided much guidance on the framework on international space law. This treaty, enforced in October 1967, provides only a basic framework, and since then has become outdated and in need of an update. Many other treaties followed, and successfully banned weapons of mass destruction in outer space, but never specified on the placement of other weapons.

In 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution called the “Prevention of Outer Space Arms Race”, which was mentioned earlier in the introduction. This resolution further explored the legal framework of this issue. It was adopted with 163 in favor and none against, with three abstentions (US, Federated States of Micronesia, and Israel).

In 1981, the concern over the weaponization of outer space grew between nations, increasing discussions of a potential PAROS treaty in the Conference on Disarmament (CD), a UN disarmament-negotiating forum. This led to the Conference on Disarmament creating an Ad-Hoc Committee for PAROS-related issues, but lasted only until 1994 due to failure of negotiating, mostly because of blocks by Western states.

Current Situation

As far as known to public knowledge, there are currently no weapons in space, and the situation is rather stable. However, outer space is far from being empty of technology. The militaries of many nations depend on multiple satellites and other outer space technology for communication, early warning, and the use of Global Positioning System (GPS).

The United States, China, India, Israel, and Russia all have been developing potential weapon or defense technologies. China’s President Xi Jinping has said the Chinese military should “speed up air and space integration and sharpen their offensive and defensive capabilities.” China is currently developing anti-satellite technology, which is capable of disabling or destroying satellites. The current actions of China may be influenced by the technologies the United States have in space. The United States is developing a ballistic missile defense shield, if ever under attack by a missile. While on the surface defense technologies may be said to be a response to potential missile threats, the developing of these technologies is gaining these countries advantages in dominance in outer space.

Because of these defense shields, many also worry about the debris that comes with it into space. If weapons are ever used in outer space, potential interceptors that can block missiles will create debris. The debris can disrupt other equipment and technology, such as satellites, or collide with spacecraft. Currently, there are no international laws or rules restricting or controlling space debris. The debris not only affects potential weapons, but also spacecraft and commercial and military satellites.

Possible Solutions

Even though resolutions and negotiations regarding PAROS may not always be fully agreed upon, a general consensus among many of the states has developed, voicing that weaponization,

deployment of weapons, and militarization in outer space should be prevented. Even though there is shared sentiment, a treaty with a specific set of principles and guidelines that all states accept has not yet been made. This is due to the objection of a few states, namely the United States, on the objective of the treaty and also due to difference in opinions on the legal framework.

There have been many joint-efforts by nations that work for the prevention of weapons in space. One such example is the draft treaty called the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space (PPWT) introduced to the Conference on Disarmament (CD) by Russia and China. They emphasize the need of a weapon-free space, and further interpret the current legal framework of the weaponization of outer space. These treaties are only made by a few nations however, and in order to find a solution, all nations would need to come together and find a position they could realistically agree upon.

While the United States and Russia took the lead during the Space Race, many other countries, such as China, have since been trying to catch up. The United States under the Bush Administration has expressed interests in militarizing space. It would have capabilities superior to that of any other countries, as well as an upper hand in defense systems. Being one of the only countries to be able to achieve these technologies, the United States would gain significant dominance in outer space. China also shows capabilities, such as technology and money, to become a potential competitor to the United States, even though they have voiced their opinion of having the outer space be weapon free.

The public has also gotten involved with this issue, and there are valid arguments both for and against the use of weapons in space. Supporters say that even if an agreement is reached internationally, it would be difficult to keep nations in line and cheating would be likely. Others argue that not only would the development of these weapons cause tension between nations, but

the cost of keeping these weapons in orbit would be significantly high. This would broaden the disparity between rich and poor nations.

Conclusion

The weaponization and militarization of outer space is a serious concern and issue on the DISEC agenda. The duty of this committee is to maintain world peace and justice. For this current situation, there are no negotiations that ensure that outer space continues to be a safe place for all nations. Stances should be taken on whether the testing and development of not only space weapons but also defense technologies should continue or that measures should be taken to make outer space weapon-free. In any case, an arms race should be prevented. It is up to the delegates in this DISEC committee to present ideas and solutions while keeping in mind the goal of maintaining peace.

Discussion Questions

1. How will your state insure that no arms race in space will occur between nations?
2. How will the states that have an already developed and elaborate technology in space be dealt with?
3. At what point will a defense system in space become an offense in itself, under the ruse of a defense?
4. What current rules and technologies are already in place to limit the technology allowed in space?
5. If an arms race does happen in space, what would be the consequences suffered by the world and especially by your nation?
6. What measures can be taken to maintain justice for all member countries but at the same time insure outer space to be safe from harmful technology?
7. What details in current regulations regarding this situation should be looked in further and expanded upon?

References for Further Research

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This is a good place to get started with background information
- <http://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace/>
This talks about the past and current efforts of the UN
- <http://www.globalsecurity.org/space/world/china/asat.htm>
Current information on Chinese space technology
- <http://science.howstuffworks.com/space-war2.htm>
This article gives background information on how space weapons work
- http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2005_12/DEC-CVR
The current situation from a Chinese perspective
- <http://freebeacon.com/national-security/u-s-opposes-new-draft-treaty-from-china-and-russia-banning-space-weapons/>
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ECOSOC

Avery Simmons

Chair

Lisa Wang

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

Radhika Srivastava
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General for External
Communications

Elizabeth Levit
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Ciaran Lowell
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Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Welcome delegates!

It is our honor to welcome you to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As we begin the year 2015, time is running out to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set by the United Nations. In some areas, great progress has been made, while some goals remain unfulfilled. Issues like achieving universal primary education and promoting gender equality are still very real problems. It is up to you to decide how we will proceed now that it is 2015. We look forward to hearing your innovative solutions to our committee's topics! However, before we start the committee session, we'd like to introduce ourselves.

Avery is a senior who joined Model UN in her junior year. Last year, she was the Vice-Chair for GSMUN's Rio Olympics Planning Committee, earning the superlative of "strongest arm" for her unflinching ability to bang the gavel and call "Decorum delegates!" in the third session. She was also voted "best blonde," a superlative for which she is immeasurably proud. Last year's RichMUNd was her first conference, where she received a Verbal Commendation. When not involved in Model UN, Avery can be found practicing her Irish dancing or attending Irish dance competitions, called feisanna. This past December, Avery received 25th place in the Southern Regional Competition. She also enjoys tea, graham crackers with milk, and cream puffs.

Lisa Wang is a senior at Maggie L. Walker. Since first participated in MUN in 8th grade, she enjoys attending conferences and debating about world issues. Since then, she had attended conferences at William & Mary and at the University of Virginia and served as the chair in the Security Council last year and the chair in the DISEC High School committee. This year she is looking forward to be the co-chair of ECOSCO committee as her last year chairing at GSMUN conferences. Beside her involvement in the MUN club, Lisa also participates in Future Problem Solving and Club Asia. Outside of school, she enjoys playing piano, listening to classical music and mountain-climbing.

Now before we start diplomatically solving issues, we would like you to do a few things in order to make this GSMUN the best yet. First of all, preparation for the committee is crucial. Not only does this mean being well-read on the topics, but you must also prepare a position paper representing the delegates from your respective countries. A position paper is basically a summary of your delegate's position on the main topics of the committee discussed in the background guide. A good position paper takes a stand on the issues, provides solutions, is well-researched, and covers both topics in depth. Following these technical requirements will make it easier for us to review papers and offer feedback: format your papers with double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman font, Chicago-style footnotes and bibliography, and at least 500 words of text. Please keep in mind that GSMUN follows Maggie Walker's Honor Code, so any plagiarism will result in your disqualification from awards. Keep in mind that we will be looking over and considering these position papers throughout committee so make sure you put your best effort into it. Please email us your position paper prior to the first committee session or turn a printed copy in during the first committee session. Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions and/or concerns about this committee or conference in general. We know that you will have a great time at GSMUN. Enjoy researching and preparing for your upcoming meeting. See you soon!

Sincerely,



Avery Simmons
gsmun.ecocosoc15@gmail.com



Lisa Wang
gsmun.ecocosoc15@gmail.com

Committee Background

Committee Overview

The Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, is one of the six main organs of the United Nations founded by the UN Charter in 1946. ECOSOC is the "central mechanism" of the UN system, and supervises the individual bodies and groups that relate to economic, social, and environmental issues. There are 54 member governments on the Council, which are elected by the General Assembly for three-year terms. Seats are given based on geographical representation, with fourteen allocated to African States, eleven to Asian States, six to Eastern European States, ten to Latin America States, and thirteen to Western European and other States. Martin Sajdik is the current President of ECOSOC.

Women's Empowerment

Inequality and discrimination against women have long been problems in many countries. Pursuing gender equality and women's empowerment is important because both issues are not only human rights, but also crucial pathways achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight international development goals agreed by all the world's countries and all the world's leading development institutions, and sustainable development. While great strides have been taken thus far on women's empowerment and gender equality, the progress is uneven across different countries. Women's empowerment is important because it is the basis of peace, security and sustainable development. The United Nations seeks women's empowerment through the establishment of UN Women, dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. Still, there are many areas where the empowerment of women needs

to be done and ECOSOC will address this issue around the globe.

Economic Empowerment of Women

"There is no tool for development more effective than the economic development of women," stated by Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General of United Nations. Economic empowerment of women is the ability of women to participate in, contribute to and benefit from growth processes in ways which recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. Economic empowerment increases a women's access to economic resources and allows them to exert control over their choices and influences in societies.

Critical for economic resilience and growth is an equitable society. As former U.S. President Bill Clinton once said, "Women perform 66% of the world's work, and produce 50% of the food, yet earn only 10% of the income and own 1% of the property. Whether the issue is improving education in the developing world, or fighting global climate change, or addressing nearly any other challenge we face, empowering women is a critical part of the equation." Women's empowerment correlates to the economy of a nation. For example, in India, GDP would rise by 8% if the female and male ratio of workers increased by 10%.

Gender equality and women's empowerment are the catalyst to many development goals, like poverty reduction, child mortality, and peace. As research indicates that women usually invest a higher proportion of their income into their families and communities than men, empowering women can benefit the society as a whole. A study in Brazil also

showed that the child's survival increased by 20% when the mother controlled the household income. Women who are economically empowered tend to contribute more to societies and national economies and invest more in their children, which provide a route to sustainable development. Because women make up the majority of the world's less economically advantaged population, before addressing poverty reduction, the UN must address women and their economic empowerment.

Even though empowering women is an advantageous situation for not only women, but also the society, some key challenges still remain in obtaining gender equality and empowerment of women. While there has been great progress in engaging women in labor force, there has been less progress in improving working condition, eliminating discriminatory practices and laws in property rights and inheritance rights, or providing childcare. Across the developing world, women are working longer hours and being paid less than men. Women also spend more time doing unpaid job, such as household chores, than men and have much less time spend in remunerative employment. In a survey done in six states in India, women typically spend 35 hours per week on household tasks and caring for children, the sick and elderly, against 4 hours per week for men. Even when women are employed in the labor force, they still undertake the majority of the housework. This contributes to the limited time for women to do paid job to obtain income for the family and the lower women's per capita average earned income. It is also becoming increasingly difficult for working mothers to reconcile work and family responsibilities. Income in the hands of women can benefit the children. Thus, gender gap in income earning can decrease or limit the resources available

for children, such as health care, education, and adequate nutrition. To achieve possible equality in the workforce, United Nations need to take a step to encourage and empower women.

Women not only earn less than men, but also tend to own fewer assets. Gender bias and inheritance rights or law leave women and children in greater poverty risks. When a marriage breaks down, women will be excluded from owning the property. Widows risk losing familial property and ownership of assets or land and struggle to achieve health and well-being of themselves and their children because of lack of money and assets. For example, in Cameroon, while women undertake 75% of agriculture work, they only own 10% of the land.

The empowerment of women can benefit children greatly because women generally place a higher premium on welfare related goals and are more likely to contribute their resources or earnings to promote the needs of families, particularly children. According to a study conducted by the International Food Policy Research Institute, if men and women had equal influence in decision-making, the incidence of underweight children under 3 years old in South Asia would fall by up to 13 %, resulting in 13.4 million fewer undernourished children in the region. This is because women tend to care more for education and the well-being of their children. Empowering women can also increase the likelihood that their children, boys and girls, will attend school and receive education.

The barriers in obtaining economic empowerment of women must be examined in full scale. Factors impacting women's economic empowerment include violence: women are the predominant victims of conflict, sexual violence, injury, death, intimidation and human trafficking, lack of adequate

access to education, training and technology, lack of access to clean water, sanitation, lack of access to responsible health care, lack of access to credit, safe work conditions, living minimum wages. Culture practices, tradition, and religious interpretations of women's status, women's lack of knowledge about rights and laws and lack of adequate representation in governance structures can also hinder the economic empowerment of women.

Social Empowerment

Social empowerment of women is unbreakable from economic empower of women; it is a process of building a sense of autonomy, self-confidence, and decision-making influence in women. Women face many social challenges today, whether it is secure income for their families or raising children in amidst of economic difficulties. Social empowerment allows women to gain confidence and self-dependence of their rights and their decisions.

Gender discrimination begins as early as the parents' preference of sons over daughters because many cultures believe that son brings asset to the family, while daughters will be married off to other families. Gender discrimination is pervasive throughout regions; even though the degree of discrimination may vary, women and girls are often deprived of opportunities, resources and political power in every region in the world. Discrimination includes limited personal and professional choices for girls and women, the denial of basic human rights and gender-based violence.

Gender inequality can be pernicious and tragic. In parts of South and East Asia, prenatal sex selection and infanticide show the low value placed on the lives of girls and have led to unbalanced population of men and

women. Despite increasing educational enrollment, girls are more likely to miss school in developing countries due household responsibilities and family duties, such as caring for their siblings and taking care of household chores. Another reasons of girls missing school include a lack of school sanitation, child marriage and violence.

Social attitudes, beliefs, and practices of excluding and discriminating women are often deeply entrenched cultural, religious and social norms. The World Values Survey reveals that a large number of men believe university education is more important for men than women. Many of these discriminations are subtler and are harder to identify and rectify. The uneven allocation of household resources, such as medical care and food and unequal division of household labor, trap women and families in poverty. Sometimes, the discriminatory attitude toward women can be seen even in women; it has become a perception that is shared by the entire society. A survey shows that a large number of women view that men make better political leaders than women, including respondents from Bangladesh, China, Islamic Republic of Iran and Uganda, over one third from Albania and Mexico, and one out of every five from the United States.

In decades of innovation, experience and activism, gender equality is a problem that can be solved. To combat the problems of gender equality, governments need to take an important step towards equality. Political commitment can trigger social changes and allocate resources necessary for gender equality and women's empowerment. Nearly every country had made a commitment to equal rights for women and girls by ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) before the UN Millennium Summit in 2000. Striving to meet the UN Millennium Development Goal 3, gender equality, by 2015, countries can strengthen opportunities for post-primary education for girls, invest in infrastructure to reduce women's and girl's time burdens, and eliminate gender inequality in employment by decreasing women's reliance on informal employment, closing gender gaps in earnings, and reducing occupational segregation.

Questions to consider:

1. What are the obstacles to achieving women's empowerment in your country? What has your country done to support or undermine women's empowerment?
2. How can the United Nations community help to encourage economic and social empowerment of women (women in the workforce and in society)?
3. Should the government pass laws to encourage women's empowerment or would this counteract the effort?
4. What can be done to overcome the barriers of the social, religious, and cultural norms that hinder gender equality?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en> (latest news about women's empowerment and ways how United Nations help to achieve the goal)

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/> (United Nations Millennium Development Goals website)

<http://www.unicef.org/gender/> (UNICEF page on gender equality)

Topic II: Universal Primary Education

Background of Millennium Development Goals

In September 2000, all 191 United Nations members signed the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which illustrated the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were to be achieved by 2015. These goals are:

- "1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2) Achieve universal primary education
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4) Reduce child mortality
- 5) Improve maternal health
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- 7) Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8) Develop a global partnership for development"

Although significant progress has been achieved in the last 15 years, some goals will very likely not be attained by 2015, most notably the goals to empower women and achieve universal primary education.

About the Universal Primary Education Goal

Education has been shown to reduce poverty and hunger, fight disease, and help promote environmental sustainability. As such, it is vital to a nation's development that children enroll in school at an early age, and complete a full cycle of quality education. Unfortunately, about one in four children in developing areas, including Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Sub-Saharan Africa, are likely to drop out of primary school.

The benefits of primary education are not abstract, but extremely pragmatic. Schools are often sources of clean water and hygienic latrines. At school, children

can learn life skills, including proper hygiene and how to avoid diseases like HIV/AIDs and malaria. Students may also receive vaccines and nutritional supplements through their local schools. In conflict-torn regions, schools provide a safe place for children to gather. In addition, universal education is linked with gender equality; the "multiplier effect" describes how educated girls marry later in life and have fewer children, who in turn are more likely to survive and be better fed and educated. Finally, uneducated children are more likely to be abused, exploited, and are more susceptible to diseases.

Obstacles

A major obstacle to universal primary education is regional conflict; about 50% of primary aged out-of-school children live in conflict-affected areas. Conflict-torn areas make up 25-33% of the countries in which UNICEF works to improve education.

The "education poor," defined as indigenous populations, street children, the disabled, and ethnic minorities, are the most likely to not be enrolled in school. The Global Campaign for Education UK estimates that 1/3 of primary aged children not in school have a disability, which amounts to 19 million children.

Solutions to increase primary school enrollment must be tailored to specifically meet the needs of the disabled and other "education poor."

Finally, school fees have proved an obstacle to universal primary education, although many countries have recently eliminated fees to increase enrollment.

Strategies

The Education for All (EFA), a branch of UNESCO, has taken the lead in promoting universal primary education.

Founded in 1990, the EFA has been a major part of the MDGs, and has further listed six goals related to education:

1) Improve early childhood care and education, especially for the most disadvantaged children

2) Ensure that by 2015 all children, especially girls and minorities, have access to complete free primary education of good quality

3) Ensure that young adults are given access to learning and life-skills programs

4) Achieve 50% improvement in adult literacy by 2015

5) Achieve full gender equality education by 2015

6) Improve the quality of education

Both UNESCO and UNICEF emphasize the importance of effective aid delivery, strong promotion of education, and creating connections between government and other cultural institutions. In an example of the latter, UNICEF's "Go Girls! Education for Every Child" program focuses on increasing female enrollment in school through sports and communication with local religious leaders. UNESCO's Education Sector assists developing countries in education policymaking and implementation. UNESCO also oversees the distribution of aid to maximize the efficacy of that aid; this could include ensuring that schools have safe water, proper sanitation, and adequate school supplies.

The UN Girl's Education Initiative (UNGEI) focuses on increasing the number of girls enrolled in school.

Girls are often the first to drop out of school due to sick family members, chores, or lack of money. Specifically, abolishing school fees has proven very effective in increasing primary school attendance. For example, in Burundi

attendance increased from 54% to 94% from 2000 to 2005, as a result of eliminating school fees. In Nicaragua, social cash transfers proved effective. In a social cash system, the government will pay disadvantaged families a stipend if those families fulfill certain requirements, like sending their children to school or getting children vaccinated. Doubling spending on education, teaching local dialects in schools, and focusing on disadvantaged children have proven to be effective methods of increasing attendance.

Overall, in the Middle East and Africa, focusing efforts to get orphans in school, as well as vouchers for uniforms and books, has increased enrollment in school. In Asia and Latin America, social cash stipends and focusing on ethnic minorities have worked well.

Progress, Yet Impossibility of Fulfillment

From 2000 to 2011, the number of children out of primary school decreased from 102 million to 58 million. Individual countries have also made significant progress. Julia Gillard, board chair of Global Partnership, said that "In Cambodia, for example, 98% of primary school children now complete school- in 2003 only 66% did." Also, according to Equality Now, girls presently make up 40% of school children in Afghanistan, though girls were banned from school when the MDGs were adopted. However, due to slow progress since 2007, the goal of universal primary education will not be fulfilled by 2015.

Progress slows even as enrollment rates rise, because many primary school students do not complete primary school.

Teacher shortages are also a huge problem, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the least progress has been made.

Sometimes, the pupil-teacher ratios reach

an alarming 80:1, degrading the quality of education.

As of June 2014, 58 million primary school aged children are not in school. Due to a population boom, as well as regional conflicts, 30 million of the 58 million out-of-school children are from Sub-Saharan Africa. Gender parity has also not been reached; for every 100 boys out of school, there are 117 girls not in school. As mentioned before, girls and women, minorities, the disabled, and those living in rural areas, urban slums, and conflict-torn regions remain the most likely to be uneducated.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated in his 2013 report that the "target of universal primary education by 2015 seems beyond reach."

Post-2015 Goals

As 2015 approaches, the UN has not officially decided upon the next set of goals, although education will definitely be addressed in some fashion. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated in his 2013 address that he believes that young people should have access not only to quality primary education, but also secondary school, as well as vocational training.

So, it is up to you to design innovative ways to solve these problems and develop a plan for the Post-2015 Goals.

Questions to Consider

- How is your country working to achieve the goal of universal primary education?
- What should be the post-2015 goals regarding universal primary education? Is the goal impractical?
- Is universal primary education a priority, or are there other goals that are more important?
- While many Latin American and Southeast Asian countries have

greatly improved their primary education enrollment, Sub-Saharan Africa falls behind. How do we solve this regional disparity in education?

Places for Further Research

UNESCO's Position Paper on Education Post-2015:

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002273/227336E.pdf>

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MDGs:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/68/202. Especially important are pages 5, 13-15.

Statistics on Primary School Enrollment in Specific Regions:

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/out-of-school-children.aspx>

To join the discussion on the Post-2015 goals, explore the World We Want forum at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/>.

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Environmental Programme

Priya Kundur

Chair

Charles Yang

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
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Elena Zhou
Director General
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Anant Kharkar
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Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2014 United Nations Environment Programme Committee! We are honored to have the opportunity to guide you through your discussion of two pressing environmental topics, deforestation and rising sea levels. Before we start, there are few things we need to inform you of before you start your GSMUN experience. But first, some introductions.

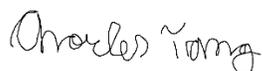
Charles Yang, your co-chair, is a sophomore at Maggie Walker. He has been doing GSMUN for two years now, once as a delegate, and GSMUN XVII as a crisis staffer for UNSC and UNESCO. Outside of MUN, he plays flute and participates in other extracurriculars around Maggie Walker such as debate and Future Problem Solvers. Charles has always had a passion for the environment and climate change and while he has a lot to say on the subject, he wants to hear your ideas even more! Charles hopes to make this both his and your best GSMUN yet.

As a junior at Maggie Walker and having participated for three years in Model UN, Priya hopes to make this committee experience enriching and full of lively debate. She was a vice-chair for an Indian historic committee and is now participating as the UNEP co-chair. She loves playing varsity tennis at Maggie Walker and participates in other clubs, such as Future Medical Professionals and Spanish Club. She is very excited to hear what students around the area will have to say about the controversial topics of global warming and global deforestation.

You are required to write a position paper describing your nation's history with the topics as well as your potential solutions to them. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Please keep in mind that your position paper should be your own original work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary action from the Secretariat. For more information on how to write a position paper, please visit gsmun.net.

For those of you with no previous MUN experience, don't worry! We're looking for the quality and creativity of your ideas more than the quantity of times you speak. We expect lively debate and a productive GSMUN session. It is amazing to see how young people are willing to take time out of their weekends to participate in a conference that strengthens cognitive and debating skills. With these in mind, we're confident that this session of the UNEP will be the most successful yet in creating new guidelines for our environment. We can't wait to see you guys at GSMUN!

Sincerely,



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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is an agency that proposes environmental legislation and assists countries in implementing and enforcing these measures. Founded in 1972 at the UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, the UNEP is based in Nairobi, Kenya. The executive director is Achim Steiner, who is a United Nations Under Secretary-General, and has been serving since 2006. UNEP focuses on 7 priorities: Climate Change, Disasters and Conflicts, Ecosystem Management, Environmental Governance, Chemicals and Waste, Resource Efficiency, and Environment Under Review.

The UNEP includes 5 organizational divisions: Early Warning and Assessment, Environmental Policy Implementation, Technology, Industry, and Economics, Environmental Law and Conventions, and Communications and Public Information. UNEP has designated certain international years, for example, 2007 was Year of the Dolphin. The UNEP also supports certain organizations and ideals, such as Green Economy Initiative, which encourages countries to use cleaner technologies.

Under the UNEP, environmental issues are addressed at the international and regional level and environmental issues are brought to the attention of the international community. International agreements such as the Kyoto and Montreal Protocol were created with the help of the UNEP. In 2000, environmental sustainability was added as a Millennium Development Goal as a result of the UNEP's actions.

Responsibilities of the UNEP are broad and wide-reaching. The UNEP has the power to create international law on environmental law, monitor the status of the environment and disseminating information, as well as developing regional programs for sustainability. The mission statement of the UNEP is, "To provide leadership and

encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."

Topic I: Causes of Rising Sea Levels

In the past 130 years, the sea level has risen at a faster rate than in the past two millennia. This is attributed to the effects of climate change and the Greenhouse Effect. The Greenhouse Effect results from certain man-made gases, including CH₄ and CO₂, and chemicals becoming trapped in the atmosphere which in turn reflect the sun's energy in the earth. Because the ocean covers 71% of the earth's surface area, the ocean absorbs most of this reflected energy. This additional energy heats up the ocean, causing it to expand in a process called thermal expansion. As a result of increased carbon emissions in the past two decades, the rate of the rising sea level has accelerated from an average of 1.7mm/yr to 3.2mm/yr.

The Greenhouse Effect also affects glaciers and the ice caps. In glaciers and the polar ice caps, the winter snowfall replenishes the ice lost during the summer. However, the increase in global temperatures has led to greater amounts of ice melting than can be replenished, leading to a net loss of ice. Because ice has a high albedo effect, it reflects most of the light that hits it. With the melting of the polar ice caps, this effect is reduced, leading to even more ice melting, creating a deadly cycle.

Even if the whole world were to cease all emissions of Greenhouse gases immediately, it would still take centuries for the existing greenhouse gases to be cleansed out of our atmosphere. At this point, it is no longer a question of whether sea level rise (SLR) can be stopped, but rather to what extent its effect can be reduced.

Melting ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica also contribute to SLR. As these ice

sheets melt, trickling water lubricates the ice sheets, causing them to slip into the ocean faster and break into smaller pieces. The resulting increase in surface area causes the ice to melt faster than if it were in a single ice sheet.

Consequences and Predictions

While predictions of rising sea levels are still tenuous, National Oceanic Atmospheric Agency (NOAA) has set a high height scenario of 6.6ft for 2100 and the US Army Engineer Corp. has set a high height scenario of 5ft. The OECD recently released a report detailing the population and assets exposed both today and in 2070 assuming only a 20 in rise in sea levels. The top ten list when ranked by asset include Miami, Florida, Tokyo, Japan, Hong Kong, New Orleans, New York, Shanghai, and Virginia Beach. By 2070, rising sea levels threaten 150 million people and 35 trillion dollars' worth of property, or about 9% of global GDP in the 10 biggest port cities alone. Because scientists still do not completely understand the science behind ice flow and melt, glaciers effect on rising sea levels are considered the wild card in predicative science pertaining to sea level rise. Thermal Expansion is a relatively easy to predict because it has an almost direct correlation with the amount of carbon emitted. Recent data on glacier melts on the other hand, have suggested that glaciers in Greenland are melting at an alarmingly fast rate, making many estimates of Global Mean Sea Level (GMSL) for the next century appear increasingly conservative, with many scientists calling for even higher numbers.

These numbers are only indicators of GMSL, and are not representative of sea level rise everywhere. In certain places like Iceland, the sea level is actually expected to decrease. As the glaciers in Greenland and Antarctica melt, their gravitational pull on the water lessens, redistributing most of the water to the tropics. Meanwhile, the sea level on the east coast of the US is expected to rise by more than 5ft.

Rising sea levels also extend the reach of storm surges of hurricanes. Hurricanes

produce storm surges as a result of their intense winds, raising the tide by up to 20 feet. If the sea level rises, storm surges would have greater reach and more potential to reach farther inland. Superstorm Sandy caused so much damage in part due to higher sea levels. Such once-in-a-100-year storms may become the norm if sea levels continue to rise.

Perhaps one of the deadliest consequences of rising sea levels is that islands and low lying territories will be reclaimed by the ocean. Florida, for example, is a state composed mostly of porous limestone and the rising sea level has already begun to contaminate the water table. Levees, embankments of dirt, or other defenses would be useless, as the sea has already begun to seep in from underground, bypassing any type of coastal defense. By the end of the century, Florida could be just a few uninhabitable islands.⁷ The main threat to these low-lying atolls is not that they will be covered up completely, although that may happen eventually. The primary threat is contamination to the water table, and increasingly deadly storms. Any arable land would be destroyed by the sea salt, making it economically unviable to live anymore.

The Political Field

While scientists have been foretelling the consequences of climate change for decades now, countries have only recently begun taking action. These countries have formed a bloc in the UN called SIDS(Small Island Developing States). Although they consist mostly of small island countries in the pacific and Caribbean, SIDS members will be the first nations to fall to the rising sea, and their governments have begun calling for international action. The prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, a SIDS member state, said, "It is a recognized fact, but it is worth repeating that small island States contribute the least to the causes of climate change, yet we suffer the most from its effects. Small island States have expressed our profound disappointment at the lack of tangible action," to the 68th General Assembly of the UN.

However, not much can be done by SIDS members, as the primary emitters of greenhouse gases are located in the developed world: mostly China, U.S., and countries in Western Europe. Many members of SIDS and other countries disproportionately affected by rising sea levels have called for the developing countries to pay or prepare reparations.

Many localities, such as Singapore, Shanghai, and New York have begun taking action as well. New York mayor Michael Bloomberg announced in 2013 an ambitious 20 billion dollar project to defend New York from the rising sea after Superstorm Sandy devastated the city. However, generally speaking, there is little action being taken at the international level or at the national level to combat the rising sea levels. The one notable exception is the Netherlands. With most of the country below sea-level already, the Dutch have been holding the sea back for centuries. Fortified by a network of sluices and dikes called the Delta Works, Netherlands boasts the strongest sea defense in the world. Using innovative methods, such as floating houses, the “zandmotor”, and doubled sidewalks, the rest of the world has much to learn from the Dutch.

Potential Solutions

While the only possible long term solution to end the threat of rising sea levels is to cut back on greenhouse emissions, short term measures such as levees, flood plains, and innovative concepts such as floating cities offer a stop-gap solution. Short term measures such as these, when not combined with cutting greenhouse emissions.

Levee's are embankments of dirt that help hold back rising tides. However, levee's also allow water levels to slowly build up. This build-up increases the chances of a catastrophic flood if a levee fails. During Katrina, the levee system failed, devastating New Orleans with unhindered flooding. When a levee fails, it means either the water levels exceeded the levee's height, or that the dirt mound collapsed.

A levee system is a series of levee's,

bulkheads, and floodplains. They work in conjunction to redirect storm surges away from major urban areas and usually onto floodplains, swaths of flat uninhabited land. Levee systems require the creation of large amounts of coastal defenses designed in conjunction which incurs large initial investment costs. In addition, if one part of a levee system fails, almost the entire weight of the flood will be inflicted upon one point.

Storm surge barriers are gates usually located at harbor entrances that close during a storm, theoretically shielding a city from the worst of the storm flood. While they are considered the most effective method of protecting cities from storm surges, they are also incredibly expensive, costing billions of dollars. Construction of these storm surge barriers can also disrupt shipping in harbors, thereby lowering economic revenue.

Another possible defense against rising sea levels and flooding is wetlands. With the development of condominiums and beachfronts, developers often bulldoze valuable wetlands and marshlands that served as a natural barrier against storm surges. Restoration of these wetlands will help mitigate storm surges as well as prevent erosion of soil. Wetlands are the most effective, cheap, and environmentally friendly. However, wetlands take up far more land than any of the other solutions, and would have to be placed on high-value real estate, such as beachfronts.

Besides these conventional solutions, innovators and inventors are coming up with many other ideas. From waterproof membrane canopies, to floating structures such as houses and even entire cities are being envisaged. These new ideas bring forth the idea of not only sustainability, but also learning to adapt and live with these new changes.

Despite these defenses against the rising sea, some land will inevitably be lost. Florida, with its porous limestone, and low-lying atolls in the Pacific will eventually have their water tables flooded with salt water and become inhospitable to life. The only

permanent solution is to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions. Dr. Benjamin H. Strauss, a scientist at Climate Central, said, “We have a closing window of time to prevent the worst by preparing for higher seas.” Not only must countries brace themselves for rising sea levels, but the international community must come together to pass reform and protocols for dealing with rising sea levels.

Questions to Consider

- How will your country be impacted by rising sea levels?
- Is your country willing to cut-back on it's greenhouse emissions?
- What are possible solutions to mitigate the consequences of rising sea levels?
- How prepared is your country to face rising sea levels?
- Should countries with the most carbon emissions pay reparations to countries disproportionately affected by climate change?
- Should countries that are landlocked pay reimbursements to countries that do border the sea?

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<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/09/rising-seas/folger-text> -Describes New York's struggle with Superstorm Sandy, as well as summarizes the difficulties and costs with defending cities in the future from SLR.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2013/06/130612-sea-level-rise-new-york-bloomberg-sandy-climate-change-science/> - Gives summary of OECD Report as well as New York's plan as a case study for the rest of

the world.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46027#.U9KKL_lWSo - Discusses SIDS and

the conflict between developed countries and developing countries on who is responsible for SLR.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/08/nyregion/after-hurricane-sandy-debating-costly-sea-barriers-in-new-york-](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/08/nyregion/after-hurricane-sandy-debating-costly-sea-barriers-in-new-york-area.html?pagewanted=all&r=0)

[area.html?pagewanted=all&r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/08/nyregion/after-hurricane-sandy-debating-costly-sea-barriers-in-new-york-area.html?pagewanted=all&r=0) - More information on

storm surge barriers and their pro's and con's

Topic II: Causes of Deforestation

According to National Geographic, deforestation is the act of “clearing Earth’s forests on a massive scale, often resulting in damage to the quality of the land.” Although this is not the exact dictionary definition, the phrase accurately captures some of the most pertinent negative effects of deforestation: the loss of diverse wildlife and ecosystems. Although deforestation can be caused by natural occurrences, like wildfires, commercial and human necessity are the true divestitures of rain forests. As of now, forests cover about 30% of the planet’s area, but that percentage is rapidly decreasing.

In order to effectively debate this issue, it is imperative to understand both the origins and methods of deforestation. Currently, the biggest cause for deforestation is agriculture. Some wealthy farmers clear expanses of land to open more area for crops and animals, while other poorer farmers will clear a few acres in order to provide for their families, a process known as subsistence farming. Many subsistence farmers use the technique of “slash and burn” where existing trees are cut down and burned as a method to clear land. However, this land used by subsistence farmers is only habitable for a few years, until it is time to repeat the process, continuing the cycle of clearing acres of once forested land. Another cause of deforestation is logging, the process of felling trees and preparing the timber. Loggers will build roads to access deep and isolated rainforests, causing

the decimation of acres of land. Overall, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change predicts that subsistence farming accounts for 48% of deforestation, commercial agriculture is responsible for 32%, logging for 14%, and fuel wood removals hold 5% of deforestation.

The true causes of deforestation arise from an inadequate balance of wealth in many developing nations, in which the impoverished are forced to clear the Earth's natural beauty in order to provide for their families and survive. Another equally significant cause of deforestation stems from population growth and globalization. The rapidly increasing world population demands that more forested land be used to farm and feed this population. In addition, the expansion of humans causes forested land to be seen as an area for urban development, rather than a natural and invaluable environment.

Thus a United Nations member must decide whether the importance of the natural and ecological health of rainforests directly outweigh the economic and physical health who farm for necessity.

Basic History and Committee Relevance

Globally, deforestation started thousands of years ago to suit grazing and crop-growing needs. When the industrial era swept the world, global deforestation rates began to increase sharply. This need for commercial use of land and urban development caused a disregard for the environment. By the 1870s, about half of eastern North America was deforested. From that point on, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has predicted that the rate of deforestation would be 1.3 million square kilometers per decade, which includes a great part of primary forest (forest that was left untouched).

Humid and moist forests carry some of the greatest wildlife and biodiversity. Unfortunately, 8 million square kilometers (3.1 million square miles) have been deforested in such places as the Amazons in Brazil and West Africa. A 17- year study in the Amazons

demonstrated that the rates of deforestation were increasing startlingly and only exacerbated the situation when a drought occurred, allowing for forest fires. Although the highest rates of deforestation are occurring in the tropics, it should be noted that dry forests are much easier to clear and are shrinking rapidly as a result.

With regards to United Nations action towards the issue of deforestation, an agenda was submitted by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), in which certain solutions were outlined to combat deforestation. For example, the UNEP sought to create forestry education programs, conduct research to preserve wildlife, and encouraging sustainable development.

Consequences and Predictions

If deforestation continues at the current rate, National Geographic predicts that in a hundred years the world's rainforests could be decimated. With the loss of these trees, the world will be entirely different with varied and widespread effects of deforestation. To begin, deforestation adversely affects global warming by allowing an increased amount of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. According to the World Resources Institute, deforestation causes between 12% and 17% of greenhouse gas emissions. In general, trees go through a process known as "carbon sequestration," in which carbon dioxide is absorbed by the trees for their own survival. However, when there is a lack of trees, there is extra carbon dioxide that is being released, instead of utilized by the trees. The rainforests of South America hold 20% of the world's oxygen and is disappearing at 4 hectares per decade.

Another effect of deforestation is soil erosion and, therefore, flooding. An important aspect of forests is that their leaves act as a canopy to keep the soil moist. However, without trees, the soil starts to become dry, with increased exposure to the sun, which is called desertification. This causes a once prolific rainforest to become a desert, which drastically changes the climate. In addition, the

lack of trees and dry soil cannot hold and diverge the water and it becomes easier for rainwater to flood the area. Since the trees can no longer evaporate rainwater, the water cycle is interrupted, causing a change in climate.

According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), 80% of the world's wildlife lives in tropical rainforests. Due to the deforestation in these rainforests, numerous unique species are becoming extinct because of a lack of habitat and protection. Not only is the rainforest a habitat for different animals, but it is also a mode of survival for families who collect forest products, such as rubber, for a living.

One of the most affected areas of deforestation is in Brazil's Amazonian rainforests. Brazil holds about 3.5 million square kilometers of tropical forests, amounting to 30% of the world's total. These areas are known as "Amazonia." According to the University of Michigan, The Amazonia has been marked as the "single richest region of the tropical biome." There are 2,000 known species of fish in the Amazon basin, much more than those found in any part of the world. Unfortunately, in the last 50 years, Brazil has lost 17% of its forestry, according to WWF.

When Brazil finally realized the problems of deforestation on its rainforests, Brazil started to implement forest protection laws. Ever since the implementation, the rate of deforestation has fluctuated. Nevertheless, Brazil has made some progress. According to the BBC, in 2009, the Brazilian government promised to reduce deforestation by 80% by 2020. Although it has not reached this goal, Brazil has improved tremendously. The country was able to cut its deforestation by 50% between 2000 and 2012 (from 40,000 square km to 20,000 square km). However, there was still a net loss of an area of 1.5 million square km of rainforest.

Scientific Controversy

Recently, there has been debate on the resiliency of biodiversity. Many scientists say that tropical rainforests are some of the richest

in wildlife and the destruction of rainforests will result in extinction of such species, if deforestation continues at this rate.

Nonetheless, some argue that this idea of mass extinction is exaggerated. A Smithsonian scholar, Dr. Joseph Wright, defends that deforestation is ameliorated when subsistence farmers start to move to the city to find real jobs, flowing with the concept of urbanization. He theorizes that once the greatest cause of deforestation has left to the city, secondary forests (forests reviving after human disturbance) will grow on abandoned farmland and, therefore, provide itself as a habitat for endangered species. Those who disagree with Dr. Wright believe that although some farmers will leave, other corporations and loggers still pose a greater threat to the rainforests with their advanced machinery. In addition, dissenters of Dr. Wright's theory say that the average age of secondary forests, in places like the Amazon, is only 6 to 7 years old, which is far below the standard of original rainforests.

Potential Solutions

Due to the difficulty of proposing legislation that would wholly outlaw deforestation, delegates must create creative and more effective proposals. One potential solution would be to plant younger trees in the place of the older ones that were cut. This would replenish the soil and the ecosystem and satisfy extractive companies, without completely leaving the forest at a disadvantage. However, wildlife would be put at a disadvantage as it takes a long time for a young tree to grow, but these species would need a habitat immediately. Another solution would be to write regulations that restrict the rampant and blatant clear-cutting of trees. Delegates are strongly encouraged to think from both sides of the argument. They must think of both the environment and the small subsistence farmers when making and proposing legislation.

Conclusion

The concept of deforestation is very

controversial, both politically and scientifically. It is quite evident that deforestation has a resounding adverse effect on those who depend on the rainforests for survival. For example, the Amazons have lost hundreds of unique species and pandas in China have struggled to survive without of bamboo trees. In general, farmers are the greatest cause of deforestation and perceive the rainforests as an area to grow food to provide for their families. Nonetheless, the true roots of the deforestation problem are much larger than farmers. Many believe that deforestation is a by-product of increased globalization, urban development, and the aspiration to become a “western and developed country.” In addition, in countries with corrupt officials, deforestation is only exacerbated when such officials willingly allow the illegal deforestation through bribes. It is very important to think of a creative solution that benefits both sides of the argument. The United Nations was based upon the morals of peace and justice and this can only be achieved with holistic thinking and accurate statistics. As Environmental Committee members, it is imperative that research be conducted on this topic to have a solid foundation of the issue, and therefore, have a strengthened and concise argument.

Questions to Consider

- 1) What is your standpoint in the scientific controversy of deforestation?
- 2) Why do you think that some countries find it more difficult to prevent clear cutting of rainforests than others?
- 3) In your opinion, what would be the most effective solution from the potential solutions passage? Why?
- 4) Which country needs to most improve its deforestation conditions? Why?
- 5) How would you enforce solutions?
- 6) How can you help the rainforests AND prevent poverty of numerous of subsistence farmers?
- 7) Why does globalization play such a huge role in deforestation?
- 8) Is it possible to find a true account of a subsistence farmer to learn his/her

perspective?

9) Are there any politicians that believe that deforestation is a good thing and should be continued for the sake of the economic health of the country?

10) How does your country specifically feel about deforestation: is it reliant on it or willing to stop?

Further Research

www.unep.org - Website detailing this committee

<http://www.nrdc.org/energy/forestsnotfuel/> - Comprehensive website on deforestation facts and statistics

<http://www.economist.com/news/international/21613327-new-ideas-what-speeds-up-deforestation-and-what-slows-it-down-clearing-trees> - This article in the Economist is very informational and talks about the causes of deforestation.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/d/deforestation.htm> - Gives a few statistics on deforestation that are worth noting

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European Union Parliament

Avery Gagne
Chair

Isha Gangal
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the European Union Parliament! We are ecstatic that we can guide your debate as you discuss two of the most long lasting and complicated issues in the EU: reforming the ECJ and human trafficking. However, before we start debating these heated issues, let's get some basic introductions out of the way.

Isha Gangal, one of your chairs, is a sophomore at Maggie Walker who loves Model UN, and joined the Maggie Walker Model UN Club when she was a freshman. She attended GSMUN in eighth grade and served as a staffer last year in the Afghan National Assembly, so she has plenty of experience. Outside of MUN, she enjoys playing tennis, recycling, and watching crime shows, her biggest addiction. Isha is extremely excited to be co-chairing your committee and hopes to give you the best GSMUN experience possible.

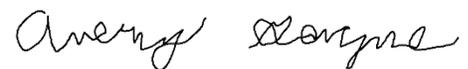
Avery Gagne, your second chair, is also a sophomore at Maggie Walker, being involved with the club since freshmen year. Last year he worked as a vice chair in the United Nations Development Programme, so he's extremely excited to be your chair this year. Avery's involved in many clubs outside of Model UN as well, being a part of Chess Club, Robotics, and Spanish club just to name a few. By mixing this with the standard Maggie Walker life style he's lost a little bit of sleep, and probably a little sanity, but he stopped caring about that a while ago. One of Avery's greatest challenges in life is writing introductions about himself, since it's hard to think of interesting things about himself. Either way, he simply can't wait to give you the best GSMUN experience you can have.

Please remember to write a position paper. Guidelines are found on gsmun.net. Remember that if your nation is specifically mentioned in this background guide, we aren't asking for any extra work, but instead we're providing context on some of the most pressing issues. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. We can't wait to see what solutions you come up with, and once again we're excited to meet you. We hope you have a fantastic GSMUN!

Sincerely,



Isha Gangal
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Avery Gagne
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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The European Union (EU) is the political and economic union of twenty-eight sovereign European states. The EU has created a single market with a common currency, the euro, that aims to allow the free movement of goods, services, people, and money. After World War II, the EU was created in order to create peace through economic cooperation and interdependence. In 1951, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was created after a proposal by the French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman. The ECSC consisted of six member countries: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. Due to the success of the ECSC, more countries were incorporated into the body over time resulting in the founding of the European Union in November 1993. The European Union is made up of the European Parliament (EP), the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission, the European Court of Justice (ECJ), and several other institutions.

The European Parliament is the legislative body of this conglomeration. It is one of the largest democratic electorates in the world with approximately 751 members from all member states. Representation in the European Parliament is scaled to the size of each country's population. Instead of organizing by nationality, members organize themselves according to political lines.

The EP began in 1952 as the "Common Assembly" of the European Coal and Steel Community. During this time, the EP did not have any true legislative power; it only served as a place where ideas could be exchanged and discussed between representatives of each member nation's governments. These original representatives were taken from each state's national legislature, and were not voted as a new position.

Since its days as the Common Assembly, the EP has grown into one of the most powerful legislatures in the world. In 1979, members of the EP were directly elected by the people for

the first time. Since then, elections have been held every five years.

The EP has gained more powers over recent decades. In late 2009, the Lisbon Treaty came into effect extending the European Parliament's law-making abilities, and making the EP equal to the Council of Ministers. Along with additional legislative powers, the Lisbon Treaty gave members of the European Parliament the right to elect the European Commission's head, approve or reject international agreements, and have greater budgetary powers. Currently, the European Parliament acts as a co-legislator for most EU law. The EP's responsibilities include discussing and passing laws, monitoring other EU bodies, and supervising the annual budget. In addition to its legislative, supervisory, and budgetary powers, the EP works with the national parliaments of EU member nations.

Topic I: Reforming the ECJ

Overview

The European Court of Justice is the highest court of appeal in the European Union. The ECJ was founded in 1951 as part of the European Coal and Steel Community. In 1957, the European Community was established under the Treaty of Rome with the ECJ as its court. When the European Union was founded in 1993 under the Maastricht Treaty, the jurisdiction of the ECJ expanded to cover new powers associated with the larger body of the EU. Since then, the ECJ's powers have been progressively increasing with treaties such as the Treaty of Amsterdam, Nice, and most recently, Lisbon in 2007.

The ECJ is made up of twenty-eight judges, one for each member state of the EU, and nine Advocates General. Judges are appointed by the collective agreement of the governments of member states and serve for six year terms, which can be renewed. According to the Lisbon Treaty, each candidate must "be tested for independence and impartiality, juridical capability, and ability to function in English and French" before being

appointed a judge. Although rejections are rare, the General Court has the ability to reject candidates whom it finds unacceptable. The current president of the ECJ is Vassilios Skouris, who was appointed in 2003. The Advocates General are legal counsel that assist the judges by giving an opinion on cases involving new points of European law. Although this opinion does not bind the judges presiding over the case, it is often followed. Based on the complexity of the case, the Court will sit as a full court, fifteen judges, five judges, or three judges.

The primary job of the ECJ is to enforce EU law and check the power of other EU institutions. A number of different proceedings falls under the jurisdiction of the ECJ. In requests for preliminary rulings, the national courts of member states will ask that the ECJ interpret and clarify a point of EU law. The Court's judgment will then bind every national court in the EU wherever the same issue is brought up. The ECJ also determines whether member states are fulfilling their obligations under EU law, decides whether or not to annul measures that have been adopted by an EU institution that might go against EU treaties or rights, and reviews decisions of the General Court. Should an EU institution fail to act when called upon, the ECJ has the power to apply necessary measures to ensure that the institution fulfills its duties. Many of the judgments of the ECJ affect important areas of EU law such as free movement of goods, freedom of movement for people, freedom to provide services, equal treatment, fundamental and social rights, and European Union citizenship.

Direct Effect & Supremacy

There are two basic principles that guide the European Court of Justice: direct effect and supremacy. In 1963, in the case of *Van Gend en Loos v. Nederlandse Administratie de Belastingen*, the Court ruled that the Treaty of Rome created a Community that included not only the member states but also their citizens; "the Community constitutes a new legal order of international law for the benefit of which

the states have limited their sovereign rights, albeit within limited fields, and the subjects of which comprise not only Member States but also their nationals. Independently of the legislation of Member States, Community law therefore not only imposes obligations on individuals but is also intended to confer upon them rights which become part of their legal heritage." According to this ruling, not only did EU law apply to national governments, as was the traditional approach to international law at the time, but it also directly impacted the citizens of member states. This gave member state citizens the right to use the EU courts for appeals or to bring action against EU decisions thought to violate fundamental rights.

Just one year later, in the case *Costa v. ENEL*, The ECJ established the principle of supremacy. The principle of supremacy states that in cases where Community law and national law disagree, Community law takes supremacy, and that member states no longer have sovereign rights in this way when they become EU members. Once an ECJ decision is made, it becomes applicable to all other member states as well in the same circumstance. In following rulings, the ECJ clarified and more firmly established the principle of supremacy, asserting their legal dominance.

Controversies

The growing power of the ECJ is causing concern among European governments who believe that it has too much influence and is no longer able to serve as an unbiased court for Europe. One major criticism of the court is its excessively close relationship with the European Commission. The Court is meant to serve as a check for the other branches of government in the EU. However, according to Damian Chalmers, professor of European Union law at the London School for Economics and Political Science, "the Court has grown too institutionally close to the EU to now be judicially effective" and is "enmeshed with the regular policy-making of the EU." Chalmers argues that the Commission is using the ECJ as a "legal

rubberstamp” to do its work for it. Between 2006 and 2010, the Commission won in 91% of its cases, and this high success rate has caused critics to say the ECJ is biased against member states. According to Lord Mance, a prominent British judge, the ECJ is too invested “in the development of the EU to discharge the checks and balances role successfully.”

Another major criticism of the ECJ is its large amount of power, such as the principle of supremacy, which oversteps its boundaries. Former German President Roman Herzog is included in the many critics of the ECJ. According to Herzog, the ECJ is undermining national sovereignty and jurisdiction. Among other things, he accused the ECJ of acting more like a legislative body rather than the judicial body that it is meant to be, calling the Court arrogant and unrestrained. Herzog goes on to say that “the ECJ deliberately and systematically ignores fundamental principles of the Western interpretation of law, that its decisions are based on sloppy argumentation... and invents legal principles serving as grounds for later judgments.” The Former German President is not the only one to feel this way. In Denmark, Ralf Pittelkow, advisor to the former Prime Minister, said that the Court has taken over “political decisions that ought to be the responsibility of elected representatives” and Wolfgang Schussel, former Austrian Chancellor, accused the ECJ of meddling with the country’s education in 2006. Marc Bossuyt, Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Belgium agreed with the criticism of the power of the ECJ by calling it a “government of judges.” According to Bossuyt, with its principle of supremacy, the ECJ forces its rulings onto countries without understanding the laws that are applied. Like other EU countries, he expresses his concern that the ECJ has become a law-making body rather than a law-enforcing body.

However, the Court also has a number of supporters who believe that the work done by the ECJ has been vital to the progress of Europe. Anne-Marie Burley, a law professor at the University of Chicago, and Walter Mattli,

an Oxford economist, say that the ECJ “laid the legal foundation for an integrated European economy and polity.” Without the work of the ECJ, European law would not exist in the concrete and defined way it does today. As for Community law and the principle of supremacy, they provide a force that unites the EU together. According to its supporters, without supremacy, there would be no point to the Court or EU law if member states could just choose to ignore their decisions. Without direct effect and supremacy, there would be nothing to uphold Community law, thereby undermining the EU and the European market.

Potential Solutions

With the amount of power and influence the ECJ has over the European Union and its member states, making sure that it is functioning fairly and effectively is vital. Many reform options have been discussed by leaders throughout Europe. As mentioned before, many countries are unhappy with the power and jurisdiction the ECJ currently possesses. Some believe that restrictions should be placed upon the ECJ to limit the number of cases the ECJ takes, especially cases for the European Commission. Another potential solution is to split the ECJ into multiple courts in order to ensure that one court no longer possesses such great power over the EU and end the threat of a “government by judges”. However, there is no way to guarantee that by splitting the court, the new courts will act solely judicially and not legislatively. In addition, with smaller courts, it may be even more difficult to avoid the mandatory rulings by foreign judges that Bossuyt feared.

Other more radical ideas include abolishing the ECJ and the principles of direct effect and supremacy. This solution is not ideal, but it may help to avoid accusations of infringement of national sovereignty and inspire more trust in the EU. However, this may make it difficult to maintain EU law consistently throughout Europe or bring up grievances against EU institutions. Cases would instead have to be discussed by the

European Parliament or Commission. While this may result in more diplomatic solutions that all national governments could agree on, it would make the process much less efficient and greatly limit the number of cases addressed. It would also undermine the solidity of the EU as a whole by drawing into question the validity of the ECJ and its former rulings. Still, others believe that the ECJ should remain as it is and continue functioning with all its power intact. Reforming the ECJ is necessary, but there is no sure way to go about doing it.

Questions to Consider

1. Has the ECJ accumulated too much power or overstepped its boundaries? How should the ECJ's power be reduced while still allowing it to be functional? Or should it be abolished?
2. Should the ECJ be divided to reduce the amount of power a single court possesses? How will you make sure that the new courts do not grow to have too much power like the ECJ?
3. Has the ECJ become a political body? Has it created a "government by judges?"
4. Is the ECJ still an effective check on other EU institutions? If not, what steps should be taken to make it more effective?
5. What should be done about the European Commission's excessive use of the ECJ?
6. Does the principle of supremacy violate national sovereignty?
7. Should the principle of supremacy be overruled? If so, how do you ensure that the decisions of the ECJ will still be followed?
8. Is the ECJ able to make proper decisions for a specific country even though it is made up of foreign judges?

Topic II: Human Trafficking

Overview

The EU currently faces a growing problem within its member states, and that is human trafficking. Human trafficking is the trading of human beings, an act considered a grievous violation of human rights. In between 2008 and 2010, human trafficking rose by eighteen percent, but the number of conviction fell by thirteen percent. Over this three year period,

the European Union found twenty-three thousand six hundred victims of human trafficking, but it is believed that there are hundreds of thousands of victims currently all across Europe. Many people used for human trafficking are not European, and are roped into the situation with the promise of migration. Many describe human trafficking as a modern form of slavery.

The European Commission sees a direct link between human trafficking and prostitution, as the majority of victims are forced to become one. However, people use victims for forced labor, illegal adoptions, forced marriage, and trade in human organs as well. Prostitution remains as the prevailing problem and main motivation for human trafficking as sixty-two percent of victims are used for sexual means. Due to the prevalence of prostitution, eighty percent of victims are women and girls. The majority of trafficking victims are European as well with sixty-one percent of them coming from EU member states. A vast amount of trafficking victims originate from China and Nigeria, or tier 3 trafficking nations. Tier 3 trafficking nations are countries of that fail to meet the minimum standards for the prevention of human trafficking thus making them ideal destinations for the supply and transit of victims.

The majority of European victims come from Romania and Bulgaria. Romania and Bulgaria are two formerly communist nations that reside in the Balkans. These two nations both suffer from unstable economies and corruption in their governments. While Romania remains more stable than Bulgaria, it's economy is vulnerable to shifts in the market and faces uneven structure reform. However, Bulgaria currently grows very slowly economically and faces widespread organized crime. Many times victims will be captured through deception. These people living in these countries desire a way out, a manner of escape. Traffickers are people that offer these services, disguising their intentions as a manner of aid in migration or occupational security. Once the victim has crossed the border, they are then exploited through coercive means.

The traffickers then manipulate their victims, causing them to enter industries such as forced labor or prostitution. As victims fall farther down into this hole of slavery, they continue to lose their chances of escape.

While forced sexual slavery is the major driving force behind human trafficking, it is not the only motivation traffickers have. First of all, there is the illegal organ trade. The fact of the matter is that the demand for organs exceeds the amount that can be supplied. As a result, black market organ trading has grown as a result. Many victims are captured to have their organs removed and then sold at a high price. This process requires not only traffickers, but corrupt surgeons as well. Currently there are an estimated eight hundred eighty thousand forced laborers in Europe. These forced laborers account for approximately twenty-five percent of victims and they tend to work in fields such as agriculture, hospitality, cleaning, construction, and processing. These workers don't earn wages, and are slaves to whoever purchased them.

Current Action and Controversy

Human trafficking is not an issue that is ignored, and has been the subject of not only a convention on the topic, but also a directive. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is a piece of international human rights law drafted by the European Council in Warsaw in the year of 2005. The convention was a means of uniting the European nations to undergo more cooperation and present a united front against human trafficking. Not only that, but it desired to search for victims of human trafficking and to allow them safety and recovery. Many victims have entered their current nations illegally, as trafficking is used as a means of migration, but the convention stated that victims would not be deported, but instead granted rehabilitation for their abuse. The convention also seeks to make investigation and persecution of the crime effective, and as a result founded the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, or GRETA. GRETA is a monitoring mechanism

for human trafficking, and is a group of ten to fifteen delegates from a variety of states. These members are very diverse, and are chosen for their high moral character, experience in the field of human rights, and assistance of victims.

Recently, in 2011, the European Union drafted a directive to further tackle the issue of human trafficking. This directive set minimum rules for what could be deemed as human trafficking as well as complimentary punishments. Measures to increase prevention of the issue and protection of those afflicted were also established by the directive. The directive states that the maximum prison time one can attain is at least ten years, but only if the victim was particularly vulnerable or a child, they are associated with a criminal organization, they endangered the victims life, or if they caused serious harm to the victim. Otherwise, the perpetrator will receive a maximum of at least five years of imprisonment. The protection the victims receive is counseling as well as possible compensation for what they have gone through. Children can get things such as education as well. The plan for prevention of human trafficking involves raising awareness, reducing demand through education and training, making sure trafficking is established as a crime, and training officials to come into contact with victims.

Controversy has arisen over the steps taken by nations to prevent human trafficking. Though the directive required the twenty-eight member states of the EU to implement these stricter measure, only nine of the twenty-eight member states had done so by June 2013. Though the laws had to be introduced within two years' time, once the limit was reached only twenty nations had implemented these measures. Even in the year 2014, Germany had still failed to obey the directive's requirements. Directives designed to curb the organ trading business and forced labor have failed as well. Even though EU member states are required to implement these measure by law, they fail to do so. From 2008 when the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in

Human Beings was passed to the year 2011, the rate of human trafficking did not decrease, but increased instead. Not only that, but the amount of convictions for the crime had decreased. These failures now cause many to decry the EU for failing to not only attain the goals set by their legislation, but to even follow the directives they create in the first place. Though directives are drafted and passed, they are never actively enforced.

Controversy also exists over the effectiveness of the current plans the European Union has to combat the threat of human trafficking. Some view that prostitution, while a driving factor for trafficking, gets too large of a focus in legislation. This then downplays the importance and severity of tackling issues such as illegal adoption or the organ trade. Then, there is the corruption in local governments themselves. While solving the issues using trans-national laws creates a co-operative atmosphere in the EU, many criticize the fact that these laws fail to translate to the local level. Corruption exists in many member states, and simply passing a law is not the same as enforcing it.

Possible Solutions

One possible solution to this problem would be to attempt to stabilize the economies and governments of the nations the migrants originate from. The vast majority of victims of human trafficking are migrants that come from EU member states. The member states these people come from, such as Romania, are known to have shaky economies and corrupt governments. While the EU's actions have been attempts to promote co-operation between nations, local governments can still be corrupted and aid the industry. If nations such as the Netherlands or France were to aid these nation's economies and attempted to enforce the trans-national laws even in local governments, then the amount of people desperately seeking emigration would decrease, and as a result human trafficking would too. However, the monetary cost and effort this would require may be too much for these nations, but it still strengthens the bond

between European nations and aids in creating a united Europe.

Others state that rather than focusing on the nations where the immigrants come from, one should focus domestically. If one were to provide education, training, and money to the poor, then people would not have to resort to forced labor or prostitution. If given a guarantee of safety as well as a reliable social safety net, many would be more courageous and willing to seek escape or aid from the government. People who receive compensation and other incentives are willing to contact the government. Then, the education and training allows the victims to then seek employment and integrate into society. This too would require many resources, but elimination of poverty would greatly aid one's own nation in more than the prevention of human trafficking.

A third solutions could be to increase the penalties faced when caught guilty of human trafficking. Presently, human trafficking results in a few years in prison, but if increased many would believe the risks outweigh the benefits. However, the traffickers would not be the only ones penalized, but those guilty of the purchase of humans. While there are already measures to prevent this, if they were increased and made harsher then there would be even more of an incentive to not engage in this illegal activity. People use forced labor due to its low price, but if the risks were too great they would avoid it still, and the same goes for prostitution. If the demand is cut off, then the operation would cease because there would be no point. However, does the creation of negative incentives truly matter in what is already a legal activity? What is more effective, cutting off the supply or the demand? Should one focus on solely their own nation, or others as well? How can one actually make it so the entire EU would actually follow these measures?

Questions to Consider

1. If legislation is passed, how can it be made sure that all EU member states will comply?

2. Should trafficking be attacked at its point of origin or destination?
3. Is it more effective to attempt to stop the supply of victims or to curb the demand for them?
4. Is there any point to these past directives if nations don't actually follow them?
5. Should the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and GRETA be considered failures due to the rise in trafficking and decrease in convictions or are they preventing an even worse scenario?
6. Are the penalties for human trafficking suitable in their current state? In what ways do they currently affect human trafficking, and how can changing them affect their influence?
7. Is simply educating the populace enough to prevent them from being forced into slavery?
8. Many victims of human trafficking are either afraid of seeking aid or simply lack any incentive to do so. What ways can more people be encouraged to speak out?
9. How can one go out and search for those that are currently affected by human trafficking?
10. Many say that current anti-trafficking laws have too much of a focus on prostitution. Is this true? If it is, then how can laws be adapted to avoid the issue?

References for Further Research

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- http://europa.eu/about-eu/index_en.htm - Also has lots of basic EU information as well as things like detailed press releases.
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/00b3f21266/At-your-service.html> - Good for detailed powers and procedures of the European Parliament.
- http://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_7024/ - Information about the ECJ.
- http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/default_en.asp - A collection of news stories about Human Trafficking
- http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/Country_profiles/Western_Central_Europe.pdf – While not a database for research,

this .pdf contains useful statistics for all of Europe.

- http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index_en.htm – This is from the European Union's official site, and has summaries of the directives and legislation that has been passed

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Welcome, delegates!

We are Jacob Adams and Coly Elhai, your co-chairs for what we're sure will be one of the most exciting, thought-provoking committees at GSMUN XVIII: the French National Convention of the first French Republic. Our committee will focus on putting former king Louis XVI on trial and drafting a new Constitution, but you must also be prepared to respond to the turmoil, radicalism, and frequent domestic and international crises that characterized the era.

Before we get to the aspects of your position paper and outside research, first a few words on the function and behavior of the committee. Have no fear; despite the name of the committee, the proceedings will be held entirely in English. As delegates, you will be representing specific deputies elected to the newly founded National Convention. Parliamentary procedure will act as a baseline for the committee's behavior, but given the nature of the committee, we may deviate from the typical format.

For this committee, you will need to research for and write a position paper before the conference. Your research and paper should focus on your representative, their respective faction alignment, and any important background knowledge not in the background guide. You should also detail your individual's views and solutions regarding the trial of Louis XVI and the drafting of the new constitution. For this part of your position paper, the "Questions to Consider" from the background guide are your friends! We strongly recommend that you make liberal use of whatever relevant primary sources you can find, but any and all (trustworthy) sources will also be helpful. As far as technical requirements, we ask that your papers be at least 500 words, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with a bibliography in Chicago Style. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Keep in mind that it is expected that your position papers are completely original work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat.

If this all seems a little daunting, don't worry! More important than the specific requirements for the position paper is that writing it gives you a solid foundation so you'll be able to debate knowledgeably come time for the conference. The more time and energy you dedicate to preparing for the conference ahead of time, the more fun our committee will be! Bonne chance, and we look forward to meeting you all.

Vive la France!



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Committee Background

Committee Overview

Although decades of drought, poor harvests, and a heavy tax burden weighing on the nation's lower classes had set the stage for the French Revolution, the immediate trigger was the French government's economic difficulties. France had provided the then-British colonies of North America with funds and troops to fight their own Revolution against the British crown, and though this support may have made the difference between American success and failure, it also made the difference between French economic stability and insurrection.

Louis XVI, king of France at the time, appointed Jacques Necker as Director of Finances in 1776 and tasked him with figuring out how to fund French support of the Americans. Necker's solution was to issue government bonds with high interest rates (meaning that buyers stood to make large profits), which, though initially effective, dug the nation into an economic hole. Necker was unable to address this problem, and in 1783 resigned. Within a few years, France's budget deficit had grown to more than 15% of the royal budget, forcing Charles Alexandre de Calonne, who succeeded Necker, to address the issue. He formulated a series of radical changes to finances and taxation, including imposing a general land tax that in total stripped the elite of some of their tax immunities. After both Calonne and his successor failed to convince either the Assembly of Notables or Parliament to approve the reforms, Louis was forced in 1789 to re-appoint the ever popular Necker and call the first meeting of the Estates General in more than two centuries.

The Estates General, a legislative body meant to advise the king, was composed of three estates that represented the three subsections of French society: the clergy, the nobility, and the rest of the population. Though the Third Estate, which included the educated bourgeois along with laborers and peasants,

represented 96% of the population, its vote had the same value of the votes of the other two Estates. Members of the Third Estate agitated in the lead-up to the meeting against this system of disproportional representation, advocating instead voting based on number of members rather than class, but it was to no avail. At the meeting itself, the conflict over voting methods continued to escalate, culminating in the members of the Third Estate walking out and reconvening on a nearby tennis court. There they renamed themselves the National Assembly and swore the famous Tennis Court Oath, which bound them not to disperse until the national constitution had been changed.

After creating and adopting the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, a document revolutionary for its endorsement of natural rights philosophy, liberty, and democracy, the National Assembly began drafting a new Constitution. The document that resulted, which created a Constitutional monarchy in which the king held veto power, represented a success on the part of the more moderate elements of the Assembly.

This success, though, did not lead to any lasting stability. Soon after the Legislative Assembly had been created to replace the National Assembly, its members voted to declare war on Austria and Prussia, neighbors to France that the Assembly believed were also harboring French counterrevolutionaries. Meanwhile, a rift emerged among the members of the Assembly itself, pitting the conservative Feuillants (later known as Girondins), who tended to be more supportive of the monarchy, against the more radical Jacobins. The Jacobins, whose supporters were called sans-culottes and whose deputies were known as Montagnards, were led by a firebrand named Maximilien Robespierre.

Under Robespierre's leadership, the Jacobins, riding the rising wave of anti-royal sentiment, attacked the Tuileries Palace in Paris and arrested Louis XVI on August 10, 1792.

The Legislative Assembly was dissolved, and the National Convention was called to correct what was seen as a failure on the part of the previous assembly to be radical enough. Debate commenced on the fate of the king and a new constitution.

The National Convention

The National Convention is a representative legislation, comprised of deputies elected by universal male suffrage, in the First Republic of France. It was founded in September 1792, succeeding the Legislative Assembly as the primary governing body of France. Comprised of 749 delegates, no executive presided over the convention, instead decisions were made by a majority vote. Based directly on the principles of the revolution and the Republic, the National Convention had no connection to hereditary monarchy or nobility. The King's political power in the legislation had been suspended, and the opportunity political office had been opened up to all males in France.

The Convention had its foundation in the principles of the French Revolution. The establishment of liberties of documents such as the Declaration of Rights of Man and Citizen had moved the populace to create a government that would support those liberties. Radicalism and harsh action became core components of the Revolution as each consecutive government became more extreme in its behavior. Now the Convention has been brought together following over a month of turmoil and bloodshed to establish order in a new nation and uphold the ideals of the revolution.

The year is 1792, and the National Convention has just been formed. All the delegates are newly elected, with less than half having served in the governance of France before. Even the revolution itself is young, only beginning in earnest in 1789. The French Republic has just begun with the foundation of the National Convention, and a new era is underway. It is now the duty of the National Convention alone to deal with the grievances that face France, and to ensure that the Republic prospers in the future.

Topic I: The Trial of Louis XVI

Louis XVI's Role in the Revolution

Despite his initial opposition to the Third Estate's formation of the National Assembly, then-king Louis XVI saw after the National Assembly gained support from some of the members of the First and Second Estates that it would be in his best interests to cooperate with the Revolution. The events of July 14, 1789, when rioters stormed Bastille prison, a symbol of the monarchy, further confirmed this. Louis agreed to collaborate with the Revolution and to become a constitutional, rather than absolute monarch soon after the revolutionaries stormed the Bastille.

For the first couple years of the Revolution, he remained popular and the people saw him as an integral part of a reformed France. The changes the revolutionaries envisioned for France's new order left the monarchy intact, but with limited power. In 1791, as the National Assembly neared the completion of its new constitution and the king's supporters realized just how limited the monarchy's powers would be, Louis and his family fled Paris. His intent was to avoid having to sign the constitution and to join some of his supporters in the Austrian Netherlands, but as he neared the border, Louis was recognized, captured, and sent back to Paris. Some of his popularity survived, though, enough that he was able to retain his position as king even as he was forced to sign the new Constitution and witness the creation of a new Legislative Assembly.

The remains of his popularity evaporated, however, in the months leading up to his arrest on August 10. As the French military met with defeats facing foreign armies at its borders, the revolutionaries blamed the failures of the army and the new government on Louis XVI, claiming that he was endangering the Revolution from within. There were even disputes among the members of the National Convention over whether or not Louis should receive a trial; some, including Robespierre, claimed that to allow him a trial was, as a contemporary source phrased it, to "go backwards towards despotism...[and] put the Revolution in dispute."

Against Robespierre's and other's complaints, the trial of Louis XVI, or "Citizen Capet" as he was referred to by those who

denied the monarchy, went forward. The proceedings were divided into two parts. First, delegates disputed whether or not Louis was guilty on charges of “high treason and crimes against the state”. Second, after voting overwhelming that Louis was guilty, the question for the Convention was what his punishment ought to be.

Charges against Louis

Among the charges leveled against Louis XVI were his opposition to the National Assembly, including his efforts to deprive the Third Estate of a place to meet, his refusal to acknowledge the newly formed National Assembly, and his failure to dismiss the troops that surrounded the Assembly. Additional charges related to his attempt to flee with his family to Austria, bribery of members of the Legislative Assembly, and ordering his guards to shoot on the people immediately preceding Louis’ arrest.

Arguments Made by the King’s Defenders:

The constitution approved by the National Assembly in 1791 was very clear on the status of the king, stating in article 2 that “the person of the king is inviolable and sacred”. Article 8 of the same Constitution stated that “after the express or legal abdication, the king shall be in the class of citizens and can be tried like them for acts subsequent to his abdication”, implying that the king could not be tried for acts prior to his abdication. The natural conclusion from this was that the king could not be held guilty for his “crimes” because he committed them while still king and thus, as Louis himself put it, “There did not exist laws which forbade me.” It was on this logic that the arguments of Louis’ defenders (primarily Girondins and their allies) hinged.

Where this argument fell short, however, the king’s defenders turned to more practical, concrete reasons not to convict the king. They warned that dealing inhumanely with the former king could give the Revolutionary regime a reputation for cruelty, and might deter some of its potential supporters. They also cited the fact that a harsh punishment for Louis XVI could serve to provoke the “despots of Europe” (including Britain and Spain) to align their

nations with France’s other foreign aggressors, and so urged restraint in dealing with Louis’ fate. To moderate the passions they knew were inherent in the assembled National Convention, they even suggested that Louis’ fate be put to a national referendum.

Anti-Royal Arguments:

The arguments on the other side tended to be more emotional, driven by passion for a new world order and anger at the old order that Louis represented. To them, Louis was a “criminal to humanity” who had brought about the deaths of “martyrs of liberty” and who thus deserved death himself.

However, Louis’ opponents’ stance was not just lofty rhetoric. Louis’ Jacobin detractors did have carefully laid out reasoning to support their views. The first logical step that they made was to establish that he was not “inviolable” and thus could be accused of a crime. Up until that point, people had accepted the idea of an “absolute” monarch, bound by no rule but his own. However, Revolutionaries drew on Enlightenment ideas to prove that the monarchy was a social construct subject to higher law than civil law, and thus that the king could be indicted for violating this higher law. Inspired by Rousseau, Montesquieu, and other great Enlightenment thinkers, Jacobins such as Louis–Antoine Léon de Saint–Just argued that the social contract under which Louis had ruled was “necessarily void” because he had ruled as a tyrant in a way “not sanctioned by ethics and nature.”

Some of the strongest evidence as to the king’s guilt was a locked chest, also called the “*armoire de fer*”, that contained letters sent from Louis’ exiled ministers to the king. The contents of the chest were used as proof of the king’s having plotted against the Revolution, and also had the result of discrediting Mirabeau, one of the early leaders of the Revolution.

However, the trial of Louis XVI was primarily about ideas and concepts rather than concrete evidence. At its heart, the trial wasn’t just about the fate of the former king. It was a debate that struck to the core of what the Revolution purported to be about: social equality and the role and responsibility of government to serve the people.

Questions to Consider:

- Can Citizen Capet be held accountable for actions taken while monarch or should he be considered inviolable?
- By what law should Citizen Capet be judged? Is there a higher law that takes precedence over written law and the 1791 constitution?
- What impact would convicting and/or executing the king have on the nation's security and the security of the Revolution?
- Is it the duty of the National Convention to decide Capet's fate or would the issue be better resolved by turning it over to a referendum by the people?

Topic II: Writing of the Constitution Former Legislation

King Louis XVI has been suspended, the Legislative Assembly has been dissolved, and now universal male suffrage has elected representatives to the new National Convention. Now that the people of France were able control their own liberties, it was necessary that National Convention formally organized its decisions on a constitution. Previous attempts to draft this crucial piece of legislation had to some degree made concessions to the monarchy and the Ancien Régime. The National Convention must deliberate on the issues that most strongly separate or limit the Republic, and with their decisions compose a constitution that will secure the rights of the people and the nation.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen is the cornerstone of the ideal liberties created by the revolution. Signed in 1789, written primarily by the American Thomas Jefferson and French aristocrat Lafayette, the declaration accounted for all civil and public rights deemed necessary by the French public. In the piece of legislation, the agency and liberty of the populace is uplifted, while the law and legislature are expected to be created only by the need of the people. Understanding and appreciation of the declaration is often expected among members of the National Convention, with certain

members more devoted to the document than their own will.

In 1791 the National Constituent Assembly, predecessor to the Legislative Assembly, drafted the first French constitution with the goal of establishing popular sovereignty. While Louis XVI still presided, there was a degree of separation that marked this legislature as the first milestone towards formal rule by the people. Sections of the document further outlined personal rights to freedom of religion, press, assembly, and franchise. The 1791 constitution also dissolved hereditary office and the presence of gifted nobility as a public office.

The 1791 constitution clearly outlined the power and behavior of the branches of government and the law. The foremost point it established was the unity of the nation and the civil bindings of elections, marriages, and citizenship. It outlined the organization of the National Assembly and the representative court system. The constitution prescribed the King as the executive power, with the ability to take action within the law, and also the ability of "Royal Sanction", wherein he had the ability to veto decrees written by the legislature. With the dissolution of the monarchy, there was no longer an acting executive power in the Republic's governance and no direct limit on the abilities of the National Convention to pass and execute decrees and laws.

Voting rights created an issue of controversy, over the issue of voter participation and the groups of the population that actually would be allowed to control the Republic. The members of the Legislative assembly, largely middle-class Bourgeoisie, had thought it was best to restrict voting rights to the informed members of society. Those members being "active" Frenchmen who were over the age of 25 and paid direct taxes equivalent to several days of labor. The voter turnout for the 1791 elections to the Legislative Assembly was only a small 10.2% of the French male population, representative of the Bourgeois individuals who were both interested in voting and allowed to participate. These voting restrictions would prove not be significant, as when delegates were elected by universal male suffrage to serve in the National

Convention, voter participation only rose to 11.9%.

Matters of State Governance and Security

There was a great swath of issues that faced the newly elected delegates of the National Convention, and the Republic of France itself. Even after the institution of the Republic, the debts and famine of the Ancien Régime still devastated France's economy. Violence racked the nation, rebellion was not uncommon and the Sans-culottes, the people's army, lacked the restraint or order of a typical military group. The nations of Europe failed to recognize the National Convention and the Republic as a legitimate government since the suspension and imprisonment of King Louis XVI. It is the duty of the delegates to create systems and solutions that will help France challenge these present issues, and ensure the Republic's prosperity into the future.

One avenue for dealing with the pressing issues facing France is to decide what will serve as the Republic's executive branch. Formerly King Louis XVI had acted as an executive, but now that place is left unfilled. The National Convention could act as executives as well, with the ability to pass decrees by majority. The radical revolutionaries in the nation, such as the Sans-culotte, would believe that those representatives of the people should act as the active decision-makers. Other more conservative citizens in the Bourgeoisie fear that the bloat of the voting process could hinder the nation's efforts to respond to the multitude of problems it faces. In both cases, there is the question of whether or not it is beneficial to put so much power into one governing body. Potential for solutions to the lack of executives are the creation of an elected executive council within the Convention, or perhaps a single chosen individual to preside ultimately over the legislature.

The economic state of France had not recovered. Debts continued to pile up, left over from the excessive spending of Louis XVI, which was mostly comprised of war costs and personal debts. In the past two years the feudal and guild systems had been abolished, as well as the tax farming system. Industrial, agricultural, and trade productions were slowing as the

violence and turbulence of the revolution continued to grow. Poverty and high price issues had not been wholly solved yet, continuing the plague the lower classes. Already, the Republic had seized church lands and printed paper currency to represent their value as an attempt to stabilize the economy. These assignats, as the paper bonds were called, were used to cure a portion of the national debt, but by the foundation of the National Convention they have become largely void of value. It might be necessary for the National Convention to discuss and institute further programs and committees to solve the debt crisis and absolve the lower classes of their economic issues.

The First coalition has declared war on the Republic. Comprised of European superpowers such as Austria, Prussia, and Great Britain, this coalition sought to usurp the people's National Convention and restore Louis XVI to his throne. Internally, many groups of rebellious royalists wished to do the same. The Republic's greatest military force, the Sans-Culottes, were poorly equipped and poorly managed, with little restraint or organization. The National Convention may wish to create a new system to better organize the defense of France and utilization of its resources.

Debates on the Liberties of the Republic

Not only must the National Convention deal with the governmental necessities when composing additions to the constitution, but it must also continue to uphold and expand the ideals that the Republic was founded on. With the foundation of the first Republic in this year, 1792, France has reached a point of liberty where it can continue to perfect itself through the decisions of the National Convention. The debates that most strongly divided the Republic at the time were the matters of the Catholic Church and a state religion, and the political rights of women in the revolution.

In the minds of many proponents of the revolution, the Catholic Church was a remnant of the Ancien Régime and against the principles of the Republic. Before 1789, Catholicism was the strict religion of the majority of the populace. However, the sheer amount of revenue and political power held by the clergy compared to the lower classes and Bourgeoisie

created a great amount of distrust between the people and the church. Despite many members of the clergy supporting the revolution, such as Emmanuel Joseph Sieyès, early pieces of Republic legislation directly targeted the church. Within the first year of the revolution, all church property had been seized by the state, and monasteries were shut down for oppressing personal liberties. Much of the justification for this increasing separation between the Republic and the church lies in the enlightenment ideals that were so strong in France. Writers such as Rousseau and Voltaire, whose ideals of governmental and societal change strongly influenced the revolution, to one degree or another disliked the dominance of the Catholic Church. Congregations such as the Cult of Reason had begun to surface now in 1792, atheistic groups that value logic and reason instead of a god or Christ figure. Many of the members of the lower class were still bound to the old way of life and the church. Others, more radically anti-clerical, believed that the Republic should even replace the calendar with one less religious.

The writing of the new constitution has the power to firmly change France's current religious alignment. It is up to the National Convention to decide whether the church will continue to be pieced apart and put to different use, if the Cult of Reason shall dominate France, or if the Republic will no longer worsen its relationship with the clergy.

Rousseau had also written works establishing the nature of women as a more domestic, passive citizen. In many ways, the image of the republican woman became anything but that. In the few years that the revolution had endured, women had been writing pleas and making statements, all stressing why their gender deserves the same rights as men in the Republic. There have been many requests and writings from a multitude of women, such as Olympe de Gouges who wrote specifically for the equality of civil and political rights most directly pertaining to the social needs of women. Others such as Pauline Léon had made more radical propositions, such as the creation of a female guard within Paris. Many in the upper classes of France preferred to continue to ignore these radical women, but the agitation

began to grow more severe. The women's march on Versailles in 1789 was the most recent memory of the power that these French women could have when they truly wished to accomplish their goals. In the formation of the National Convention's new constitution, it may be in the best for the Convention to consider how they wish to treat women's rights in regard to man's, or how they wish to counter the growing radicalism of these women.

A constitution can very well determine the long term success of a government. As the elected representatives of the newly formed National Convention, identifying the issues most important to the revolution and then actively responding to them in legislation will be crucial. Due to the varied issues of the topic, identify a few issues in your research that you either learn or feel your representative had a strong opinion on, and then focus on those issues. For your position paper, it would be in your best interest to strongly research one or two branches of the topic. The most strongly represented issues will make their appearance in committee, and debate will occur over the resolution of those issues.

Questions to Consider

- Should the National Convention create an additional body to act as the executive branch of the Republic? If so, what form should that executive branch take?
- What steps need to be taken by the Convention to ensure France is economically stable, and its people are no longer suffering?
- What steps are necessary to ensure the National Convention can protect France from its aggressors? How will the Convention implement and maintain those decisions?
- Is the Catholic Church too much a part of the old regime to continue being a part of the Republic? If so, how is the Convention going to purge the church from French society? And how will the rural citizens that relied on the church be compensated?
- How should the National Convention respond to the growing Cult of Reason? Is it an organization worth formally recognizing, or even supporting?

- Should women agitating the French government be treated as criminals, or have their message acknowledged? Will dialogue on the issue appease the radicals, or agitate them further?
- Do women deserve the same civil liberties as men? The same educational liberties? Political liberties? Where does the National Convention draw the line for women's freedoms?

Useful Links:

- Very broad outline of the Revolution:
<http://www.geneseo.edu/~easton/humanities/frrev.html>
- This entire site has links to primary sources including speeches, pictures, and even songs, as well as easy to read summaries of the main events
<http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/>
- A summary of the charges against Louis XVI:
http://historyguide.org/intellect/louis_trial.html
- The text of the 1791 Constitution drafted by the National Assembly:
<http://www.historywiz.com/primarysources/const1791text.html>

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International Court of Justice

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Chair

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Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up, Speak
Out*

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Delegates,

Welcome to the International Court of Justice! Your chairs are Cynthia Ong and Priyashma Joshi. We cannot wait for all of your debate this spring and are excited to hear your nation's stance on nuclear disarmament within the Marshall Islands and maritime delineation between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. However, before you enter the conference, you will need to prepare a few things.

First, you will need to prepare a position paper giving a general overview of your nation as well as a more specific look at your nation's stance regarding the two issues. A background guide delving deeper into these topics, written by us personally, can be found under the official GSMUN website: <http://www.gsmun.net/international-court-of-justice.html>. A good position paper does not simply give general background but takes a stance on the issues, offers potential resolutions, is well-researched, and discusses both topics. Though papers should be thorough, please keep them concise, seeing as we will be reviewing one from each delegation within the committee. It is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards.

During the conference itself, you will need to explore the topic further, and writing a position paper will put you on the right track in doing so. This position paper will serve you a great deal during our conference, acting as a reference guide for your nation's stance and an outline for how you should approach debate. Remember to include a Chicago-style bibliography attached to your position paper citing all sources used. Please keep in mind that GSMUN follows Maggie Walker's Honor Code, so any plagiarism will result in your disqualification from awards.

GSMUN may seem a bit daunting at first, but we hope it will be a pleasurable experience and that you will walk away from our conference with a better knowledge of policy and a stronger sense of confidence. Remember, it is not about how many times you speak or how long the resolution, but the quality in what you have to say. We cannot wait to meet you and see what you have in store for us. Good luck and feel free to email us with any questions!

Sincerely,



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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, was established in 1945 to serve as the United Nation's chief judicial branch. Consisting of 15 judges, each of whom serves nine-year terms and is elected by the General Assembly and Security Council, the ICJ allows for contentious proceedings by individual nations and advisory proceedings to the different departments within the UN such as the WHO and UNESCO. The International Court of Justice has no affiliation with other judicial institutions such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), which does not belong to the United Nations.

Only countries and United Nations committees can appeal to the International Court of Justice. The ICJ settles legal disputes between states. Its rulings are binding and cannot be appealed. Although the ICJ does not have its own methods of enforcement, its rulings can be turned over to the Security Council, which does have the means to enforce. Additionally, the ICJ frequently advises specialized committees and other organs of the United Nations upon request. As one of the six main branches of the United Nations, the ICJ is crucial in its role as an impartial third party that regulates disputes between nations.

Topic 1: Nuclear Disarmament within the Republic of the Marshall Islands History

Advances in nuclear power within the last century have resulted in efforts toward nuclear disarmament. Nations and parties vying for nuclear disarmament do so in regards to the political, ethical, and long-term environmental concerns that arise from the use of nuclear energy as a power source or weaponry. In light of the increasing use of nuclear energy, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)

marks the beginning of an organized attempt to control the world's use of nuclear power.

Since its signing in 1968, the goals of the NPT have been to accomplish nuclear disarmament by preventing the spread of nuclear weapons technology while still attempting to promote a peaceful use of nuclear power. Along with the numerous parties that have signed on to the treaty, the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom, the five nuclear weapon states, also ratified or acceded to this treaty.

Since the ratification of the NPT, efforts such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. during the Cold-War period have also contributed to the conscious effort to diminish the use of nuclear weapons. Despite disarmament proceedings, however, nuclear weapons have become more accessible and the number of countries that have conducted nuclear tests has increased. Since the NPT first recognized the original five nuclear weapons states, India, Pakistan, and North Korea, three nations that are not parties to the NPT, have carried out nuclear proceedings. Besides these states, Israel is also believed to have conducted nuclear tests.

While the amount of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing has increased on a global basis and four more nuclear states have been recognized since the signing of the NPT, the five original nuclear weapons state have experienced a decreasing growth trend in their nuclear weapons inventories. Despite this, the Marshall Islands recently presented a case to the International Court of Justice in April 2014 charging the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom with violation of Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Article VI requires the five nuclear weapons states to actively create effective negotiations in support of non-proliferation and hasten

global nuclear disarmament. India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel, the four new nuclear states outside of the NPT, were also charged with neglecting accepted international law regarding nuclear nonproliferation.

Current Issues

Among the nuclear weapons states, the United States continued with nuclear tests following the NPT, but performed its last test in 1992. China and France continued until 1996, the U.S.S.R. until 1990, and the U.K. until 1991. Although nuclear weapons states have made a conscious effort to limit nuclear activity, other nuclear states have just begun to advance in the nuclear field. As recently as 2013, North Korea announced that they had completed their third nuclear test in seven years. Additionally, other nations such as Iran seek access to nuclear weaponry.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands presented the case against nine nuclear states on their failure to adhere to effective nuclear disarmament proceedings with respect to the island chain's own history as a site of U.S. nuclear testing between 1946 and 1962. Through this lawsuit, the Republic of the Marshall Islands aims to initiate negotiations between nuclear states to end the nuclear arms race. Given their history as a site for nuclear weapons tests, the Marshall Islands targets a global plan for regulating and eliminating nuclear power and weapons rather than monetary reparations. Although they have been compensated with financial aid and medical operations, they their lawsuit stands on an ethical and political basis against the nine states that have tested or continue to test nuclear weapons.

The ethical issues include the harmful effects of nuclear testing on the environment, which lasted for years following the tests, as well as the effects of left over radiation from these tests that destroys the homes and the health of people in nearby areas. Many citizens in the Marshall Islands, for instance, have actually had to evacuate their homes and move to other islands in search of safer living conditions. Professor Neal Palafox

commented on this evacuation, saying, "when you contaminate the land, and you move the people to 'safer islands,' the whole cultural structure changes."

Politically speaking, controversy arises when dealing with the fact that four of the charged nations, India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel are not bound under the NPT and its nuclear disarmament guidelines. These nations must adhere to conventional international law on nuclear weapons, which limits the possession, testing, and use of nuclear weapons, but they are not given the same restrictions and non-proliferation goals as the nuclear weapons states under the NPT.

While international law does not explicitly ban nuclear weapons, the ICJ does determine them to be against the ideals of international humanitarian law.

Current Analysis

Leading into the Post-Cold War period, several initiatives towards nuclear non-proliferation have been set globally. The Presidential Nuclear Initiatives set in 1991 created measures for the U.S., and ultimately the U.S.S.R./ Russia, to reduce nuclear weapons arsenals and work towards disarmament. Additionally, following the expiration of START in 2009, Russia and the United States signed the New START in 2011, requiring much fewer strategic arms from both countries. Furthermore, the United Kingdom's Strategic Defense and Security Review promised to work towards nuclear disarmament by reducing warheads.

The decision that the International Court of Justice must reach as to whether or not legal action against the nations charged by the Republic of the Marshall Islands is justified is not simply a matter of determining which party wins the case. This ties in with the bigger picture of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament procedure and a global plan towards the use of nuclear weapons. It is the duty of the ICJ to determine whether or not the charged nuclear states have failed to and must meet their nuclear obligations, if they have complied with their obligations, or if

their non-compliance is justified.

Despite the decreasing nuclear inventory growth trends in the original five nuclear weapons states, the four most recent nuclear nations have experienced growing trends as of 2014. With this, the Marshall Islands claims that nations are more focused on updating and improving their arsenals rather than taking the appropriate procedures towards disarmament. Since the unprecedented case was first submitted, several nations have refuted the Marshall Islands' lawsuit. The United States moved to dismiss the case, claiming that its nuclear activity has been justified. Additionally, Russia rejected the lawsuit, arguing that it has been making effective efforts to reduce its arms. It is the duty of the ICJ to determine if there is sufficient evidence of disarmament efforts in the accused nations to indicate whether or not their nuclear actions have been justified under international law.

Questions to Consider

- Is the Republic of the Marshall Islands justified in its concern for global failure to adhere to nuclear disarmament proceedings?
- How strong is the legal case against Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, and India, the four recent nuclear states, considering they do not fall under the 1968 NPT?
- By what standards can the International Court of Justice claim that a nation has or has not acted effectively toward nuclear disarmament?
- Along with the political controversies in this case, could other factors such as ethical concerns play a role in determining who is in the right?
- Should certain nuclear states be more targeted in this lawsuit?
- Upon reaching a decision, should the ruling be specific to each nation or general to the international community?
- Should the ICJ consider making

nuclear states guilty of failure to meet nuclear disarmament obligations pay reparations or compensate for their negligence of international law?

- Should nations be allowed to dismiss the lawsuit with sufficient evidence of disarmament proceedings?

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2. <http://www.icj-cij.org/homepage/> - This is the official ICJ website for any inquiries about the ICJ itself.

3. <http://www.icj-cij.org/presscom/index.php?p1=6&p2=1> - This site contains ICJ Press Releases for any updates on the following issue.

4. <http://www.wagingpeace.org/marshall-islands-statement-to-2014-npt-prepcom/> - This source contains the Marshall Islands Statement to 2014 NPT Prepcom.

5. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> - The CIA World Factbook provides more information on the nuclear nations.

Topic II: Maritime Delimitation within the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean A History of the Problem

International disputes between nations become much more difficult to resolve when disputing territorial waters. Though geographic boundaries have already been drawn on land, every coastal nation has jurisdiction over the adjacent seas and oceans, making maritime limits more ambiguous. The division of the seas signifies the distribution of the rights of each nation, including the ability to monitor traffic through the use of submarines, the usage of the waters to transport imports and exports, and the national right to claim mineral and biological

resources. However, there are also duties involved such as limiting the amount of pollution in the marine environment in order to avert detrimental effects to the living resources, marine life, human health, and any hindrances to uses of the sea such as exporting and fishing. The controversy over maritime delineation is significant because many nations' economies depend on these waters to generate revenue. Whether it is used for tourist attractions or fishing, a difference in a few square miles could be catastrophic for a smaller nation's economy.

Though proposed by Hugo Grotius in 1609, the freedom-of-the-seas doctrine was not adopted until the 19th century. It states that during a time of peace all nations were entitled to use the high seas for commercial purposes. It was not until the second half of the 20th century when coastal states, such as Honduras Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, demanded more offshore-fishing rights, the conservation of maritime resources, and the exploitation of resources, specifically oil. In 1967, Arvid Pardo, Malta's Ambassador to the United Nations gave a speech to the General Assembly demanding other nations to recognize the hazardous environmental effects that national rivalry was causing. 35 nations later came together to create an Ad Hoc committee known as the United Nations Seabed Committee. Their purpose served to protect and promote exploration, conservation, and peaceful uses of the seabed and ocean floor. The first and second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, in 1958 and 1960, respectively, convened to discuss potential solutions to the pollution and territorial disputes by creating an international maritime law, which ultimately failed. The third conference began in 1973 and is continuing to attempt to create an international set of laws in order to govern the uses of the oceans and their resources.

According to the third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, limits of the territorial sea extend 12 nautical miles past the outermost point of land. However, when

many islands are within close vicinity, conflicts arise dealing with who has the jurisdiction. Controversies typically arise dealing with territorial sovereignty and jurisdictional rights seeing as the delimitation of maritime limits has economic, environmental, and strategic military advantages. When controversies emerge dealing with exclusive economic zones such as those with high fish population or areas with potentially high economic gain, the ICJ has the responsibility of intervening in order to reach an unbiased solution. This committee will deal specifically with the issue between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and the maritime delimitation in respect to the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Both are important to the nations' economic prosperity, but because Costa Rica and Nicaragua are located adjacent to one another, boundaries and limits become difficult to discern.

Current Issues

On February 26, 2014, Costa Rica instigated a proceeding against Nicaragua in order to settle a dispute regarding maritime delamination in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean, specifically in regards to the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Because Costa Rica and Nicaragua share a border, the two States disagree on where the maritime boundaries should be drawn in both the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Costa Rica and Nicaragua have both proposed their own resolutions to partition the economic and territorial zones, but there has been "an overlap of claims in the Pacific Ocean" as well as an indecision with regards to the Caribbean Sea. Both nations have also tried diplomatic negotiations in 2002, 2005, and 2013, but have yet to reach an agreement. Due to the American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of Disputes, also known as the Pact of Bogotá, the two nations have agreed to allow the ICJ to settle the dispute.

However, this is not the first territorial dispute between the two nations. In 2009 and 2010 Costa Rica and Nicaragua also disputed against the San Juan River, which was

established in the Cañas-Jerez Treaty in 1858. Though Costa Rica's boundary clearly ended at the end of the bank, Costa Rica argued for navigational rights. Costa Rica claimed Nicaragua had violated 9 ordinances including charging fees to Costa Ricans. The ICJ sided with Costa Rica and agreed that they had a right to free navigation along the river for commerce purposes and that Nicaragua did not have a right to charge the vessels. However, official vessels such as police vessels did not have a right to free passage, as spelled out in the Cañas-Jerez Treaty.

Recently, in respect to the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean delimitation dispute, Nicaragua appointed Carlos Jose Arguello Gomez as Agent and Costa Rica nominated Edgar Ugalde Alvarez, Jorge Urbina and Sergio Ugalde as Co-Agents. The representatives then spoke on behalf of their respective nations in an appointment with the President of the Court on March 31, 2014. There, Costa Rica indicated that a period of 6 months would be appropriate to file their written pleading, while Nicaragua preferred 12 months due to the complexity of the delimitation question. The Memorial of the Republic of Costa Rica will have until February 3, 2015 to file the written pleadings while the Counter-Memorial of the Republic of Nicaragua will have until December 8, 2015. The case will deal with creating a single maritime boundary between all maritime areas surrounding Nicaragua and Costa Rica, specifically the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The ICJ will also have the responsibility of determining precise coordinates for the single maritime boundary.

Current Analysis

Considering past territorial disputes between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, determining the maritime delimitation will not only determine the limits between the two nations but will also determine who comes out as the more powerful nation. Although both economies rely on agriculture as their main export, a large portion of their economic revenue comes from tourist attractions,

specifically the beaches and other types of ecotourism. Therefore, increasing maritime boundaries may increase the amount of tourism entering the nation, increasing the economic revenue generated. Along with an economic benefit, the nation who obtains a further limit will also have a military strategic advantage as well using the waters to import and export goods.

Diplomatic attempts occurred for over twelve years and caused tension between the two nations.

Leaving maritime issues unresolved may lead to the disruption of peace and security, and economic turmoil. Therefore it is up to the ICJ to settle the dispute between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This committee must determine the co-ordinates in which the single maritime boundary will exist. In order to do this, one must carefully consider the consequences that it may cause, both economically, politically, and environmentally. Since the first Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1958, the Convention has been trying to establish a standard regime of laws and rules in order to clarify jurisdiction and to maintain order. If this were to occur, many territorial disputes would be resolved quickly and without the need of the International Court of Justice. The ICJ should not look at this case as a simple territorial dispute case, but an opportunity to resolve future cases with a standard set of laws.

Questions

- If Costa Rica was granted a further boundary than Nicaragua, would this create more tension between the two nations?
- Central American nations have recently had many cases discussing territorial disputes; will this case set a precedent for future cases? If so, what would this case say?
- How will other nations view the result of this case in terms of power?
- Should the ICJ simply create a standard set of laws to resolve future territorial disputes to avoid cases like

- this in the future?
- Should the maritime boundaries extend from the geographical land boundaries or have special rules per nation?
- Should the economy of each nation impact the drawing of maritime boundaries?
- What consequences would arise if the single maritime boundary were improperly drawn?

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- http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf - This source includes the aspects of the third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea which convened in 1982.
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Iranian Constitutional Convention

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Welcome! Khosh Amadid! !؟؟؟ ؟؟؟؟

Greetings esteemed delegates to The Iranian Constitutional Convention, co-chaired by Robert Morris and Anthony Holten. Your country has just undergone massive revolution, deposing a corrupt Shah with the leadership and guidance of Islamic religious leaders. Peace was established only a few short months ago, and it is now your job to help mold a new Iranian government that will lead your people to greatness. The focus topics of debate are Islam in the New Republic and Iranian State Owned Enterprise.

To make your experience in this committee at GSMUN XVIII as fun and rewarding as possible, you are required to submit a minimum 500 word position paper. This paper will be your tool for success in debate, as in it you must have an informative profile of your representative and also detailed backgrounds and analyses about the debate topics. Should you find specific information about who you represent to be exceedingly difficult to obtain, please contact your chairs. In addition we ask for the papers to be in 12 point Times New Roman font, double space. If you have any questions or concerns, your chairs are more than happy to help via email. At GSMUN we check position papers for plagiarism and you will be caught, as others have been in past, in such an event. Please be aware of this.

To get you started, the committee background guide provides a contextual overview of the topics, but independent research will facilitate your individual contributions. High quality position papers will ensure a productive, successful, and enjoyable time for everyone in the committee as a whole. Be sure to email those to us before the conference and bring a copy to all committee sessions. We appreciate your commitment and wish you the best of luck in preparation for what will inevitably be an amazing two days at GSMUN XVIII. The fate of Iran is up to you.

Most Sincerely,



Anthony Holten
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Robert Morris
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Committee Background

The calendar reads the 3rd of August. The Islamic Revolution has just rocked the nation, overthrowing the Shah and placing a religious leader in power in a nation in the midst of Westernization. Without a shah, Iranians seek a new government and as the Assembly of

Role of Islam in the New Republic Background

The Iranian relationship with Islam dates back hundreds of years. However, prior to muslim conquests, Zoroastrianism reigned supreme as the state religion in the Sassanid Empire. The Sassanid dynasty originated in modern-day Iran but spread to control most of central Asia from 224 to 651 CE. As the last Iranian civilization before Islamic conquest most of Iran's Persian culture emerged from this civilization. Under Sassanid rule, Zoroastrianism reinforced a system of social stratification in which the priestly class dominated society and Zoroastrianism played a critical role in the lives of all classes through daily rituals.

While Zoroastrianism dominated life in ancient Iran, a new religion, Islam began to take roots in 7th century Arabia. After the Prophet Mohammed united the Arabian Peninsula under Islam, his successor Abu Bakr began to expand the Umayyad Empire eastward. By 637 CE most of Iran fell to the Arab invaders and fourteen years later the last Sassanid emperor, Yazdegerd III, was assassinated, cementing Arabian control over Persia. The Umayyad invasion of Iran was not fueled merely by a desire for territory but rather by the impulse to spread Islam and marked the beginning of Iran's ancient ties with Islam.

After Islam was introduced to Iran, Islamization was a slow process in which the dominance of Zoroastrianism was replaced with Islam. Under the Umayyad dynasty, many Persians hesitated to adopt the Arab-

Experts you have been charged with drafting Iran's constitution. Elected to office to serve your people, your primary objectives include assessing the role that Islam will play in governance and re-examining the role of state-owned enterprise in Iran.

centric Islam of the time. Only 10% of Persians under the Umayyad dynasty converted to Islam. However, as the Persian elite began to embrace Islam, it was no longer viewed solely as an Arab religion. Due to this, by the mid 9th century the Muslim population in Iran grew to 40% and by the 11th century almost all of Iran identified as Muslim.

Iran's ownership of its unique Persian brand of Islam was cemented under the Safavid Dynasty in the 16th century. Shah Ismail of the Safavid Empire instituted Shi'ism as the state religion instead of the Arab Sunni Islam. Safavid rulers persecuted the Sunni population and disbanded the formerly powerful Sunni *ulema*, or religious council. Furthermore, the Safavid rulers discouraged the *Hajj*, or the holy pilgrimage to Mecca in favor of pilgrimages to Shi'ite shrines. Thus, the Safavid dynasty distinguished Iran from its Arabic neighbors by encouraging Shi'ite Islam as opposed to Sunni Islam.

Although Shi'ite Islam remained the state religion when the Qajar Dynasty came to power in the 17th century, overall the Qajar Dynasty represented a period of transition for Iran. Under the reign of Shah Mozaffar ad-Din, foreign influence in Iran increased and Iranian merchants struggled to compete with foreign competition. Furthermore, Shah Mozaffar was largely incapable of leading Iran and relied on his advisors to rule over a weakening government riddled with foreign influence from nations such as Great Britain and Russia.

Protests began in 1905 over a tariff raise which was meant to repay a loan that the Shah took from Russia. Merchants who refused to pay this increased tariff were given public beatings and the Shah's irresponsibility infuriated Iranians. Over the course of the next year, protests intensified and in 1906 over 10,000 protesters camped in front of the British Embassy protesting the Shah's rule. Iranians desired a way to influence the government themselves without having an invincible ruler. The main demand was that a *majile*, or parliament be instituted which would limit the power of the Shah. After several more months of protests, the Shah Mozaffer allowed for the creation of a parliament.

On December 31, 1906, Shah Mozaffer agreed to the constitution written by the first *Majile*. Under the new Constitution, the Shah was "under the rule of law" and his rule was a "gift given to the Shah by the people." This declaration changed the relationship that Islam previously shared with a ruler. Prior to the Constitution, the ruler traced his power to divine will and the Shah was also often the religious head of Iran. However, the 1906 Iranian Constitution places the root of the Shah's power with the people of Iran instead of from Islam.

After this major shift in the relationship between governance and Islam in Iran, the Pahlavi Dynasty continued to further distance Islam from Iranian society and in turn, Iranian governance. Reza Shah aimed to create a more westernized and secular Iran. From 1929 to 1936, Reza Shah introduced legislation requiring Iranians to adopt western clothing and banning women from wearing the hijab. Although these acts attempted to move Iran forward, they placed Reza Shah at odds with the religious community, or *ulema*.

Reza Shah's son, Mohammed Reza Shah, continued his father's efforts towards modernization. In 1963, Mohammed Reza Shah implemented the White Revolution, an ambitious program meant to modernize Iran on a national scale. The White Revolution included measures to shift state-owned

enterprises to the private sector and the formation of a literacy corps to educate rural Iranians. On a social level, Mohammed Reza Shah granted women suffrage as well as increased legal protection in matters of child custody and divorce.

Once again, these reforms agitated the Iranian religious clergy, particularly Ayatollah Khomeini. On June, 1963, Khomeini led a revolt against the Shah which Iranian authorities eventually quelled. In 1964, Ayatollah Khomeini was exiled for his opposition to the government. However, tensions remained high between the Shah and religious factions of Iranian society. Khomeini continued to spread his message by sending audio cassettes into Iran, and the movement spread beyond the religious clergy to educated Iranians tired of the Shah's usage of SAVAK, the secret police. Furthermore, secular and leftist groups began to associate themselves with Khomeini even though he represented an opposing view. Overwhelming anger from a majority of Iranian society led to the unification of a wide spectrum of beliefs under a religiously conservative leader.

Current Situation

In the winter of 1978, protests intensified across major Iranian cities. Although the Shah attempted to appease the protesters through legislation reducing censorship, revolts continued to threaten the Shah's hold over Iran. On September 8, Black Friday, when the Shah declare martial law, approximately 5,000 protesters demonstrated in defiance. Troops, unable to control the crowd, fired live ammunition killing an estimated 64 people. Due to the massive protests, the Shah fled Iran on January 16, 1979. Consolidating his victory, Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Iran from exile on February 1, 1979.

In April of 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini held a national referendum which only offered voters two options: Islamic Republic – Yes or No. However, the ballot gave no definition of "Islamic republic" and Khomeini remained

purposefully vague. The referendum resulted in an overwhelming victory for Khomeini whose popularity was soaring from his ousting of the Shah.

Four months later, in August, the Assembly of Experts convened to debate a draft constitution that was written early in 1979, or to draft a new constitution for Iran.

Analysis

The 1979 draft constitution was written by group of Islamic clergy and civil scholars and it emphasized a further separated relationship between Islam and governance. While the 1906 constitution marked the first step towards separating Islam from governance by declaring that the Shah's power originates from the people, not religion, the 1979 draft constitution continued that trend. First, an elected parliament would have the sole capacity to enact laws and the constitution did not include any "supreme leader." Furthermore, the draft constitution recognized the importance of adhering to Islam, while also rejecting the suggestion that Shar'ia law was infallible. Ayatollah Khomeini initially voiced his support for this draft constitution in the early months of 1979. Khomeini continued to declare that the religious clergy should not have a significant role in the governing Iran.

However, over the course of 1979, the Islamic Revolution was successful and Khomeini's popularity rose. Due to his increased popularity, Khomeini withdrew his support for the previous draft constitution. Khomeini now believed in the concept of *velayat-i-faqih*, or rule by Islamic jurist. He used this concept to justify his new desire for the Islamic clergy to have a larger role in governing Iran. The most significant challenge that the Assembly of Experts now face is determining whether to move forward with a progressive constitution that Khomeini initially supported or to significantly increase the role of Islam in governing Iran.

Conclusion

1979 represented a momentous year in

the history of Iran. Delegates must now decide, as members of the First Assembly of Experts, the role that Islam will play in the future of Iran. A more liberal constitution would offer more liberties to the Iranian people, while a conservative constitution will please Ayatollah Khomeini and the Islamic Clergy. This committee's decision will impact the lives of millions of Iranians for decades to come.

Questions to Consider

1. Did the westernization of the Pahlavi dynasty harm Iran?
2. Will the various groups of Iranians who united against the Shah remain loyal to Khomeini if he becomes involved in governance?
3. Should the constitution include provisions for a supreme leader or should rule of law prevail?
4. Will a liberal constitution separating Islam from governance alienate Iran from its more conservative neighbors?
5. How will Iranians in the midst of westernization react to a sudden change in governance? Would conservative steps anger the previously westernizing Iranians?

State Owned Enterprises

One of the major questions of creating a new constitution for Iran is to what degree the government should be allowed to take part in or control business and industry within the state. As part of mixed or planned economies, the government can usurp the management of a business or entire industry through legislature in a method commonly referred to, while having many other names, as state-owned enterprise. These enterprises are defined as having discrete commercial motives, often in addition to potential goals of the state. Since government involvement in industry can cover a broad spectrum of control, ranging from humble subsidies to absolute control over an enterprise, there is difficulty in determining how much involvement qualifies a government linked enterprise as being state owned. However, a good indication of state-owned enterprise is the presence of an established governmental body that directly operates within an enterprise. A purely communistic government, where the economy is planned by the state, would hypothetically own all of the enterprises in the country.

Throughout history there are notable examples of governments which have chosen to become involved in a business. The French monarchy in the 17th century, under the ministerial guidance of Jean-Baptiste Colbert, took control of manufacturing of luxury goods through acquiring existing enterprises and encouraging development of goods previously unprioritized, such as textiles and glass. This allowed the French to have superior control over the quality and export of linen, marble, and glass, which secured French dominance over such goods in the European market. Such unilateral control of competitive industries is far more uncommon in the modern age, but state owned enterprise is still used for industries in which there are natural monopolies requiring strict oversight for public safety. Some examples are water, energy, roadways, railways (eg. the American Railroad Administration during World War I), mail (eg. the United States Postal Service,

Great Britain's former General Post Office), and less commonly phone service, broadcasting (eg. the British Broadcasting Corporation) and healthcare (eg. the British National Health Service.)

Though there are developing industries in Iran that could be nationalized with the creation of Iran's new constitution, the oil industry is by far the one worth most consideration. The trend in the Middle East has been towards government taking more and more control of their oil reserves, leading up to the Saudi Arabian government planning on assuming 100% participation in Aramco in 1980, an enterprise that originally started as a cooperative effort between American and Arabian oil companies. Historically under the Shah, the oil industries reaped large profits through government shares, much of which were recycled back into the economy. However, such a dependence on oil revenues rooted in the government as well as the economy could be devastating in the event of market failure.

History

Reza Shah Pahlavi's coming to power by coup d'état marked the very humble beginnings of industry in 20th century Iran. Over the course of his 16 year rule, he modernized taxes and passed laws to encourage domestic investment, resulting in the construction of 800 new industrial plants and factories. Despite this, only 4% of the Iranian labor force was employed in the new factories, and the internal economy remained agricultural. Before World War Two, Reza Shah prioritized the export of oil over other goods through tariffs, a policy decision at the end of his reign that set precedence for a tight integration between Iran's oil industry and the national government for the next half century.

In 1941, Reza Shah abdicated, leaving the throne to his son Mohammed Reza Shah who would in many ways continue the work of his father. In 1950, Mohammed Mossadeq, the prime minister while Mohammed Shah was in brief exile, nationalized the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, creating the National

Iranian Oil Company (NIOC.) In his arrangements, 50% of the profits were directed to the national government on the condition that Iranians were excluded from the board of directors. From WWII to 1960, oil exports to the United Kingdom and other countries worldwide along with increased prices marked petroleum as Iran's most profitable resource.

The economic growth caused by the profits up until 1960 led to significant inflation, prompting Iran's third development plan in 1963. It established specialized banks to provide credit to Iranians wanting to invest in private industrial ventures, as well as nationalizing the electric and water supplies in Iran. At the end of the decade, tariffs were lowered, imports overwhelmed port cities, 43% of the electricity in Iran came from the state owned hydroelectric plants, the NIOC created over a billion USD yearly in government profits, and Iran came out on top with the largest economy in the Middle East.

In 1973, Syrian and Egyptian attacks on the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur lead to a brief war, during which international demand for oil shifted to Iran, thereby causing prices to increase dramatically. The resulting profits transferred from the NIOC to the specialized government banks, allowing them to offer credit at even less of an expense to investors. All of these conditions contributed to Iran's annual Gross National Product (GNP) growth rate, which had averaged at 13.2% from 1964-1978, one of the largest in the world at the time.

While the oil industry was profitable, it accounted for 90% of the Iranian economy under the Shah, a very fragile dependence that could cause the nation to crumble due to any sort of market disturbance. Oil also did not create many Iranian jobs, foreign workers and officials worked in many of the wells and plants, creating further distaste for the agreements Mossadeq arranged thirty years prior. Economic plans made in 1974 had the

same expectations as they did a decade earlier, but failed.

Current Status

The economy of immediate post-revolutionary Iran is wounded from war, yet still facing impressive growth rates. The Shah's economic policies, while to many degrees profitable, created constant inflation over the past decades. This depreciated the value of the little capital owned by the majority middle and lower class Iranians. This raised the question to ordinary Iranians, and also in the debate of clergymen, of whether the economy in post-revolutionary Iran should be focused on growth like it had been under the Shah, or designed to benefit all Iranians equally. The Iranian people look to the government to assure some sort of control and stability within the economy, since the past decade has been particularly tumultuous.

As Islamic conservative ideology began to take greater and greater precedence over the Iranian people, many of the secular business leaders began to rightfully feel threatened. Emigration and the drain of Iranian capital to foreign countries has increased over the past decade, and has spiked sharply since the implementation of the provisional government. The assets of these citizens, and more importantly the assets of the disposed Pahlavi dynasty, are currently at the whim of the revolutionary government.

Analysis

Moving forward, the economic policies outlined or not outlined in Iran's new constitution will be made with the knowledge of the results of the Shah's western reforms, and influence from some Marxist sentiment from certain clergymen and citizens. The current sentiment in the Middle East is towards public ownership of large industrial operations, and in many ways the region looks to Iran as a role model for private policy in the Muslim world.

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JCC First Intifada: Israel

Sunita Ganesh
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up, Speak
Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

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Communications

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Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and
Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Delegates

Welcome to the JCC First Intifada: Israeli Government. I'm ecstatic to meet you all and to begin debate on one of the most tumultuous and pivotal periods of history. I'm especially excited to work with you at this year's GSMUN, but first there are a few things I'm going to need from you. The first of those is a position paper. In case this is your first Model UN experience, a position paper is, quite simply, a statement of your designated delegate's position on the crisis. A good position paper is impartial, objective, well researched, and pertinent to the crisis. Your position paper should essentially be our guide to your behavior in committee, and your performance will be based in part on how well you follow the positions described in your paper. Remember that these papers should also be concise, and summarize your viewpoints in a clear and understandable manner: try to limit your paper to one page for each topic. Position papers should either be emailed in before committee or turned in during the first committee session. Please adhere to Maggie Walker's Honor Code policy, using CMS formatting and footnotes within your position paper to ensure legitimacy. Plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat.

You should also have a passable knowledge of parliamentary procedure. As a joint committee crisis, we operate a little bit differently from the traditional committee, but I can assure you we'll review any new procedures or unfamiliar aspects of debate. You'll find that I'll adhere less to traditional parliamentary procedure due to the size of the JCC, which will hopefully encourage more personal and decisive debate!

Finally, and most importantly, I want you to try your best. I know none of you would take the time out of your schedule to come to GSMUN if you didn't have a deep interest in Model UN and the opportunity to collaborate on an incredibly important conflict, and I hope that you'll be ready to dive into debate straight away.

While GSMUN and this committee may seem daunting as a crisis committee, I want you to realize that the most important thing is not how often you speak or how well you embellish your work, but the quality of your ideas. I'm looking for a lively debate and real innovation towards tackling the PLO (and their chair especially), and solving the ineffable issues that plagued Israel at this time. Good luck in preparation and I can't wait to see you in March!

Best wishes,



Sunita Ganesh
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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The State of Israel, created in 1948, operates as a democratic republic, following a unitary system in which the central government supersedes all minor factions within its system. Headed by a president, the government uses a system of checks and balances by having three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. However, the prime minister works as head of the state, effectively controlling most of the country's foreign affairs and conduct. The legislative branch operates through a unicameral parliament known as the *Knesset*, while the judicial branch oversees a series of courts headed by the Supreme Court. This style of government nearly mimics the United States, as the two are allies and Israel aims to emulate the same style of democracy. The prime minister of Israel, rather than the president, serves as the ultimate authority of state matters and handles foreign affairs. Notable prime ministers include David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, Golda Meir, the first female prime minister and leader during the Yom Kippur War, Yitzhak Rabin and Menachem Begin, instrumental figures in foreign diplomacy, and the current leader Yitzhak Shamir. The prime minister reflects the people of Israel, and works as a dignitary and responder during times of crisis. The Cabinet falls under the prime minister, as the role of the president is primarily ceremonial and restricted to government matters.

The Cabinet of Israel, each member called ministers, works as the primary core of the executive branch, executing and officiating decisions for the state and well being of Israel. Headed by the prime minister, the Cabinet is composed of members hand-picked by the prime minister, then confirmed by the *Knesset*. Many of the members are officials within the *Knesset* itself, to assure communication between the branches of government. The Cabinet provides counsel and expertise to the prime minister on affairs of the State, and serves as a think-tank to address problems plaguing both the government and country. While they do not have the final say on foreign affairs or matters of the state, their input

is invaluable and necessary for the prime minister in order to analyze a problem in all possible ways.

Each minister serves a vital role in the composition of the government, and as an expert and leader in their concentration must actively use their power to help make effective and decisive decisions for the country. By using certain privileges allotted to ministers within their respective concentrations, the Cabinet aims to serve and protect the Israeli people at all costs, however these privileges must not be abused nor used for subversive or personal goals. While political parties may take influence within the legislative branch, the ministers are expected to use their expertise rather than political affiliation to address the problems threatening the Israeli state.

History of Israel

The land of Israel traces its roots back to the Biblical era, where it was the land for God's chosen people, the Jewish. Originally known as Yisrael, the land faced constant turmoil and diaspora, beginning with tales stretching back to Biblical tales of Moses and his people's imprisonment in Egypt, through the founding of Christianity and Roman occupation. The Romans began the tradition of diaspora, sending Jewish inhabitants all over the world in order to conquer more land and subject more people to their way of life. The historical precedence of diaspora is one of the primary reasons Zionism became a popular movement, and threats to the Jewish population are still felt today.

The history of Israel is a constant reminder of why the state was created, and serves as an integral part of the country's identity and values. While the entire country of Israel is not Jewish, a strong majority of seventy-five percent identify with the faith and ethnicity, while the remainder are primarily Arab and Muslim. Israel's strong religious significance across the globe to the Abrahamic faiths serves as a reason for its reverence and importance, but also conflict with situations such as control of Jerusalem and other holy grounds.

The state of Israel was officially created May 14, 1948 with a declaration by David Ben-Gurion, head of the Jewish Agency at the time and the first official prime minister of Israel. However, the push for a Jewish State began with the Zionist movement, dedicated to rebuilding the Jewish community after thousands of years of diaspora. Theodore Herzl served as the stand out leader of Zionism during the early 1900's, with his book *Der Judenstaat*, or "the Jewish State" pioneering the belief of a new holy land amongst the separated Jewish population. Herzl and the Zionist movement aimed to create a safe-heaven for growing anti-Semitism in the Western world. At this point in time, Jewish families and communities often lived in the middle and lower classes, with little socio-economic mobility and inherent bias within the primarily Christian governments of Europe and the United States. Governments and communities often ostracized Jewish members, forcing them to live in poor clusters known as ghettos. The Zionist movement wished to reclaim Old Canaan, where modern Israel is located, as their state in order to restart their culture and religious significance.

This conflicted with the British Empire however, who at the time held mandates at the desired territory, and had little sympathy towards relenting its grounds. However on November 2, 1917, James Balfour, foreign secretary of Great Britain at the time, wrote a letter to the leader of the British Jewish Community, Baron Rothschild, expressing the monarchy's desire to help the Zionist movement while not disturbing the already present non-Jewish communities. The Balfour Declaration served as a landmark step for Zionism, and provided legitimacy to the movement. It also brought attention to the needs of the Jewish community within Europe, and quelled the opinion that Zionism was the movement of radicals.[xiii] Britain itself intended on using the Jewish support to fuel the support the Great War, but ultimately it overtook the responsibilities of the crown and Zionism within the Western World was put on hold. However, anti-Semitism began to grow due to resentment towards corrupt governments and the Jewish communities attempts to integrate themselves into industries such as banking and real estate,

markets non-Jews viewed as unwholesome and sinful.

Following the decline of the Weimar Republic and the strong anti-Semitism movement blooming within Europe, the Ashkenazi Jewish community went through a period of severe diaspora and genocide during World War II. While the conflict drowned out Western sympathy for Zionism during the war, the aftermath led to a new focus on repairing the immense damage done to the Ashkenazi Jewish population. Between the Nazi regimes strategic ethnic cleansing and fear amongst the European population, the Jewish population declined from about 9.5 million in 1933 to 3.5 million by 1950. The British government now faced immense pressure to rectify the situation of the Jews and also faced criticism for its enormous territories across the world. The government itself planned on downsizing its territories in order to maintain more effective colonies and rid the world of Imperialist influences. Despite initial struggles immediately following the war, the huge loss of Jews revitalized the Zionist movement, and in 1947, the British government agreed to withdraw from its mandate known as Palestine.

The newly found United Nations then issued the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine to oversee the process and integration of Jewish members into a new state on Palestinian grounds. During this time, conflicts between the already settled Arab population and the new Jewish immigrants began to spring up, and eventually civil war broke out, resulting in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Jews. Ben-Gurion's declaration of Israel in 1948 sealed the creation of the new Jewish state, but effectively solidified the growing tensions and resentment between the Palestinian and Israeli people.

Following Ben-Gurion's statement, the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 began, involving the countries of Egypt, Syria, then Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. They stated their goal was to restore balance and peace to the displaced Palestinian people, and the Israeli state was forced to defend itself from constant attack throughout 1948. Many Israeli settlements and border towns were attacked, and the country sought Western

back up in order to maintain its borders. The UN attempted to regulate some of the violence, though found very little success. Ultimately, the countries agreed to a ceasefire and Jordan annexed the West Bank, while Egypt took over the Gaza Strip. This loss of territory struck a huge blow to the Israeli people, and further deepened tension between the Arab and Jewish people.

The United Nations admitted Israel as an active member on May 11, 1949, reinforcing its status as a new nation despite protests from various countries. This led to an influx of Jewish immigrants, with over 1 million immigrating to the new territory between 1948 and 1970. The early years were plagued with anti-Semitism from Arab neighbors and unsympathetic Sephardic Jews who also viewed this as an imposition on their lands. Eventually, a second crisis broke out as Egypt attempted to nationalize the Suez Canal in 1956. Pan-Arabism, a growing movement that united surrounding nations against Western influence and in turn, Israel, had begun to cause unrest amongst several economic interests of Great Britain and France. The potential blows to the oil economy alarmed the French and British troops, and soon the two countries began shipping arms to Israel in order to defend itself and control Egypt.

Israel invaded Egypt through pre-emptive strike. While French and English troops eventually pulled out in late 1956, Israeli forces stayed in the Sinai territory until 1957, hoping to achieve political goals and reclaim territory lost in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Eventually pressure from the United Nations, United States, and USSR forced Israel to withdraw; however they regained shipping rights within the Red Sea. However, this began the UN patrol of the Sinai Peninsula to prevent further conflict in the area.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was created in 1964, cementing the Arab resentment of Israel and banding refugees and militants alike to stop negotiations or compromise with the state of Israel. This conflict between the Arab and Jewish communities eventually led to the Six Day War. Starting on June 5th, 1967, Israel launched a pre-emptive air strike on neighboring Egypt to combat Arab League measures that constricted business and trade towards Israel, as

well as mobilization along the Sinai Peninsula. Following the air strike, the PLO began to actively attack along the West Bank, forcing Israel to deploy troops into the territory. This alarmed Syrian troops and began a conflict with the Syrian government, who began attacks on Israeli settlements in Golan Heights. Despite Egypt's attempts to defend the Sinai Peninsula and reinforce the blocked Red Sea, Israel eventually conquered the peninsula and Golan Heights, and reclaimed the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Six Day War, while Israel's most effective and successful military strategic plan in its history, caused an immense strain on relations with the surrounding Arab nations. At the same time, it set in stone Israel's mission for strong defense and security in a high threat area.

Following the Six Day War, Gamal Abdel Nasser attempted to reclaim the Sinai Peninsula through the War of Attrition, by militarizing the Egyptian border. In addition, surrounding Arab countries adopted the policy of "Three No's" or the Khartoum Resolution, enforcing no peace, no recognition, and no negotiations with Israel. This policy was engineered to starve out the Israeli people and government, and also blocked their UN rights to trade along the straight of Tiran. The conflict was ultimately useless however. Despite artillery fire along the front of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt failed to successfully cripple the Israeli defense system and the lack of military support by other Arab nations due to fear of Israel militants led to a ceasefire once again supervised by the United Nations. Conflict with Egypt would occur constantly until the 1970's, courtesy of Anwar El-Sadat's message of peace and negotiation, which killed the Khartoum Resolution.

Leading into the seventies, the conflict between the PLO and Israeli government began to thicken, as Palestine faced severe conflict with Lebanon and other states refugees had taken haven in. By the late seventies, Palestinian militants began to move back into Israel, threatening the security and safety of the country through small public outbursts and known hatred for the state via messages by Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader. However the Yom Kippur War of 1973 under Golda Meir's leadership marks the

most intense point of the decade, as Egyptian forces crossed the Sinai Peninsula, invading Israeli territory, while Syria sought to reclaim Golan Heights. The conflict was launched on Yom Kippur. Israel was forced to fight a two front war, but eventually pressure from the United States and USSR caused the conflict to collapse into a ceasefire. Ultimately, the territorial dispute was solved through the Camp David Accords of 1978, a landmark peace process negotiated by Egyptian leader Anwar El Sadat and former prime minister Begin. Following this agreement, many skirmishes and small protests have occurred in Arab territories and land with PLO influence, which serve as a growing threat to Israeli security.

The Current Situation

The year is 1987 and the Cabinet faces growing resentment of PLO rebels and militants who attack Israeli settlements and harm Israeli citizens to achieve their own political goals. Yasser Arafat has proven highly unlikely to cooperate or acknowledge the authority of the Palestinian government, and it is now the responsibility of the Cabinet to ensure that Prime Minister Shamir is acting with the best interests of the Israeli people in mind. Primarily, ending the PLO threat and harmful propaganda are the key goals of the Cabinet, as well as reinforcing the defense system through military changes and revitalization. Key goals of the Cabinet should involve new ideas for security measures, way to expand economic prevalence, and keeping peace within the state of Israel so that the people feel secure.

The PLO has stated that its goal is to reclaim the territory its roots are in, and seek to control the Holy City of Jerusalem for its reverence in the Islamic faith. In addition, historical conflicts and violence have further progressed the PLO's efforts to topple the Israeli government and people, and every step must be taken to ensure the Israeli citizens and officials are safe within its borders. Yasser Arafat is highly unwilling to negotiate unless all Palestinian terms are ceded, none of which are an option for the Israeli government without subjecting citizens to territorial changes or the loss of Jerusalem. In addition, global pressure to maintain peace is at an

all time high, and the Cabinet must maintain relations with the United Nations and its Western allies so that its reputation as a haven for democracy is upheld.

Military technology from the United States has the potential to work as new defense mechanism for the Israeli state. In addition, potential for a longer military service requirement has been discussed in order to have more constant, well-trained soldiers to defend borders. While the government hopes that the military is a last resort in order to quell these growing threats, revitalization of the system is key in order to make sure that the nation is as strong as it can be. The Israeli defense system, while strong, still seeks to improve and build upon itself to prevent situation such as the Yom Kippur War or potential terrorist insurgencies from ever striking.

Questions to Consider

- In what ways can the Israeli government expand its technological resources to preserve the defense system?
- How does my role as a minister in my respective concentration serve as an asset to the prime minister?
- In what ways are the PLO influencing and abusing the Israeli citizens? How can we stop these methods?
- What integral parts of the government can be fixed to make the Israeli government more effective at
- Does the role of the military need to be expanded?
- In what ways can we use non-militant methods to protect and defend the country?
- How can ordinary citizens protect themselves in their daily lives from potential threats to their lifestyle?
- What aspects of Israeli culture hold solutions to our conflict with Palestine?
- How can we begin to negotiate with the PLO without compromising Israeli honor or security?

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JCC First Intifada: Palestinian Liberation Organization

John Metz
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
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Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Delegates,

Welcome to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Your dais is immensely excited for what it firmly believes will be one of the most fast-paced and energetic committees in GSMUN's history and, I hope, one of its most enjoyable. In order to ensure that your experience is of the highest quality, it is of the utmost importance that you be comfortable with this committee and its proceedings. To that end, here are some introductions:

John Metz, your chair, is a junior at Maggie Walker entering his third year with GSMUN, in which he chaired the Afghan National Assembly last year and vice-chaired the Yom Kippur War joint crisis committee the year before. John is especially interested in current events and history in general, and, as his prior experience suggests, in the Middle East in particular. In addition to Model UN, John is actively involved in (the much maligned) Model Congress and History Bowl, writes for the school's polemical journal, the *Bandersnatch*, and serves as Class Secretary. He enjoys long walks in the moonlight, copious amounts of red meat, and esoteric nineteenth-century German philosophy. John can hardly contain the excitement he feels imagining all of your smiling young faces as you contrive increasingly perverse plots to discredit or defeat the state of Israel come March.

Oliver, your vice chair, is also a junior at Maggie Walker. He is beginning his second crazy year of generally unexpected hijinks working with GSMUN, and is about to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the first time he attended GSMUN as a delegate. An aficionado of Asian history and politics, Oliver has a soft spot for the unique and volatile situations the Middle East routinely seems to find itself thrust into, and he expects this committee to uphold such a reputation. Outside of GSMUN, Oliver particularly enjoys his time in the Future Problem Solvers Club, and his hobbies include playing the piano, reading unhealthy large novels, and taking long walks along moonlit beaches (Not really; he hates the beach.) As the months until GSMUN fly by, Oliver can only grow more and more excited for the spectacle of Israel's possible implosion during this year's GSMUN.

With that in order, it's high time that we get down to business. GSMUN offers a unique opportunity to excel, and we pride ourselves on the high quality of our conference and of our delegates' experiences. In order to ensure that your experience is as memorable as possible, I ask, first, that each delegate write a short position paper detailing his or her representative's positions on the issues at hand – instructions for position papers can be found on our website. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. I would like to remind you that plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat. More importantly, I ask that you come to committee prepared and without trepidation, even if this is your first experience with Model UN. The most important thing is that you try your hardest to focus on the quality of your ideas above all else. With that in mind, I look forward to seeing you in March, and hope to make your experience a memorable one.

Until then,



John Metz
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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is the oldest major extant Palestinian political association in the world, and is widely recognized as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO was established in 1964 after a successful campaign among Arab leaders led by Ahmad Shuqëiri, a middle-class leader and activist. Though the organization was initially dominated by expatriate businessmen and other representatives of the middle- and upper-classes, after 1968 the rise of the left-wing Fatah inaugurated a populist period in Palestinian politics which saw the PLO secure operational independence from the Arab world. Nevertheless, the PLO emphasized above all else the representation and empowerment of the Palestinian people according to the terms set out in the charter of 1964.

Though the PLO itself is not a sovereign entity, its structure resembles that of a nation-state. Like most states, it consists of a legislative body (the Palestinian National Council, henceforth PNC), an executive branch (the Palestinian Executive Committee, led by a chairman election from amongst its members), and a functioning bureaucracy (*unlike* most states, it lacks a judiciary). Other major institutions within the PLO, most notably the Palestine Central Council (PCC), responsible for policy between the sessions of the PNC, and the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) - the paramilitary wing of the PLO as a whole, independent of any individual faction - are largely subordinate to these organizations.

Participants in this committee will represent the members of the PLO Executive Committee, and will be responsible primarily for the executive branch, bureaucracy, and paramilitaries of the organization, though their actions may have significant import upon the legislative decisions of the PNC. Because the PNC and the PCC meet infrequently, most of the day to day governance of the PLO is carried out by the Executive Committee. In addition to their responsibilities to the PLO

and to the Palestinian people, participants will be required to take into account their roles within their respective political parties and organizations when voting, negotiating, speaking, or making use of their portfolio powers.

History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Though the Jewish presence in the Levant dates back thousands of years, the modern Jewish-Arab conflict in the region was precipitated primarily by large-scale Jewish immigration to the region after the rise of Zionism in the late 19th century. Zionism, a form of Jewish nationalism, emphasizes a return from diaspora to the traditional cultural homeland of the Jewish people, roughly in the area occupied by the ancient kingdom of Israel. The development of early Zionism was spurred by the rise of European nationalism in general and of Anti-Semitism, especially in Eastern Europe. Though Jewish thinkers had published serious calls for European Jewish emigration as early as the 1860's, such calls were scattered and largely of a religious nature. In contrast, true Zionism was a primarily secular philosophy developed in the wake of a particularly brutal series of pogroms in Eastern Europe that coincided with the development of a Jewish identity independent of religious affiliation. Ironically, much of the impetus for this shift was provided by the very European nationalist tropes that encouraged the persecution of Jews. The 1896 publication of Theodor Herzl's *The Jewish State*, which advocated for a secular, socialist Jewish and Democratic state in Palestine, is widely considered to have created Zionism as an organized political movement.

Herzl's followers were soon able to build a formidable international coalition, arranging audiences with Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm II, the Ottoman Empire's Abdul Hamid II, and later Pope Pius X, and the king of Italy, Victor Emmanuel III. In 1903 the

British foreign minister offered to open “Uganda” (in actuality modern-day Kenya) to temporary Jewish settlers after negotiations over the Sinai Peninsula (the “El-Arish scheme”) fell through; the proposal was not rejected until the Seventh Zionist Congress in 1905.

Years of abortive negotiations were brought to an abrupt end by the onset of the First World War and Britain’s invasion of the crumbling Ottoman Empire. After initial setbacks (of which the disastrous 1915 Dardanelles campaign engineered by Winston Churchill is the most notable), the British advanced rapidly with the assistance of Arab rebels under T.E. Lawrence. Neglecting promises of independence made to Arab nationalists, the British secretly penned the Sykes-Picot agreement of 1916 with France; the treaty pre-emptively divided the territory of the Ottoman Empire into British and French colonies and spheres of influence. According to this plan the area to the West of the Jordan River was to be placed under international supervision, while Iraq would be ceded to Britain and Syria to France. Regardless of later changes in the specific political arrangements in the region, the Sykes-Picot agreement effectively guaranteed European control of the Middle East for decades to come.

The agreement, written in secret, violated a series of earlier agreements made with the Arab rebels beginning in 1915; Britain had promised them control over the entirety of the Levant except for modern-day Lebanon. The rapid allied advance into Ottoman territory beginning in 1916 put the Zionist movement, now dominated by Chaim Weizmann, in an extremely politically advantageous position. Weizmann’s contributions to the British war effort – as a military chemist and later as an unofficial strategic advisor to Prime Minister David Lloyd George – allowed him some degree of influence over the British government’s policy in the Middle East. As a result, Weizmann was able to secure, in November of 1917, the famous Balfour Declaration (named for the British Foreign Minister at the time), declaring

his government’s support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

The imprecise language of the declaration assured that it would act more as an agenda-setting document than as a formal agreement. A joint statement released by Emir Faisal (the leader of the Arab forces during the war) and Weizmann in early 1919 expressed a joint desire to cooperate; for his part, Faisal promised to “welcome the Jews back home.” Nevertheless, such conciliatory rhetoric failed to prevent the destruction of Faisal’s abortive Arab Kingdom of Syria in 1920 and the subsequent San Remo Resolution, which formally divided Syria, Mesopotamia, and the Levant Mandates and charged Great Britain – the overseer of Palestine and modern-day Jordan – with implementing the terms of the Balfour Declaration.

The British Mandate for Palestine, as it was called, was approved by the newly-formed League of Nations in 1922. It was to take effect the following year, and was thereafter divided into two separate territories: the Emirate of Transjordan to the east of the Jordan river and Mandatory Palestine to its west. Already unstable on the eve of the First World War, the British Mandate grew increasingly so thereafter. By the early twentieth renewed interest in the traditional Jewish homeland had led to the development of a relatively small Jewish immigrant population in and around coastal cities like Tel Aviv and around the Galilee region. In 1922 Jews constituted just over 11% of the total population in Mandatory Palestine (the Jewish presence in Transjordan was, and remains, negligible). Rapid immigration after the First World War led to a steady increase in this percentage; by 1942 Jews constituted 29.9% of the total population, compared to 61% for Muslim Arabs and under 8% for Christian Arabs. Furthermore, Israeli land acquisitions, while legal, were often purchased from absentee landlords – those working the land had no say in such deals, and were often evicted as a result.

As tensions rose, so too did the level of violence in Mandatory Palestine. Hundreds

were killed in riots in 1929. New paramilitary groups – most notably Irgun, a revanchist group seeking the creation of a fully-Jewish state on both banks of the Jordan River – carried out frequent raids on Arabs and on agents of the British mandatory government, killing hundreds more. Despite widespread opposition to Jewish immigration (which increased dramatically after the Nazis assumed power in Germany) and to Zionism, Arab resistance remained, in contrast, extremely sporadic. The Palestinian political front was fractious, suffering from a lack of support outside the intelligentsia and from frequent squabbles between factions. Despite these differences, Palestine’s Arabs were briefly united under the Arab Higher Committee – a unity government consisting of all major Palestinian political parties and blocs – in 1936. It was this committee – consisting of six major Arab Palestinian leaders capable of bringing together disparate and generally fractious interest groups – that initiated, albeit indirectly, the so-called Arab Revolt of 1936.

The Arab Revolt began when the Arab Higher Committee declared a national general strike that was rapidly transformed into insurrection. By 1937, as the crisis reached its peak, vast swaths of Palestine were outside the control of the government and thousands were dead on both sides. Particularly ominous was the foundation of the “Stern Gang,” a revisionist Jewish paramilitary group which held that a Jewish state could only be established through violence against Arabs and Britons alike. The Stern Gang initiated a decade-long campaign of reprisals that would only end with Israel’s independence in 1948.

The Arab Revolt dramatically changed the outlook of the British government in Palestine. By the time violence began to return to more manageable levels the earlier governmental goodwill towards the Zionist movement had largely faded, and a government white paper issued in 1939 limited Israeli land purchases and set highly restrictive quotas for Jewish immigration.

Nevertheless, by no means did the revolt end in Arab victory. A number of the

most-high-profile Arab leaders, including mufti Hajj Amin Al-Hosseini, were forced into exile, fracturing the already fragile cohesiveness of the Arab forces. The Arab Palestinians were left virtually without a leadership until after the dissolution of the Mandate. In contrast, the Jewish settlers were highly unified, highly centralized, and highly motivated, especially when, in the aftermath of the Second World War, the true extent of Nazi crimes in Europe was revealed.

While the attention of Great Britain was focused on the war in Europe, the Arabs’ political isolation grew more severe and a unifying leadership failed to emerge. During the war the exile of the most powerful Palestinian leaders and close cooperation between Jewish and British forces in Palestine created a period of comparative calm. Jewish leaders used the opportunity provided by the relative relaxation of the period to put political pressure on the British leadership while distancing themselves from the Stern Gang and other radicals.

The end of the war brought Palestine back to the forefront of the international agenda. The liberation of large Jewish populations in Central and Eastern Europe created an emerging refugee crisis, while spreading knowledge of the scale of the Holocaust engendered a wave of sympathy for the Jews, especially in the newly-dominant United States. The 1946 independence of the Emirate of Transjordan (later the Kingdom of Jordan), furthermore, gave more momentum to independence movements on both sides. Finally, late in 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 181, officially partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arabs states and an international zone around the city of Jerusalem. The Arab world was heavily opposed to partition. In the highly charged atmosphere that followed the passage of the resolution British forces refused to endorse the partition because it lacked Arab support but made no attempt to prevent the widespread outbreak of violence that followed.

Finally, as British forces abandoned Mandatory Palestine and ethnic violence

reached a fever pitch, Jewish leaders gathered in Tel Aviv and, on May 14, 1948, the day of the expiration of Britain's mandate according to Resolution 181, declared independence.

The war that followed was short and decisive. Whereas the Israeli leadership was unified and devoted, the Arabs failed to achieve ethnic unity. The Arab League soldiers who poured into Mandatory Palestine from all over the Middle East primarily fought for their own interests –territorial gains – while the Palestinians played hardly any role at all. Not surprisingly, the Arab front collapsed. By the middle of 1949, when an armistice was signed between Israeli and the humiliated Arab powers, Israel had increased its territory by more than a fifth, capturing West Jerusalem and forcing, directly or indirectly, 700,000 Palestinian refugees into the surrounding countries. What remained of the Palestinian state set aside by the UN partition plan was divided amongst the Arab powers: King Abdullah of Jordan annexed the Eastern half - now the West Bank - while Egypt seized the West - now the Gaza Strip.

The First Arab-Israeli war dramatically changed the nature of the conflict, ending a period of relatively equal paramilitary exchanges and beginning a period of Palestinian marginalization. After 1948, Pan-Arabism and its spokesman, Egyptian dictator Gamal Abdel Nasser, dominated Palestine's politics. The scattering of much of the Palestinian population and the subjugation of the remainder further weakened Palestinian unity. For the next two decades no major domestic Palestinian political movement capable of rallying Arab Palestinians emerged. The PLO, founded in 1964, at the height of the power of the Pan-Arabist movement, was largely a tool of Nasser's Egypt, and remained so for the duration of Shuqeiri's control. Despite its supposed claim to represent the whole Palestinian population, Shuqeiri's PLO primarily represented the interests of the educated middle-class elite, and failed to win the collective heart of the bitterly divided Palestinian population.

Apart from the brief Suez Crisis of

1956, the period between 1948 and 1967 was markedly lacking in focused military activity, though skirmishes between Israel and her neighbors were frequent and bloody. No real Arab drive was made to liberate those parts of Palestine under Israeli control, nor was any attempt made by Israel to conquer the rest of Mandatory Palestine. Then, suddenly, at the conclusion of a period of particularly high tensions in the summer of 1967, Israel launched a surprise attack on the mobilized militaries of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Arab forces, Israelis would declare in hindsight, had been preparing for war for some time. Whatever course of events prompted it, the result was even more shocking than that of the 1948 war. In six days Israeli military forces smashed those of the opponents, capturing the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the Golan Heights border area from Syria, and the entirety of what little now remained of the UN's Palestinian state.

The disaster of 1967 was, in reality, a hidden blessing for Palestinian nationalists. Though Nasser himself was not discredited, his brand of Pan-Arabism was doomed by the failure of a relatively united Arab front to drive Israel out of Palestine. As the Arab states fragmented and went their separate ways in the aftermath of the Six-Day War, Shuqeiri's PLO was left disembodied, lacking both international patronage and domestic loyalty. For the PLO salvation would come in the form of Yasser Arafat, a young Palestinian activist and founder of *Fatah* (victory). Unlike Shuqeiri, Arafat came from a humble background and, unlike the increasingly ineffective PLO, his *Fatah*, which combined the socialism of Nasser's Pan-Arabism with a stark and radical brand of Palestinian nationalism, was willing to act violently. *Fatah* unilaterally continued hostilities against Israel even after an armistice was concluded, raiding from hidden bases in Jordan with the tacit approval of the Jordanian government. Though *Fatah* placed little emphasis at this early stage on gaining support within Palestine itself, its focus on Palestinian independence from Arab intervention allowed it to distance itself from Shuqeiri, who resigned

as head of the PLO in 1967, and his cronies. In 1968 Fatah, its allies, and other “commando” groups won a commanding share of the PNC, subsequently amending the PLO charter to reflect their radicalism; from then on negotiation with Israel was ruled out explicitly. Fatah and its allies won a majority of the seats in the fifth PNC and a dominant position in the Executive Commission in 1969. Yasser Arafat was proclaimed chairman of the PLO later that year.

Thereafter the Arab-Israeli conflict entered a second, far more active phase, in which the PLO would play a central role. Under Arafat’s leadership the PLO emerged for the first time as an representative of the Palestinian resistance as a whole: by 1970 the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical Marxist group that had boycotted the PLO for years, finally sent representatives to that year’s PNC. Most importantly, the PLO was able to establish a unified paramilitary force – the Palestine Armed Struggle Command – that brought together most Palestinian guerilla movements.

Nevertheless, despite these advances in political organization the PLO failed to achieve its goals. Attacks on Israeli targets generally failed to produce desirable political outcomes, and PLO was forced to operate primarily among Palestinian populations in surrounding Arab countries rather than in Palestine itself.

Though by 1970 the PLO had effectively become a state-within-a-state in Jordan with the backing of king Hussein, frustration with the failure to defeat Israel encouraged some Palestinians to focus their efforts on overthrowing the Jordanian king and gaining political control on behalf of the Palestinian refugees who now constituted a large share of the Jordanian population. A PFLP hijacking campaign was the last straw for king Hussein, and in September he declared martial law and, despite Syrian support for the PLO, forced the Palestinians to withdraw permanently from Jordanian cities in return for amnesty. In 1971, following further outbreaks of violence, the PLO was effectively eliminated as a potent political force in Jordan.

After its expulsion from Jordan the PLO came to be based primarily in Southern Lebanon, where it was able to establish a centralized bureaucracy in the areas inhabited primarily by Palestinian refugees. The outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War in 1975 further strengthened the PLO’s hand, though its increased involvement in local Lebanese politics earned the ire of Christian and Muslim Lebanese alike. By the mid-1970’s, the PLO was nearly universally recognized as the sole legal representative of the Palestinian people, and inflows of money from the cash-flush Arab Gulf States and wealthy Palestinians abroad financed the rising power of the PLO in general and Fatah in particular.

The events of the next decade, however, showed that the PLO, without a base of operations in Palestine, was as fundamentally weak as ever. By the second half of the 1970s, the Palestinians, once seen as protectors against Christian paramilitaries in Lebanon, were widely seen as a nuisance at best and oppressors at worst. Beginning at the end of the decade Israel initiated a proxy war against Palestinian forces in Lebanon. In 1981 Israel intervened directly with mortar strikes on Palestinian positions in South Lebanon.

Finally, in 1982, Israeli forces under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon invaded Lebanon outright on behalf of the Christians. Severely outgunned, the PLO was rapidly driven back to its headquarters in Beirut where, facing the prospect of annihilation, its resolve collapsed. Palestinian leaders, Arafat included, fled a base of operations for the second time in two decades. The PLO relocated to distant Tunis. Israel’s right-wing government, meanwhile, intensified efforts to incorporate the West Bank and Gaza economically and demographically by establishing Jewish settlements throughout, many of which were dependent on resources taken at the expense of the Palestinian population. Internationally isolated, the PLO entered a period of infighting marked by bitter conflict between Arafat’s Fatah and dissatisfied factions notably the PFLP. With the PLO hamstrung, distant, and divided, and the Arab states unwilling and

unable to force Israel's increasingly dominant hand, the Palestinian people were left effectively leaderless. If the 1970s had seen the PLO at its peak, the 1980s were its nadir.

The Present Situation

Beneath the surface, however, Israel's hold on Palestine has become increasingly tenuous. Since the right-wing Likud party took power in 1977 – thereafter signaling that the occupation would be permanent – strong-arm tactics have increased disaffection in the occupied territories, especially among the youth. Sporadic protests and riots throughout the 1980s led defense minister Yitzhak Rabin to declare an “iron fist” retaliation policy, encompassing curfews, destruction of property, deportation, illegal search and seizure, and roadblocks.

In addition to widespread anger, many Palestinians are increasingly motivated by the spread of Islamic political ideals. In the wake of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, Israeli and Jordanian leaders began to tacitly support then-small Islamist groups, which they saw as a potential counterbalance to the secular radicalism of Fatah, the PFLP, and most of the PLO. The result was dramatic; by 1986 opinion polling suggested that a majority of Palestinians favored Islamic law in some form, while only 10% expressed support for a “democratic and secular state” . The result was not what Israeli leaders had hoped for. Rather than weakening the resolve of the Palestinian people as a whole to resist, the spread of Islamism created an effective alternative to Fatah's leftism that galvanized opposition to Israeli occupation.

Contrary to the beliefs of Israeli leaders, the weakening of the PLO did not pacify the Palestinian population. In fact, the collapse of the PLO in Jordan and Lebanon, while initially disruptive, has shifted the center of gravity in Palestinian politics back to the occupied territories for the first time since 1967. In 1981 Faisal Husseini, an advocate for nonviolent methods, formed the Committee Confronting the Iron Fist, which worked with Israeli sympathizers to confront the occupying government over human rights violations.

Husseini's efforts were indicative of a larger trend in Palestinian resistance away from the policies formerly advocated by the PLO. The new Palestinian resistance is marked not merely by a wide variance in strategies – non-violence was by no means a universal approach – but by a willingness to question the tropes that had defined the movement since the emergence of Fatah, with Islamism emerging as the most obvious potential challenge to now traditional Arab socialism.

Of equal importance was the power shift that accompanied this trend. The rise of domestic leaders and ideas ensures that the next phase of the conflict will not be initiated by the PLO from without but by a new generation of Palestinian leaders from within. In many cases new institutions have begun to emerge which challenge the grip of organizations established after the Six-Day War. Notable among these is the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) movement, an Islamist group formed shortly before the expulsion of the PLO from Lebanon. Unlike the mostly nationalist or socialist forces in the PLO, the PIJ and other Sunni Islamist groups like it draw inspiration from the revolution in Iran and from the teachings of the Muslim brotherhood. It is almost certain that these groups will be at the forefront of the Palestinian cause in coming years; how the PLO chooses to respond to them is its own decision to make, but will have massive repercussions for years to come.

The events of the past months suggest that a crisis is emerging. The Palestinian population, overwhelmingly young and working-class, is increasingly restive. Palestinian leaders including Arafat were snubbed abroad and roundly ignored by the rest of the Arab world; no assistance, it seemed, was forthcoming. Palestinian emotions provided the fuse. The spark came on December 8, 1987, when an Israeli Defense Force truck crashed into a group of Palestinians at the Jabalya refugee camp, killing four in the process. The incident, the latest in a series of violent incidents in occupied Palestine, was rumored to have been

intentional. The next day the largest riots in decades broke out.

This organization's only hope of relevance in the coming upheaval lies in its ability to respond effectively to the trends in the occupied territories without repeating the mistakes of 1964, 1970, and 1982, when its preoccupation with foreign intervention and with the politics of the Arab world as a whole prevented it from capturing the allegiance or support of those Palestinians who remain in their homeland. An effective response to the events of the coming months and years will be impossible without an understanding of the Palestinian people, their motivations, and the leaders and institutions that they create.

Nevertheless, an effective international approach should not be neglected. The PLO and other Palestinian groups are woefully underprepared for a conventional military occupation with Israel, while Israel's Arab neighbors have effectively eschewed outright warfare with Israel. As a result, this organization approach the situation in the occupied territories that will allow it to build an international support base capable of bringing pressure on Israel and support the actions of Palestinian groups and the PLO itself. This approach will depend especially on the actions of the Arab states. While Arab leaders at the beginning of the 20th century largely favored the Palestinian cause, since Israel's Independence they have vacillated between manipulating the cause for their own interests, as was the case before the Six-Day War, and ignoring it. Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, under which Israel withdrew from the occupied Sinai Peninsula in return for diplomatic recognition, effectively ended its political and military support for the Palestinian cause. Though other Arab Countries – Jordan and Syria, most notably – provide nominal aid to the Palestinian cause. Said aid is primarily given out of self interest: Syria seeks to emerge as a leading nation within the Arab world capable of rivaling Egypt, while Jordan still maintains a claim to sovereignty over the West Bank. In determining its international approach, the PLO should

consider how its actions will affect these powers and what steps can be taken to gain their support, whether by appealing to popular opinion or to the political elite.

The PLO must also carefully consider its relationship with Israel. Currently, the charter of this organization calls for the complete "elimination of Zionism" and "imperialist aggression" in Palestine. It also declares Palestine, defined by the borders of the old British mandate, to be "an indivisible territorial unit." These guidelines, in practice, have made negotiation with Israel effectively impossible. This, combined with the overwhelming conventional military superiority of the Israeli state, has prevented any territorial gains in Palestine proper for several decades. This committee must consider the possibility of limited gains that amending the charter would create. Of particular importance is United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, passed unanimously shortly after the Six-Day War, declaring the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and calling for Israel to surrender those territories gained during the war. This resolution and others like it raise the possibility, hitherto ignored by the PLO, of partial victory. No discussion of this organization's chances of succession will be complete without a discussion of the possibility of negotiation and compromise with Israel, even if such a solution would require concessions.

The Palestinian Leadership

Major Factions Within the PLO

- **Fatah** – Fatah is currently the most powerful single faction within the PLO, holding the largest single share of seats in the PNC, and is dominated by the PLO's chairman, Yasser Arafat. Fatah emerged as the leading Palestinian political party after the fall of Ahmad Shuqri, and one of the first to advocate guerilla warfare against Israel. Historically Fatah has lied to the political left,

supporting relatively moderate socialist policies, but it avoids ideological battles – its leaders have avoided any single ideology, arguing that doing so would split the Palestinian liberation movement. Fatah often acts as an umbrella organization for Palestinian nationalists as a whole.

- **PFLP** – The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine is the most influential Marxist-Leninist political party in Palestine, led by its charismatic and independent-minded founder George Habash. During the 1970s, when the group was at its peak, it cultivated ties with international leftist organizations and was the first major Palestinian group to regularly use plane hijackings as a political tool. The rise of Islamism has significantly weakened the PFLP's grip on power in recent years. Nevertheless, it remains one of the most powerful groups in the PLO.
- **PFLP-GC** – The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, despite its name, is unaffiliated with the PFLP, having split from George Habash's group in 1968 over disagreements with what it saw as an overly political strategy. Led by Ahmad Jibril, it is based in Damascus and closely affiliated with the Syrian state, which supports and works through the group.
- **DFLP** – The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine also split from the PFLP, in this case over ideology. Officially a Maoist

party, since the 1982 Lebanon war it has moderated its operational policies to more closely resemble those of Fatah. The DFLP has taken a notably moderate approach to the Jewish people as a whole, being one of the first Palestinian groups to give up traditional Anti-Semitic rhetoric and embrace cooperation with the Israeli left.

- **PCP** – The Palestine Communist Party, established in 1982 and represented in the Executive Committee for the first time in 1987, has emphasized grassroots organizing over armed struggle, preparing it especially well for the coming upheaval in the occupied territories. Not as powerful as Fatah or the PFLP within the PLO, it nevertheless has a large base of support in Palestine itself, a strength only matched by Islamist organizations excluded from the PLO.

Outside the PLO

- **PIJ** – The Palestine Islamic Jihad was formed shortly after the Iranian Islamic Revolution of 1979. Though it is a Sunni group, the revolution is seen among its members as a model to emulate and recreate. Palestinian Nationalism is of relatively low importance to the PIJ; rather, its ultimate goal is the destruction of Israel – which it sees as a Western, anti-Islamic puppet – as the first step in uniting Muslims worldwide. The PIJ considers any form of negotiation with Israel to be a betrayal of this cause. With its support rapidly rising, it is emerging as a

prominent alternative group among Palestinian radicals.

- **Hamas** – Little is known about Hamas, one of the newest Palestinian groups established in the occupied territories. It is believed to have been founded this month – December 1987 – in Gaza by the influential and extremely popular Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, an Islamic cleric and member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Questions to Consider

1. What steps can be taken to broaden the power base of the PLO as a whole in the occupied territories? What message should the PLO use in pursuing the support of the Palestinian population?
2. Should Israel be negotiated with? If so, what concessions are this committee and its members willing to make?
3. What steps should be taken to ensure the goodwill and political backing of the international community?
4. What role should the Arab World play in the coming months, considering its history? Should Palestinian independence be framed as an “Arab” issue, or as a purely national one?
5. What role should the Palestinian diaspora play in the conflict? Should a right of return for Palestinian expatriates be adopted as a precondition for negotiations with Israel?

Further Reading:

All delegates will be required to have reviewed the political stances of their respective organizations and to be familiar with those of other parties before sessions begins. In addition, it is *strongly* recommended that delegates familiarize themselves with the Israeli Cabinet and its members/ their motivations,

Israeli politics in general, coming elections, etc. at the same time. Remember that all delegates are required to write a position paper and should make use of the sources mentioned above when doing so. Some helpful sources include:

<http://www.al-bab.com/arab/countries/palestine/orgs1.htm>

- A database of Palestinian organizations and their histories. Good to review in building a working knowledge of the PLO and other organizations.

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp - The 1968 Charter of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

<http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php> - A demographic history of Palestine/Israel.

<http://www.merip.org/primer-palestine-israel-arab-israeli-conflict-new> - Primer on Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (read up to 1987).

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**JCC Iranian Hostage
Crisis:
American Government**

Kayla Aaron
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up, Speak
Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
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Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
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Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to GSMUN and to the Iranian Hostage Crisis-American Government Committee. This year I am excited to guide your debate through a very difficult and important time in America's history. You will debate both how to rescue the Americans being held hostage in the Iranian embassy and tactics to safely keep American-Iranian relations stable and healthy. Before you begin this exhilarating conference, let me introduce myself and my vice chair:

Kayla Aaron, your honorable chair, is a senior here at Maggie Walker. Kayla has been dutifully involved in Model U.N. since her sophomore year. Outside of the club, she sings in the school's a capella group, the Deadbeats, holds a leadership role in EduPac, Maggie Walker's club for advocacy. She is also a member of the ASL and Appalachian Heritage Music Clubs. When she isn't filling the halls with her mesmerizing singing, she likes to school her brother in some hoops and have movie marathons with her friends.

Duncan Sims, your vice-chair, is also a senior here at Maggie Walker. Duncan has been involved in Model U.N. since his sophomore year, starting as a crisis member for GSMUN XVI. Besides Model U.N., Duncan is also involved in Track and Field as a member of the throwing team, Maggie Walker's Drama club, and Maggie Walker's Young Democrats team. Outside of school Duncan is involved in sound engineering and political campaigns. After graduation, Duncan wishes to pursue a career in Astronautics Engineering.

I welcome you to have fun during this committee by participating in lively debate, even if this is your first conference, and doing thorough research beforehand. You are expected to write a position paper, and guidelines for this paper can be found at gsmun.net. While this conference is about having fun while discussing fascinating worldly events, I would like to stress that there are certain expectations of you. At GSMUN there is absolutely no tolerance for plagiarism. Every paper presented will be examined for plagiarism and any infringements will result in the delegate's sponsor being informed, and no possibility of said delegate receiving an award. Your paper is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Duncan and I cannot wait to meet you, and hope you enjoy your experience as much as possible.

Sincerely,



Kayla Aaron
gsmun.jccihca@gmail.com

Committee Background

Introduction

Welcome to the Iranian Hostage Crisis: American Government Committee. You were chosen to serve on this committee for your expertise and diplomacy. Members are tasked, by President Carter, to find a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to the current hostage crisis, taking place in the U.S. embassy located in Tehran, Iran. This committee was created shortly after students of the University of Tehran took hostage 52 Americans working at the embassy on November 4th, 1979. You must act swiftly to both rescue the hostages and create a plan to restore U.S.-Iranian relations.

History of American-Iranian Relations

Prior to the mid-20th century, the United States and Iranian governments rarely interacted with one another. As a result of American consumers' growing dependence on oil, the U.S. turned increasingly to the Middle East for a sustainable source of fuel. Iran was a major oil producer and provider to the United States. In the 50s Iranian prime minister Muhammad Mussaddeq successfully nationalized Iran's petroleum industry, thus increasing the country's revenue as well as the prices for foreign nations. Almost immediately, the U.S. began to intervene in Iranian politics to save the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, a British business that initially had monopolized the industry. The U.S. initiated a CIA coup of Musaddeq using the support of the Iranian people, the military, and the common fear of communism as tools to create panic in Tehran. The CIA used undercover agents to first rally those who supported Musaddeq into storming the streets of Iran, protesting capitalism. These supporters started to destroy businesses and other symbols of capitalism, sparking fear in the Iranian people. The CIA then used another group of undercover agents to rally those who supported the Shia, urging them to fight back. The CIA used this blanket of confusion and destruction to capture

Mussaddeq and replaced him with a leader of their choosing, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Pahlavi ruled Iran prior to the shift to democratic government. After the U.S. and Great Britain purchased 80 percent of Iranian oil, the U.S. allowed the Shah to return to Iran.

By 1975, Shah Pahlavi pronounced one political party, the Rastakshiz Party forcing most Iranians out of his government. To help control this single-party state, Pahlavi used his secret police, the Organization of Intelligence and National Security, or SAVAK. The SAVAK maintained peace through crowd-controlling force, curfews, and interrogating citizens who disagreed with the Rastakshiz Party's laws. Citizens opposed the police's brutality and totalitarian control over personal aspects of their lives. The Shah lost support and continually enraged Iranian citizens and his most powerful opponents, Shia religious leaders. The opposition mobilized both the volatile citizens of the younger generations and the older, devout Muslim groups, promoting leadership changes and encouraging a return to religion-based government.

In the United States, the government's knowledge of the Shah's rule was vastly inaccurate. The President and his cabinet gathered most of their information from the CIA which only had direct contact with SAVAK. They lacked insight from any disgruntled villagers or more importantly, the rebellious Shia religious leaders. The multiple American ambassadors to Iran could not provide much additional knowledge either, as they were not highly qualified. As a result of the information gap, President Jimmy Carter traveled to Iran in 1977 and gave a speech, proclaiming that Iran was "an island of stability". Back at home, Carter had more pressing issues to attend to than the seemingly docile situation in Iran. His public approval rating had begun to decline due to oil prices inflating and the increasing recession, as well as Congress refusing to cooperate on many of

his changes to energy policies. The teetering strength of the American presidency made for a tumultuous setting for the beginning of a revolution in Iran.

The Shia opposition, led by prominent religious scholar Ayatollah Khomeini, usurped Shah Pahlavi out of Iran on January 16th, 1979. During his rule, Pahlavi had seen the threat Khomeini posed to his government and promptly exiled him. Khomeini then returned to Tehran on February 1st and made plans to create an Islamic Republic. He declared himself Supreme Leader of Iran and began to run the government of Iran. Still, the protests persisted, particularly against the U.S. and its involvement in any Iranian affairs. The American government helped nearly 40,000 Americans living in Iran at the time flee the country in hopes of avoiding any direct conflict with the angry religious or student groups.

Meanwhile, the disgraced Shah tried to subsist in Mexico, burdened with disease. He appealed to the United States for medical asylum. President Carter, either moved by the Shah's illness or unaware of the consequences, permitted Pahlavi to enter and seek refuge in the United States. When the news reached Iran, it infuriated already unhappy Muslim fundamentalists. They viewed this as the ultimate American betrayal. In the eyes of the Iranian people, the Shah was a tyrannical dictator who deserved his comeuppance from the Iranian nation. They called for the Shah to face indictment and eventually execution in Iran. When the United States offered no such resolution, young students of the University of Tehran became enraged, forming into volatile groups of rioters. They soon enveloped the U.S. embassy and set their sights on the 52 American citizens inside. Due to their unstoppable size, the protesters overpowered the gates and the guards and made their way inside.

Current Status of Hostage Crisis

On November 4th, 1979 four hundred students from the University of Tehran stormed the embassy and took the employees hostage. These students, along

with tens of thousands of other Iranians are currently protesting the U.S.'s involvement in Iranian government. At the time the embassy was taken over there were 52 employees in this embassy. The hostages have been detained into a single room, and video evidence has been sent to the U.S. proving the hostages are being kept alive. Although the protestors have no direct relationship to the Iranian government, the Ayatollah has stated that he supports the overtaking of the embassy, and will use whatever force is necessary to defend Iran from U.S. insurgency. The protesters currently have two demands: first that the U.S. apologizes for our involvement in Iran's government and our turning Iran's petroleum resources to the international market. The Iranian people are infuriated over the CIA's influence in the return of the Shah and their pursuit of selfish monetary gain. Although it is unfavorable that the U.S. apologizes for our actions within the Iranian government, weakening our credibility and trust with other nations, this demand appears most pivotal, and therefore most likely it will have to be met. Their second demand is that the U.S. release Shah Pahlavi back to Iran and into the custody of the Ayatollah. The Iranian people believe that they have the right to the custody of the Shah on the basis that he has committed human rights crimes for which he must face indictment. The Shah is currently being treated for cancer within New York and if he were to be released most likely he would face execution. The U.S. would like to avoid releasing the Shah back to Iran, as he is currently our only connection to the Iranian government, thus severing a major economic bond.

With the hostile nature of these students and the growing number of protesters in the streets, the U.S. has no choice but to avoid action for the time being. Considering the worsening rapport between both governments, any rash or violent actions could certainly endanger the hostages and most likely result in a feud between Iran and the U.S. President Carter has run a tactical analysis of the area around the embassy,

which concluded that any CIA insurgency would alert both the authorities and the protesters inside the embassy.

With most rescue options impossible or highly dangerous it seems the U.S. will be forced to comply with the protester's demands. This would be unfavorable, as the U.S. would have to admit that its actions were wrong, weakening other nation's trust in the U.S. Under no circumstance are we to release the Shah back to Iran. The Shah is the U.S.'s strongest connection to Iran currently, and if he is executed the U.S. would lose all petroleum trade with Iran, exacerbating the recession.

Despite these challenges to rescuing the hostages, inaction is not a viable answer either. With each passing day the health and wellbeing of the hostages diminishes. Another crucial element to consider is President Carter's approval rating; ensuring support for Carter is vital in keeping the nation strong and united. President Carter's popularity has already started to wane due to the recession and oil shortage; prolonging this crisis will upset the American people, which will only create more difficulty for President Carter. The limited options and urgency of the situation calls for swift and decisive actions from this committee. This committee is tasked with thinking of ways to neutralize this crisis, either by meeting the demands of the protesters, using military force to rescue the hostages, or finding a peaceful alternative that suits both parties. Possible solutions include apologizing to the Iranian people, a solution that is unfavorable to the U.S., threatening the Ayatollah if he does not release the hostages, a move that could easily backfire but would be most favorable for the U.S., or finding something for which the Iranian people are willing to trade the hostages. Members of this committee must come prepared with possible solutions that take into account the safety of the hostages, the reputation of the U.S., and assuaging international tensions.

People to Know

- Cyrus Vance: President Jimmy Carter appointed Cyrus Vance Secretary of

State on January 21, 1977. When he first began work with President Carter, they both shared similar interests in preserving human rights and avoiding gratuitous military engagements. Vance often argued against the counsel of the National Security Advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski.

- Zbigniew Brzezinski: Chosen as National Security Advisor in 1977, Brzezinski served as a skilled foreign policy expert whom Carter consulted daily for perspective. He chaired a committee within the National Security Council (NSC) called the Special Coordinating Committee (SCC) which dealt with intelligence and crisis containment.
- Ruhollah Khomeini: Prior to his ascension to power in Iran, Khomeini dedicated his life to the study of the Shia religion and Muslim doctrine. As an "ayatollah", official Shia scholar, his anti-Shah, anti-West teaching quickly spread and grew in popularity, laying the basis for a strong Shah opposition. Upon the fall of the Pahlavi dynasty, Khomeini returned to Iran having been exiled years earlier. With the support of the nation evident in a referendum, he had no trouble rising to power. He continued to promote anti- American feelings and endorsed the increasing protests. Eventually, he fully supported the students who occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran.
- Hojatoleslam Seyed Ali Khamenei- Like Khomeini, Khamenei was arrested by the Shah's secret police for teaching classes which challenged the Pahlavi rule. His release coincided with the crumbling of Shah Pahlavi, which he took advantage of by creating Jame'ye Rouhaniyat Mobarez (Combatant Clerics Association) in 1977. This organization soon grew in prominence and helped Ayatollah Khomeini form the Islamic Republic Party. Khomeini recognized the talent

and leadership ability of Khomeini and recruited him as a member of Iran's new government in January of 1979. He became a prominent member of the Revolutionary Council, the Deputy Minister of Defense, a representative on the Supreme Council of Defense and soon acted as a dominant figure in the Majlis (the national legislature). As the United States began its negotiations with Iran, Khomeini was instrumental in helping both country's explore their political options

- Shah Reza Pahlavi- On September 16th, 1941 Shah Pahlavi became the political leader of Iran. Shah Pahlavi had used American and British resources to become Shah, and as a result began to align views with these two countries, changing Iran to a more western, capitalist nation. Shah Pahlavi continued to alter Iran, slowly shifting away from traditional Persian values and customs. Eventually the Shah's changes and police went too far and the Iranian people erupted in protest.

Questions to Consider

- What extremes should the United States government take in order to rescue the hostages?
 - Are all future U.S.-Iran relations now destroyed due to this conflict?
 - How important is American control over Iran? How much interest does the U.S. government have vested in Iran's continual development as a capitalist and democratic nation?
 - How important is the United States' stake in Iran's oil production?
 - How can the U.S. uphold their image as the most powerful country in the world without igniting a fully fledged war over the hostages?
 - Can the crisis be solved completely diplomatically or are

military strategies the most efficient methods of rescue?

- What does the U.S. have to gain from its protection of Shah Pahlavi?
- How might President Carter's approval ratings affect his ability to lead efforts in the crisis?
- What measures should the U.S. take to prevent a crisis like this from happening again?

Useful Sources

Any and all delegates wishing to do further research on this issue are welcome to use these sources and any other academic sources he or she finds useful.

- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/carter-hostage-crisis/> An excellent academic resource with a thorough background and rounded coverage of the many issues at play.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kz6O9L7QBno&noredirect=1> An academic video that explains the whole of the crisis, including minute details and important pre-crisis history.
- <http://www.history.com/topics/iran-hostage-crisis> An academic resource for those delegates who would prefer a more concise read.
- <https://history.state.gov/departments/history/short-history/iraniancrises> An academic resource that focuses more on the struggles and pressure faced by the President and his cabinet.
- http://www.whitehousehistory.org/whha_classroom/classroom_9-12-transitions-carter.html An academic resource for those delegates

who prefer more in depth reading.

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JCC Iranian Hostage Crisis: Iranian Government

John Li
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
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Director of
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Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Hello delegates,

My name is John Li and I'll be your chair for JCC IHC: Iranian during GSMUN this year. Joint Crisis Committees are known for their rigorous, fast paced, action packed debate style and are mainly for experienced MUNers and people with strong public speaking skills. I encourage you to research the conflict extensively before coming to debate.

Here's some background on me: I take keen interest in golfing, lifting, and sipping mango juice from a straw in the eternal warmth of the Caribbean sun. In my free time, I love watching cooking videos and knitting sweaters for my grandparents. More importantly, I've participated in many MUN conferences which have allowed me to gather an assorted array of awards in addition to an extensive amount of experience. Robert Morris, my vice chair, will also be assisting me during our committee. He too enjoys a round of golf with his closest pals on a sunny summer day. With our joint leadership, I believe that committee this year will be very interesting and packed with heart pounding moments of crisis!

Please remember to write a position paper. Guidelines are found on gsmun.net and you can email me with any questions about format or content. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Make sure that all of your work in the position paper should be original. Plagiarism is not acceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat.

In other words, our committee will be winning the award for most donations this year and I will be doing everything and anything to get you all to donate to our great charity Apne Aap. I might even knit you a sweater! Robert and I look forward to meeting all of you.



John Li
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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The overwhelming desire to destroy foreign control has always taken a central role for the people of Iran. Drawing influences from the Greeks, Egyptians, Indians, and Persians, Iran is one of the world's oldest and most splendid nations. From the construction of the Imam Mosque to the grandeur of the capital of Isfahan, Iranians have developed an inane sense of national identity. But, with the decline of the Persian Empire and with the influence of corrupt leaders, foreign nations have long imposed their influence over the authority of the Iranian people. Countries such as Britain, Russia, and the United States have all had their fair share in dabbling with the politics and control of Iran at one point or another.

Starting in 1872, the Imperial Tobacco Corporation of Persia (a British company) bought the exclusive right to run Persia's industries, irrigate its farmland, exploit its mineral resources, develop its railway and streetcar lines, establish its national bank, and print its currency. This marked the first episode of public outrage by the Iranian people which eventually led to a temporary British withdrawal. But even with severe public discontent, foreign nations never stopped to progress their own personal gains off the welfare of the Iranian nation.

In 1891, the first uprising to shape modern Iranian nationalism occurred after the British Imperial Tobacco Company took complete control of Iran's tobacco industry. Tobacco was an integral part of the Iranian people's lifestyle. Thus the Iranian people were devastated by the new laws imposed by the British tobacco company, which resulted in a national boycott of tobacco. The British company's rights to the Iranian tobacco industry disappeared after additional demonstrations. Iranians had endured the foreign intervention in their country 20 years and this was the first time they stood up in opposition.

The 1891 revolt revealed the outrage that had been lying dormant in the hearts of

the Iranian people for more than a century. During the Constitutional Revolution of 1906, establishing a parliament and a national electoral system paved the way for a democratic form of government. Britain and Russia still treated Iran like a colony; they signed a treaty in 1907 that essentially divided Iran between the two of them.

Civil unrest brewing in Russia led to Russia's loss of control and Britain's complete control of Iran. In 1919, Britain took control over Iran's army, treasury, transportation system, and communications network through the Anglo-Persian Agreement. This was in part the result of the Cold War between Britain and Russia, in which Britain sought to take control in order to prevent the spread of communism. But this Anglo-Persian Agreement did not benefit Iran, but rather ended Iran's status as an independent state. This was the root cause of a second uprising in 1921.

Following the uprising of 1921, Reza Shah came to power. He eventually gained the respect of the Iranian people due to his progressive measures, even though he employed brutal tactics and made use of the Savak, his secret police. He was the only head figure thus far in Iranian history who was able to fight foreign control. Reza Shah's rule formed the modern ideals of the Iranian people. He formed ties with Germany to rival against Britain and Russia proving that despite all that Reza Shah accomplished, Iran was still very weak. The British took control of Iran's rich oil industry and thereby leaving the Iranian people in poverty.

This imbalance of power led to the next Iranian revolution that, for the most part, was peaceful but highly influential. In 1951, Mohammed Mossadegh, one of the most highly educated men in the entire country, was chosen as the prime minister. Mossadegh's campaign was to nationalize the oil industry and wrestle back control from foreign influence. He proposed a nationalization law that was unanimously passed in both houses of parliament, but was clearly rejected by the British. The British then

withdrew their technicians and blockaded Iran's ports from exporting oil and asked the UN to order Iran to withdraw their nationalization plan.

Mossadegh's actions instantly brought him fame on an international level. Though the Iranian people praised him, this appraisal was not shared by the Americans. The Americans claimed that Mossadegh's efforts to protect the welfare and health of his people was defying international law and threatening the flow of oil to the free world. They described Mossadegh as a "defiant scorned." The enormous struggle to control the oil industry changed Iran's nationalistic ideals into a real movement. Iran had hoped the United States would become their ally after all of their previous support with teachers, nurses, and missionaries but their views changed in the summer of 1953.

Since British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was unable to persuade Mossadegh from forfeiting his nationalization plan, Churchill plotted to overthrow Mossadegh's government. He was foiled when Mossadegh expelled all British diplomats from Iran. Desperate for resources, Churchill accused Mossadegh of leading Iran towards terrorism and was able to fool President Eisenhower and his Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. With Cold War tensions on the rise, Dulles and Eisenhower were eager to strike back against the Communist influence that was growing worldwide. However Mossadegh despised Marxist ideas and did not support Communist beliefs.

The United States, vying for control in the Cold War, decided to send in a team of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents to overthrow Mossadegh. Utilizing tactics such as bribing newspapers and organizing riots, the CIA was able to create an impression that Iran was heading down the path to destruction. On August 19th, the CIA's Iranian agents led a mob that sieged Mossadegh's complex for two hours until he finally fled. Mossadegh was eventually arrested, tried for high treason, and put on house arrest for life, where he died in 1967.

The 1953 coup eliminated the possibility of democratic rule in Iran. The CIA arranged for the former Reza Shah to be

reinstated. This time, however, Reza Shah ruled with even more repression by using his secret police to torture opposition figures. Reza Shah had forbidden any independent institutions from forming during his entire rule. The Iranian people began to see the United States as the country that stole their democracy and set up a brutal dictator as their leader. The new generation that formed as a result of the 1953 coup saw the United States as imperialist and neo-colonialist. Reza Shah, drawing from the wealth of Iran's oil industry, began to transform Iran into a regional military power by buying billions of dollars in United States military equipment. The United States was able to profit immensely off the arms trade and control of Iran's oil industry.

Iran's final modern revolution in 1979 was the culmination of the anger at the United States military presence in Iran and Reza Shah's brutal rule. This was similar to previous uprisings as it was a rebellion against a regime that had lost its control to a foreign power. Nearly every major group in Iranian society sided with the anti-Shah rebellion. The Shah was overthrown and forced to flee his seat of power on January 16, 1979. After the Shah was deposed, he was offered medical asylum in the United States for cancer treatment. To the people of Iran, it looked as if providing the Shah with medical asylum was foretelling a potential plan to reinstate the Shah. The Shah made full use of his secret police to brutalize the Iranian people and win more favor with the United States. By giving away control of 80% of the Iranian oil industry to the United States, the Shah crippled Iran's economy. The root cause of the issue was a result of the United States strong hand in the Iranian economy.

The elimination of our greatest leader, Mohammed Mossadegh, was a blow that will never be forgotten by the Iranian people. The coup of 1953 imprisoned the entire country of Iran under the iron rule of the Shah. The Shah, backed by the United States, was only a figurehead. The Americans have no regret in ravaging the country of Iran and figuratively holding its people prisoner, so why should the people of Iran? The culmination of all these years of foreign control over Iran has led the once magnificent state to a breaking point.

No longer will the foreign powers be in control of the beloved state of Iran and no longer will Iran's resources be exploited and taken from their grasp. Under the leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Iran will begin its rise into the world's superpowers and compete with countries that always looked down about it.

Where Things Stand

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a revolutionary Islamist, has gained support by showing that he can break from foreign control and take back Iran for its people. After Reza Shah fled the throne, Khomeini installed a militant Islamist government in place. Due to the United States' actions regarding Reza Shah's asylum, a group of militant Islamist students attacked the United States embassy in Tehran and took 66 people hostage. The starting date of this committee is November 4th, 1979, and we are now in a very delicate position. The Iranian people are seeking vengeance on the oppression caused by the 1953 coup in which they lost their entire system of democratic government. We hold the power over the United States now and can make demands in order to replenish our great country back to the way it was before the 1953 coup. The demands need to be decided as soon as possible and voted on through the committee. We must keep in mind that the United States can fully utilize their intelligence services to disrupt our negotiation process and potentially plan a rescue mission. In order to ensure that our demands are met, we will also need to plan to intercept any possible intrusions by the United States intelligence agencies.

Questions to Consider

1. Is the best course of action to conduct peaceful negotiations with a nation that has had a history against our wellbeing?
2. What kinds of demands would benefit the Iranian people the most?
 - a. Are they plausible?
3. How should the hostages be treated? Keep in mind this easily can reflect the actions of the U.S.
4. How can we prevent international forces from storming the embassy and retaking the hostages?

5. If the negotiations were to not end peacefully, what would be the next best course of action?
 - a. Are there enough people to support a military action against the United States?
6. If military action is pursued, what are the consequences and potential costs of these actions? What is the strategy?
7. How did the coup of 1953 shape our view on foreign control over Iran?

People To Know

1. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini – the religious leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979. He worked to remove the Shah from power and sought to end connections with the West. He wrote an Islamic constitution for Iran and was widely recognized as the leader of Iran long before the Shah fled the state. Once Khomeini was in power, however, his attitude towards the opposing political party was no different from the former Shah's opposition towards Khomeini's views.
2. Sadegh Ghotbzadeh – helped Khomeini overthrow the monarchy of Reza Shah. He was appointed foreign minister during the time of the Iranian Hostage Crisis and attempted to resolve the situation diplomatically. His actions sometimes angered the country's leading clerics. He had a major role in some of the negotiations with the United States during the crisis.
3. Abolhassan Banisadr – served as the minister of foreign affairs during the crisis. He joined Khomeini early on in Khomeini's rise to power and became one of his closest advisors. Although he was close to Khomeini, Banisadr was never a cleric himself.
4. Sadegh Tabatabai – was a professor at the University of Tehran and eventually became a minister and government spokesman as well as the Iranian ambassador to Germany. Tabatabai was able to maintain close ties with Khomeini due to his sister being married to Khomeini's son Ahmed. Tabatabai also accompanied Khomeini in Khomeini's exile in Paris.

5. Ahmad Khomeini – the son of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who helped his father in his actions. He became a member of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council and was given the opportunity to serve on his father’s chief of staff.
6. Ebrahim Asgharzadeh –a student at the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, known as the leader of the embassy assault. He led a group called the Muslim Student Followers of the Imam’s Line. His takeover in part was to demonstrate support for Ayatollah and the student’s outrage at the asylum of the ex-Shah.
7. Mohammed Mousavi Khoeihi – an Iranian cleric who became one of the aides of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Khoeihi represented Khomeini at Iran’s Council of National Radio and TV and was the spiritual leader of the Muslim Student Followers of Imam’s Line who led the taking of hostages at the American embassy.
8. Mohsen Mirdamadi – also an organizer in the Iran hostage crisis. Mirdamadi was part of the leadership council of the hostage takers and made important decisions regarding what to do with the hostages themselves.

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Final Note

Be sure to research each and every facet of this topic closely as the committee will be fast paced and highly interactive. I expect all delegates to be on their toes! Please realize that when the committee is set in a historical time period, events that occur in the future cannot be brought up in committee for debate. Also keep in mind that what really happened in the situation is not necessarily the only outcome to a JCC historical committee. Any result can come of your debate and interaction with the other committee. Being well prepared for all situations in a JCC is very crucial to your success!

Legal

Ana Murias

Chair

Brennan Burns

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Elizabeth Levit
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Legal Committee! We are very excited to be chairing a committee with a focus on two interesting modern legal topics, drone warfare and cyber espionage. These two topics have seen a lot of debate in society over the past few years, and we look forward to seeing the solutions to these problems that you bring to the committee when GSMUN begins. However, first we must take care of a few formalities.

Brennan Burns, your chair, is a junior at Maggie L. Walker and has participated in GSMUN as a delegate, volunteer, crisis team member, and now, chair. He is very excited to continue helping at GSMUN and doing his best to make the conference a great experience. Besides helping with GSMUN, Brennan also runs on the school's Cross Country team, and participates in a number of other school clubs such as Future Problem Solvers and the GSMA. Brennan also enjoys playing the bass guitar, pen and paper role playing games, and long walks on the beach.

Ana Murias, your second chair, is also a junior at Maggie L. Walker and has participated in GSMUN as a delegate, volunteer, vice-chair, and now chair. She's eager to get to know everyone and hear all the great ideas the delegates have come up with! Besides participating in Model UN, Ana runs on the school's Cross Country Team, and participates in clubs such as EduPAC, Debate, and Spanish Club. When she's not busy doing homework, Ana enjoys watching T.V shows such as Gossip Girl and One Tree Hill, baking delicious goods, and taking fun Buzzfeed quizzes.

This year's GSMUN will surely be an exciting event for many of you, and we look forward to seeing you debate two very important topics that could have vast ramifications for the future. We trust that you will be able to bring high quality ideas to the conference that will help you to address these topics in a way that will benefit the country you represent. In fact, in order to ensure that you come ready to the debate knowing your countries positions, you are required to write a position paper about your country's positions on drone warfare and cyber espionage. It is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Keep in mind that your paper must be original work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat. Please email us with any questions about content or format! We promise that it will be relatively painless, and look forward to seeing you at GSMUN.

Sincerely,



Brennan Burns
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Ana Murias
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Committee Background

Since 1948, the United Nations Legal Committee, otherwise known as the Sixth Committee, has met to make decisions regarding international law. This committee was created to address Chapter IV, Article 13 of the UN Charter, specifically it seeks to “encourage the progressive development of International Law and its codification.”¹ The UN Charter is the founding document of the United Nations, and it is this document that committees and the United Nations itself largely derive their authority from. It is a committee in the UN General Assembly, and as such all UN member states may participate in it.

The Legal Committee has previously addressed issues that affect the entire world, including maritime law, laws regarding diplomats, and laws regarding terrorism. However, decisions made by this committee are non-binding, as they are simply recommendations. This means that countries are not required to follow the recommendations of the Legal Committee, so countries that engage in activities that the committee sees as violations of international law are unlikely to cease these activities. However, the committee’s decision is still quite powerful, as it helps to establish a precedent for seeing certain actions or activities as illegal, and in addition countries that do not engage in potentially illegal activities are somewhat likely to follow recommendations or at least take them into account. In other words, while the Legal Committee cannot unilaterally stop violations of international law, it can certainly help to sway opinions and get some countries to follow the law.

Drone Warfare

The History of Drone Warfare

The first true drone to be used in combat was a relatively simple aircraft designed by the Germans during World War

II to be used against British cities. It was a vengeance weapon, one designed to destroy British infrastructure, lives, and morale, within the constraints Germany was facing during 1944 and 1945, although its construction had begun earlier. Although this drone, the V-1 flying bomb, shares little in common with the drones of today, its use could be seen as the grandfather of modern day drone warfare. After the V-1, drones were largely relegated to reconnaissance roles, although drone technology was used to convert old planes into targets for experimental weapons. The only combat roles drones occupied were similar to those the V-1 was used for, one way missions designed to deliver a warhead carried inside of the drone. However, since the War on Terror started after the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Centers, drones have increasingly been used in combat roles, usually as tools to assassinate suspected terrorists and terrorist leaders.

In the War on Terror, drones originally served in relatively limited roles. They surveyed the battlefield, and occasionally participated in strikes to support ground forces. In Afghanistan, the CIA is said to have been flying unarmed drones since 2000. However it was not until 2002 when the CIA first used an unmanned Predator drone in a targeted killing. The strike occurred in Afghanistan's Paktika province and was supposed to kill Osama Bin Laden. Despite the fact that the U.S had used drones long before that attack, and even during the air war against the Taliban in 2001, the CIA had not yet used a drone for a strike outside military support. The 2002 attack was the first pure CIA kill operation, undertaken separately from any military operations that were ongoing at that time.⁵ Since then, the CIA has used drones in order to assassinate suspected terrorists. Under the Obama administration, the number of strikes has not only been increased, the strikes have also become more

public. Many people, including Americans, question the morality and legality of using drones to kill suspected terrorists abroad. In a report written by Christof Heyns, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, he stated that "only a State's highest authority can give permission to another State to use force on its territory and if that permission is withdrawn, such force must cease."⁷ This statement is particularly relevant to the War on Terror, as drone strikes are regularly conducted in Pakistan, while Pakistani courts have found that these strikes are technically illegal. On the other hand, others point out the fact that drones offer the military an excellent platform for counterterrorism, that is, they are great tools for fighting terrorism especially in foreign countries. Drones can loiter longer than many other options, and are generally fairly precise. However, the biggest advantage for many is the fact that the use of drones keeps American troops safe by eliminating the need to send them on possibly dangerous assassination missions. They are arguably even benefits for the countries that drones are used in, as drones could be considered less invasive than the invasions and occupations they help to replace.

Drones have also begun to proliferate in other ways as their ability to replace humans in roles besides reconnaissance has increased. Many nations still operate drones for reconnaissance purposes, with others, such as the US and UK, using drones for strike purposes. But drones have also begun to branch out more. The US Navy is already considering adopting an autonomous fighter jet, although this would not occur for at least 20 years. Drones have also been considered for use in ground combat, instead of the aerial role they have generally been used in.

However, despite many countries desiring to expand drone operations, other countries have instead moved to prevent the use of drones, with armed drones generally drawing the most ire. This ire is often tied into the debate over counterterrorism, with

activists opposing the use of drones because of their use in targeted killings. However, there is a fair bit of disagreement on how much should be banned, with some groups wanting to ban all armed drones, while others only want to ban armed drones that are fully autonomous. These groups see the immediate future as the best time to advocate for bans on armed drones, as drones may proliferate greatly when other countries begin to develop indigenous drone designs, and in order to stop autonomous drones from being armed to begin with, as it may be more difficult to prevent that after they begin to be deployed. But while these groups oppose the use of armed drones, most do not oppose the use of military drones in general. It appears that at least for reconnaissance purposes, the world has accepted that drones are a better alternative than manned planes.

For most of the time that they have been used, drones have had a human controlling the aircraft. Even now, drones are flown by pilots, although this is usually only for the critical parts of a mission, and the pilot is generally based in the United States. But recently efforts have been made to develop completely autonomous drones, with one successfully demonstrating the ability of a completely autonomous aircraft to land on an aircraft carrier. The US military wishes to develop autonomous drones as they would reduce personnel costs, and might be better than humans at certain tasks. For example, drones are much better at resisting g-forces than humans, which increases the aircraft and gives it an edge in close range combat. Drones in general are cheaper to buy than piloted aircraft, although future air superiority drones may end up being just as expensive as a piloted version of the same craft. The savings on personnel might make it worth it though, as drones would not need to be paid wages, or have medical conditions treated, or perhaps most importantly, would not need to be trained. The US military is strongly considering the benefits offered by drones, and it is actually possible that the US Navy's

next fighter aircraft will at least have an unmanned option, as the program to acquire such aircraft accepts unmanned entries. However, even if the decision is made to use unmanned aircraft, the earliest this would occur would be around 2025.¹⁰

The Current Status of Drone Warfare

Addressing the legality of drones is very important. Right now drones operate in a sort of legal gray area, they are legal, but they are often used to break or bend international law. The UN has acknowledged this, and encouraged countries to use them within the bounds of the law.¹⁰ By crafting resolutions to address the issues involved in drone warfare, countries can expand their drone fleets without having to worry about the lack of laws regarding these tools, and their use in battle can be specifically proscribed, which may help to prevent the sorts of deaths that have led drones to be reviled by some groups. Of course, these resolutions would have far ranging effects, particularly on the US and its allies, as the War on Terror has been fought in large parts by these drones and their operators. Of course, while it is smart to look at previous uses of drones, such as their use in the War on Terror, do not forget that the War on Terror may not accurately represent the future of armed drones. Resolutions will almost certainly also affect major defense companies, as they hope to sell large amounts of drones to countries that desire the benefits drones offer. These economic effects would be widespread as well, with American companies such as Northrop Grumman, French companies such as Dassault Aviation, Israeli companies such as Israel Aerospace Industries, and Russian companies such as Mikoyan all producing drones for military use. However, these companies are all major aerospace firms, so it is unlikely that drone legislation or Legal Committee recommendations would cause their bankruptcy. Resolutions could still affect small companies though, as restrictions on combat

drones may also dampen enthusiasm for civilian drone use.

Current Analysis of Drone Warfare

Drones currently occupy an interesting legal space right now, as mentioned before, they are currently legal, but some countries use them to flout international law. A full ban on armed drones would be appealing to some, but some of the biggest countries that already use armed drones may be unwilling to give them up so easily. Autonomous drones specifically could be banned, or their use limited, but this may affect the development of technology in this area due to a lack of military incentive to develop it further. The military provides significant funding for developing technologies like drones, so forbidding militaries from acquiring autonomous drones could prevent their development by cutting off the main source of funding of their development programs. Alternatively, the Committee could require greater oversight of drones, instead of banning anything specifically, however enforcement may be an issue if this route is taken. These potential solutions and others should be considered to address the issues brought up by drones during our committee.

Questions to Consider

Is the use of drones in combat, whether autonomous or simply unmanned, ethical?
Is it acceptable to use drones for some purposes, and to ban them from serving other purposes?
Should drone strikes have the oversight that a Special Forces operation would have over it?
How much should a country be required to inform other countries of its drone operations?
Should the development of autonomous combat drones be allowed to continue?
Is it feasible to enforce greater oversight of combat drones?
Do drones represent a dangerous technology that must be addressed, or is it simply their use that is problematic?

Is the potential of drones to save lives worth the legal and ethical issues their use brings up?

Further Reading

These sources should not form the entirety of your research, but they do provide a starting point that should show you a variety of viewpoints on the topic.

1. <http://www.e-ir.info/2013/07/18/just-war-theory-and-the-ethics-of-drone-warfare/>,

This piece by Erich Freiberger looks at whether drone warfare is ethical.

2. <http://peacepolicy.nd.edu/2013/03/28/moral-legal-challenges-of-drone-warfare/>,

This piece by David Cortright shows opinions of some others on drones, specifically drone strikes, and whether they are ethical or legal.

3. <http://www.economist.com/node/2152487>

6, This article by the Economist argues that the use of drones does not violate the rules of war.

4. http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/sunday-review/the-moral-case-for-drones.html?_r=0,

This article by Scott Shane argues that using drones is actually the moral thing to do.

5. <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2012/03/02/august-26-2011-the-ethics-of-drones/9350/>,

This PBS report by Kim Lawton also looks at the ethics of the sort of drone warfare conducted by the United States.

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Topic II: Cyber Espionage

The History of Cyber-Espionage

For the majority of history, espionage has been a purely physical affair, with agents conducting groundwork inside a country. However, as the use of technology has spread, physical espionage has been replaced by technological espionage. Arguably, the first major example of this was during WWII, when British experts cracked the German enigma code, allowing the Allies to listen in on German radio communications. Since those times, the internet has largely replaced radio, and as such has begun to play a role in global espionage.

The potential for the computer's role in cyber espionage was demonstrated as early as the 1980's. During this time, the first PC virus, "Brain", was written by two brothers, Basit Farooq and Amjad Farooq, in Punjab, Pakistan. This virus, which, according to the brothers, had been written to protect their medical software from piracy and was only intended to target copyright infringers, would bury itself in the part of the disk that was needed for running programs and would infect any computer into which it was inserted. After that, the virus would remain in the computer's memory and infect any new disks that were inserted into that machine. In its code, however, it had the names, phone numbers and address of the brothers' shop. According to Amjad, "The idea was that only if the program was illegally copied would the virus

load", calling the bug a "friendly virus" and "not made to destroy data", much unlike those today. Around the same time, it was discovered that someone had released a malevolent computer program into the computer network. By the morning of November 3, 1988, thousands of computers were clogged with many copies of what would become known as a computer "worm", a program which would spread from computer to computer like a biological infection. The innovator behind this first worm was a graduate student at M.I.T named Robert Morris, who became one of the first people to be prosecuted and convicted under an anti-hacking statute that the U.S Congress had passed a couple of years earlier. The most significant effect that the worm had on the Internet, however, was that it forced software vendors to take security flaws in their products more seriously.

Since then, cyber espionage and cyber attacks have become more complex and more frequent. One example of this is the 1998 cyber-attack "Moonlight Maze", which was used to steal sensitive but unclassified information from the United States government. In this incident, which is thought to have come from Russia, United States officials found a pattern of probing of computer systems in agencies such as the Pentagon, NASA, and private universities and research labs. In response to these attacks, the United States Department of Defense was forced to implement stronger security procedures. Another example is Operation Aurora. This operation, first seen most by government entities and now by the private sector, has been designed to infect, conceal access, siphon data, and even modify data without detection. The "Moonlight Maze" and Operation Aurora attacks have reached a new level of sophistication by combining encryption, stealth programming and a hole that was unknown in Internet Explorer. "Moonlight Maze" and Operation Aurora were used to gain access to computer systems and then install and activate malware on those

systems. The systems were then connected to a remote server in order to steal intellectual property from companies. In 2010, Google announced that it had been the target of sophisticated and coordinated attacks such as these. Not long after, Adobe also released a statement saying that it too had been a victim of such attacks. Operation Aurora has demonstrated that all companies, both private and public, as well as governments, are vulnerable to attacks.

One of the most recent and threatening examples of the internet's new role in espionage is the case of the Chinese hackers' attacks on European and U.S. businesses and government agencies, with a focus on the satellite, aerospace, and communications sectors. In a speech at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering, President Xi Jinping encouraged "indigenous innovation" and the end of Chinese dependence on Western technology. He described how China is pursuing their goal through great investments in science, technology, and education, and how in 2011, China surpassed Japan as the world's second largest spender on research and development. However, it has been said that the illicit transfer of intellectual property due to a lack of protection, industrial espionage, or cyber theft, additionally plays a role in Chinese efforts to strengthen the economy. These hackers are possibly employed by the Chinese military, and one of their main goals could be to steal information such as trade secrets from American companies, in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Chinese companies. However, the fact that these hackers are based in China, and employed by the Chinese military, makes countering them much harder. It is therefore incredibly difficult to persecute these hackers, as the Chinese government insists that they are not hacking anything, and that in fact it is America that is the hacker. In a speech, Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong rejected U.S. efforts to draw a line between political or military cyber espionage and cyber theft designed to steal intellectual property.

"An individual country," stated Li, "has exercised double standards on the cyber issue, drawn lines out of its selfish interests and concocted 'regulations' only applicable to other countries." This sort of attitude prevents the US from extraditing the guilty parties and forcing them to stand trial.

The Chinese claims about American espionage activities are not entirely wrong. Since 2013, the US has found itself defending the NSA from attack after the whistleblower, Edward Snowden, released information on the agency's programs. This information revealed the extent to which the NSA went to gather information, which included spying on both US citizens and foreigners. Even close US allies, such as Germany and Brazil, were targeted, complicating diplomatic relationships as a result of this seeming betrayal. In a speech at United Nations headquarters in New York, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said on the topic of cyber espionage "What we have in front of us is a serious case of the violation of human rights and a lack of respect for the sovereignty of my country... Information and telecommunication technologies cannot be the new battlefield between states. Time is ripe to create the conditions to prevent cyberspace from being used as a weapon of war, through espionage, sabotage, and attacks against systems and infrastructure of other countries." Meanwhile, in the US itself, citizens felt betrayed that the government was able to observe their cyber activities without needing a warrant.

The Current Status of Cyber Espionage

Due to its rapid growth in numbers and sophistication, the United Nations has recently begun to put more focus on the issue of cyber espionage. In 2011, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held a special event in New York focused on "Cybersecurity and Development". The discussion's goal was to build awareness by providing a picture of the current situation and challenges concerning cybersecurity, identifying a range of effective practice

policies to build a culture of cybersecurity, and exploring possible options for a global response to cybercrimes. The role of economic disparities between nations was brought up, as well as the fact that developing countries do not have enough capacity to combat cybercrimes and cyber attacks. This lack of capacity could create "safe havens" where cyber criminals could take advantage of the lack of strong security measures. Additionally, there was talk of building upon the Budapest Convention, an international treaty that seeks to harmonize national criminal laws of computer crimes such as fraud, child pornography, copyright infringement, and breaches of network security. Representatives at the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention discussed the possibility of the creation of a new international cooperation system to address the increasing dilemmas caused by cyber crimes.

Current Analysis of Cyber Espionage

Cyber crimes and cyber espionage have caused widespread debate. Some believe that it should be absolutely illegal, while others say it may be useful at times. Despite this, the increasing number and sophistication of bad-intended cyber espionage and crimes demands that actions be taken against it as soon as possible. Because technology is constantly changing, global legislation will not only have to catch up but also keep pace with criminal misuses. There is a great risk that countries with lower level of cybersecurity will be taken advantage of by cyber criminals for years to come. Therefore, international cooperation is essential in order to successfully prosecute and investigate cybercrimes. The fight against cyber crimes could also be fought using specialists information hubs and intelligence coordination. This could include analyzing the extent and harm of a cyber criminal groups' activities or protecting citizens against attacks. However, Brandon Valeriano of the University of Glasgow and Ryan Maness of the University of Illinois at Chicago, warn

against over protection against cyber espionage threats. They state that "occasionally, when seeking secure forms of protection against cyber espionage, one may overreact and overprotect, cutting itself off from the systems and opportunities the global information age has done so well to create. Just as business has been harmed by terrorism, business itself has been just as hardened by cyber operations".

Questions to Consider

1. Can parts of the internet be thought of as belonging to a country or a person?
2. Does a person's right to privacy extend to the internet?
3. How far can a country go to punish hackers and spies, even if they are based in another country?
4. What is the true scope of cyber espionage occurring today? Should countries be allowed to use their espionage technology on each other?
5. Where is the line between the "different" types of cyber espionage?
6. Is all cyber espionage the same?
7. Should all cyber espionage be treated with the same severity?
8. Can cyber espionage be morally justified in response to an attack from an enemy?
9. Can cyber espionage be justified during war?
10. Is cyber espionage a crime?

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Libyan National Congress

Robin Schwartzkopf
Chair

Brannon Linder
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
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Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Elizabeth Levit
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Elena Zhou
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Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
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Director of
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Libyan National Congress, also known as the General National Congress! This year at GSMUN, we are looking forward to discussing two major conflicts in Libyan politics: legitimacy and the rise of political parties. However, before we get into research, debate, and policy-making, a few introductions are in order.

Robin Schwartzkopf, your co-chair, is extremely excited for her first chairing experience at GSMUN. She was a part of the crisis team last year at GSMUN XVII and went to GSMUN XVI as a delegate in the Press Corps when she was in 8th grade. Besides Model UN, Robin also busies herself with EduPAC and Honor Council. Her favorite subject in school is history and her dream is to travel the world one day, eating good food and writing heartbreaking memoirs enjoyed by the masses. She is also keen on folk music, movies of any kind, and making sassy comments.

Brannon Linder is a junior at Maggie Walker, and this is his second chairing experience at GSMUN. Last year he was the vice-chair for JCC Second Continental Congress. Outside of Model UN, Brannon is a dedicated superwholockian (a fan of Supernatural, Doctor Who, and Sherlock) and is also committed to many other fandoms. In addition, he thoroughly enjoys any opportunity to wear a suit. Perhaps one of his most characteristic qualities is his undying love for history, and he is looking forward to see the delegates make history, both in committee and for GSMUN overall. Brannon is honored to contribute to this year's GSMUN, and he cannot wait to help make it the best one yet.

We know GSMUN may seem intimidating. Fear not. We have complete confidence that all of you will be able to write professional, succinct, thought-provoking papers. However, our committee in particular is somewhat unique. As many of you will come across in your research, the General National Congress of Libya is no longer an existent law-making body. It operated from August 2012 until August 2014, attempting to stabilize political, economic, and social relations in the fractured Libyan state. They were not successful, but we believe you all will be. In this respect, our committee will operate semi-historically, taking place in July of 2014. Additionally, you may find in your research that there is not much information available on your specific GNC member. If this is the case, please formulate positions and arguments based on your party or, if you are an individual, constituent's beliefs. Please keep these things in mind as you write your papers and participate in debate. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. For guidelines on writing a position paper go to gsmun.net; remember that without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Also keep in mind that your position papers must be your own original work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat. Please email us with any questions regarding research, your paper, or the conference in general.

We look forward to seeing all of you at GSMUN XVIII.

Sincerely,



Robin Schwartzkopf
gsmun.libyan@gmail.com



Brannon Linder
gsmun.libyan@gmail.com

Committee Background

Committee Overview

Libya, a country with ample resources, was subjected to centuries of domination by foreign adversaries such as the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Greeks, Romans, Vandals, and Byzantines. Nestled between Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt, and just south of the Mediterranean, Libya was, and still is, a sought-after region. In the early 20th century, Italy controlled portions of Northern Africa, including Libya, and by 1934 a colony composed of three provinces was established. King Idris I, ruler of the Cyrenaica province, led revolts against Italian rule periodically, succeeding at last when Allied forces came to Libyan aid in February of 1943. After years of subjugation, Libya finally became the first country made independent by the United Nations on December 21, 1951, with King Idris I as its constitutional and hereditary monarch. However, his reign only lasted a mere two decades.

In September of 1969, a bloodless military coup led by a young Muammar Gaddafi deposed the ripened King Idris I, leaving Gaddafi with absolute power over Libya. Following his rise to power, he quickly closed all British and American military bases, simultaneously instigating conflict on the Egyptian border. His first actions were mere hints at the eccentricities to come. Gaddafi became obsessed with restricting foreign involvement in the Libyan economy, especially concerning oil. Significant reserves were discovered in the mid 1950s, but Gaddafi threatened to shut off production if oil companies refused to comply with his conservative standards. In addition, Gaddafi implemented his Green Book, which claimed to solve the inherent problems of capitalism and communism by giving full executive power to the Gaddafi family. Gaddafi's rule made discussing a change in the constitution punishable by death, and he is believed to be responsible for multiple acts of terrorism,

most notably the bombing of the Pan-Am flight 103 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988. From 1969 until early 2011, Colonel Gaddafi tyrannically ruled Libya. It was not until February of 2011, 42 years after the coup that deposed King Idris al-Sanusi, that the Libyan Civil War first broke out amongst a small rebel group in the east. The conflict spread with unexpected fervor. Gaddafi was quick to react with military force, and the troops overwhelmed the upstart rebels. However, due to the March intervention of NATO, which opposed Gaddafi, insurgent forces were able to capture Tripoli and gain the upper hand. Gaddafi was killed in crossfire whilst attempting to escape to the city of Sirte.

Video footage of his alleged corpse being paraded about the street, passed from triumphant citizen to triumphant citizen, circulated around the country and the world. Libyan people felt hopeful at the promise of a fair and democratic government, but quickly discovered that their goals of stability would not come to light as quickly as the revolution had. In the years following the overthrow of Gaddafi, Libya was plagued with ongoing violence and political confusion. However, as of August 8, 2012, peace rests in the capable hands of the General National Congress. A legislative body of 200, the GNC is confident in both its original goals of security, disarmament, and treating the wounded as well as its long term aims to address legitimate leadership and the rise of political parties.

The United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) works in close contact with the General National Congress, providing humanitarian aid to displaced persons in Tripoli, Benghazi, and many other cities still shaken by the revolution of 2011. The UNSMIL Mandate states that it "will work to support the new national authorities, including the General National Congress, in promoting human rights. It will continue to urge them to articulate and implement a

coherent strategy on transitional justice that would provide a forum for the resolution of conflicts based on past grievances and enable victims to seek redress.”

Status of Issues

Topic I: Legitimacy

Congress was, in reality, about to experience stubborn gridlock and political fragmentation.

For instance, during GNC speaker Mohamed Magariaf’s time as speaker, he gradually expanded the extent of his powers and, eventually, proclaimed himself the implicit head of state. His claims have not yet been retracted, despite the fact that the majority of the GNC deny Magariaf’s assertion and proclaim Prime Minister Ali Zidan to be the country’s legitimate leader. Since then, however, Ali Zidan has been dismissed by the GNC and Abdullah al-Thani has taken his place.

Issues of legitimacy often lead to tension between linkage institutions and the state itself, but this tension also draws attention away from the other problems that Libya currently faces. Ever since the collapse of the Gaddafi government, thousands of people have been labeled as Gaddafi loyalists and have been detained without due trial. State-backed militias across the country that are barely under the control of the central government are responsible for upholding authority in the country. However, whenever protests arise objecting to militia rule, the results are detrimental. In June 2013, 32 protesters in Benghazi were killed in what is now called “Black Saturday”. There were 46 killed and 500 injured in a similar protest in Tripoli in November 2013.

The Congress’s lack of validity is reflected in the disinterest of their voting citizens. In June of 2014, less than half of the 3.5 million registered voters actually voted the following week.¹³ Voters say that they are displeased with the lack of response politicians have after being elected, and that the country’s security being threatened by Islamist insurgencies shows that perhaps the new government is not qualified yet to lead.

Citizen irritation because of scorned pledges equates to mistrust of the governing body as a whole.

Additionally, because the GNC lacks a copious amount of power, many rival militias aim at taking down the government, causing a multitude of security threats to the GNC. For example, it seemed that the 2012 Benghazi attack.¹⁴ Libya also does not have a central national army, due to the lack of organizational power and funding. They instead rely on local, primarily Islamist, militias to protect the people, but have virtually no means of controlling said militias with any semblance of authority.¹⁵ Because the GNC has not addressed many of these problems, the Libyan people see the assembly not as a support to progress, but rather as a hindrance to it.

The approval and support of Libyans is crucial in order for the Congress to remain seated and functional. Without the citizens’ backing, the General National Congress is inconsistent, inefficient, and lackluster in terms of governing authority. On March 18, 2014, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations and H.E. Nouri Abusahmain conversed via telephone wherein they reiterated the importance of UN and GNC coordination as well as the shared urgency of maintaining the people’s backing.¹⁶ In order to do this, Libyan officials seek to restrict executive power, preferring to place control in the hands of many rather than few, and to save Libya’s once squandered oil reserves in order to gain access to trade with the rest of the world.¹⁷ By increasing the country’s wealth and prosperity, the GNC can truly say that the people of Libya, and the rest of the world, know that they are legitimate.

Rise of Political Parties

Muammar Gaddafi set up a state in which all political bodies revolved around him via his Green Book, giving him the power of decision-making in various legislatures and ultimate authority in nearly all matters of state.¹⁸ However, after the Libyan Civil War and the death of the long-detested dictator, the dramatic increase in political freedom in

the country led to the creation of several ideologies, platforms, and eventually political parties. This liberation also instilled a problem of political polarization amongst government officials. As more and more independents become members of political parties, consensus and agreement will become nearly impossible to achieve. Additionally, with so many parties in the Congress or seeking representation, courting delegates to create a majority to pass legislation proves more difficult.

Currently, there are 80 seats in the legislature for members of political parties and 120 for individual candidates. However, as more parties continue to stream in, this number will change. The major political parties include the National Forces Alliance and the Justice and Construction Party, whose members together populate almost three quarters of the 80 allowed seats. The Justice and Construction Party is an Islamist group with strong ties to the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt. Taking a more conservative approach to politics, members highlight Sharia law as the means to an effective and strong government. Sharia is the Middle East's own form of common law, in a sense, as it is based on Muslim tradition from the Quran. Seeing the opportunity to gain influence after the revolution, the JCP became one of the forerunners in the July 2012 election. However, to gain seats the party had to win over the Libyan public, who remained skeptical of the party's pan-Islamist beliefs. Building on their clear ideological platform, the party's focus was to first achieve legitimacy in the nation and grow to have more and more loyal members.

The National Forces Alliance is the liberal counterpart of the JCP, choosing instead to accept moderate Islam in government, or, in other words, limiting the application of Sharia in judicial law, criminal law, and personal law. The organization is led by Mahmoud Jibril who, despite having ties to the Gaddafi regime, emphasized his experience in politics and commitment to the revolution in its budding stages. With a

broader platform than the JCP, Jibril was able to get far more seats in the congress than any other party in the July 2012 elections. However, after the election, only about half of the delegates remained loyal to the party. Jibril's approach allowed the party to gain a greater number of seats at the cost of defining the party through a broad set of principles.

In addition to the two major parties, several small associations have formed based on religious affiliation and plans for country's future. Various groups may have only two seats on the legislature but foster growing support in cities outside Tripoli. Many of these parties have contradictory points and arguments, and enough vitality to continue bickering until their party's needs are met. The increasing polarization of the General National Congress almost encourages a legitimate threats to the Congress's existence: militant overthrow. In May of 2014, a retired general, Khalifa Haftar, accused the Congress of allowing "terrorists" to prosper and swore to eliminate the GNC by any means necessary. He soon followed through on his vows and attacked several Islamist militias in Benghazi and Tripoli. Haftar leads the National Army of Libya, a non-Islamist group of soldiers originally trained in Chad by the United States to combat Gaddafi. He intends to utilize the strength of the NAL to fight the so-called "terrorists" of the GNC in a mission he calls Operation Libyan Dignity. Haftar asserts that his actions are necessary in order to stop the Congress from fostering insurgents and Islamist radicals.

Haftar is not without support. Both the regular and air forces oppose the General National Congress, accusing it of redirecting funding from the national military to the small Islamist militias that now police the streets of many major cities in Libya. The support of the air force has proven a valuable asset to Haftar's cause—air bombings now plague the streets of Benghazi, targeting militias there.

Two of the General National Congress's steadfast supporters are the Libyan Revolutionary Operations Room, a coalition of Islamist militias, and Misrata, the most

powerful single-force in Libya today. However, the ongoing tension within the Congress has increased apprehension within Misrata as well, with more and more groups retracting support in order to prevent civil war.

While delegates of the General National Congress trifle with their own validity and political stigma, their country is in dire need of support, stability, and, above all, responsible governing in the interest of the people.

Analysis of Situation

The General National Congress is a legislative body that is plagued with many issues, but the decisions made by delegates are lasting and pivotal. Since the overthrow of Gaddafi, Libyans have been entrenched by a mixture of political enthusiasm and utter bewilderment. The General National Congress was established to lead a struggling nation to a prosperous time of equality and freedom, and the success of said mission is entirely dependent on how seriously Libyan citizens regard the Congress as well as the delegates' own ability to assess and respond to the issues.

Many of the GNC's issues stem from the two political parties that hold the majority of power: the Islamist Justice and Construction Party with strong ties to the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt and the National Forces Alliance, a more moderate group led by Mahmoud Jibril but lacking vast support in the Congress. Rather than addressing the issues the country is facing presently, these two opposing groups have driven the Congress into a weak, fragmented stage vaguely reminiscent of the country as a whole. Leading these two parties are stalwart champions of the cause to better Libya, but none of their intentions would be established should the GNC continue with perpetual argument and no compromise. Settlements and trade-offs may be the only way to secure the future of Libya, recover from the devastation and clean up the rubble left behind from the civil war, both figuratively and literally.

In addition to the many impasses in the Congress, Libya also suffers from a lack of national military assets and an excess of oil—a resource that merits protection. Libya's army was all but demolished by Colonel Gaddafi during his dictatorial reign, and has yet to reform in the new democratic state. The shambled army left behind from NATO bombings and lootings of stockpiled weapons by rebels is in a decrepit and nearly irreversible state, so security is placed in the hands of small militias. Asserts spokesman Col. Ali al-Shekhi, "The biggest challenge is the widespread diffusion of weapons...and there is not much unity, so there are forces that have loyalty to the tribes or areas, and it is hard to break them up." Governing forces in Libya need to focus on rebuilding the military in order to take full advantage of their numerous and possibly profitable trading opportunities.

Should the GNC find a way to maximize efficiency and disagreement in order to make actually steps toward national recuperation and revitalize the feeble national army, the citizens of Libya will be more enthusiastic and active in politics of the region. If Libyan authorities can make wise decisions on behalf of their citizens, then the country will be able to distance itself from the idea of a failed state and leap forward into an age of affluence and stability.

Questions to Consider

1. How should the Congress respond to upstarts such as former speaker Mohamed Magariaf? Was this crisis handled correctly or should it have been addressed in a different way?
2. Should the GNC continue communications with the UN and accept the aid of UNSMIL? Would this be beneficial to Libya or detrimental?
3. How can the GNC increase voter participation? Is this important in order for Libya to prosper economically?
4. Should the GNC focus on rebuilding the national army or is a coalition of militias more practical, given the current economic and political climate in Libya?

5. Is a secular government in Libya practical, or even possible? How much should Islamic beliefs play into the General National Congress's decisions?
6. Many major delegates in the General National Congress were also in power during the Gaddafi era, most notably Mahmoud Jibril of the National Forces Alliance. Should these politicians be encouraged to participate in new, democratic policymaking, or is their inclusion deleterious to the cause?
7. How should the Congress respond to the challenges of General Haftar and others that Libyan officials are harboring terrorists?
8. What action, if any, should be taken to minimize the existence of local militias? What may be the intended and unintended consequences of these actions?
9. Should Libya focus its monetary resources on rebuilding the national army, or save its funding for more pressing issues? What, if any, are these issues?
10. How can the Congress take steps to compromise on acts and policy while remaining a multi-party system? Is this feasible?

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- <http://www.libya-today.com> - Libya Today, a Libyan newspaper with relevant, succinct, and up-to-date articles
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13755445> - Timeline of Libyan history on BBC News, good for background about the region and its inhabitants in past centuries and presently
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-12688033> - The Muammar Gaddafi Story, a useful resource in familiarizing yourself with recent

Libyan history so as to put current events in perspective

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html> - CIA World Factbook, for general knowledge and facts primarily about the Libyan government and economy, and as a jumping off point in research
- <http://www.npr.org/blogs/parallels/2014/02/26/282594241/outmanned-and-outgunned-libya-struggles-to-fix-its-broken-army> - National Public Radio report on the state of Libya's military and issues the country needs to address

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Lok Sabha

Sharvani Mehta
Chair

Harish Tekriwal
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up, Speak
Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

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Welcome Delegates!

It is our honor to welcome you to GSMUN XVIII and the Lok Sabha. This weekend you will be discussing two hot topics: terrorism in India and India's economy, and the decisions you make will shape India's future for decades to come. We are looking forward to passionate and knowledgeable debate, and we are excited to hear your innovative ideas to help solve two of the biggest issues in a modern India. We hope you are as ready as we are!

Sharvani Mehta is a senior at Maggie Walker and is thrilled to chair Lok Sabha this year at GSMUN XVIII. She has been a member of Model UN since her freshman year, and in the past has attended several Model UN conferences and served as a mock delegate and chair for GSMUN conferences. Outside of Model UN, Sharvani is the Editor in Chief of the school newspaper, the Jabberwock, and sings with Maggie Walker's a capella group, Deadbeats. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, dancing, and holding movie marathons.

Harish Tekriwal is a sophomore at Maggie Walker and is ecstatic that his first chairing experiencing will be to chair Lok Sabha this year at GSMUN XVIII. He has been a member of Model UN since 8th grade at Moody Middle School, and in the past has attended several Model UN conferences, including GSMUN XVI in 2013. At last year's GSMUN, Harish served as a crisis staffer for the JCC: American Revolution. Outside of Model UN, Harish plays tennis for MW, rows crew for River City Crew, and volunteers at Ten Thousand Villages and MCV. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, spending time outdoors, and hanging out with friends.

As members of Lok Sabha, you have an obligation to come prepared to this committee after having done extensive research. Please make sure to read the background guide for a solid preliminary base of knowledge on our topics. Your position papers should be at least 500 words, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with Chicago-style footnotes and a bibliography, and should include some background research, your representative's position on the issue at hand, and one or two solutions to it. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Please keep in mind that GSMUN follows Maggie Walker's Honor Code and plagiarism will result in disqualification from the conference. We expect nothing but the best from each and every one of you. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Good luck delegates, and we look forward to seeing you all in March!

Your Chairs,



Sharvani Mehta
gsmun.loksabha@gmail.com



Harish Tekriwal
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Committee Background

The Lok Sabha (“House of the People”) is the lower house of the Indian parliament; the Indian electorate directly elects members. As established by the Constitution of India, Lok Sabha may have a maximum of 530 representatives for the states, 20 representing the Union Territories, and 2 appointed by the President of India, for a total of 552 members. Currently, however, Lok Sabha has 545 sitting members. Of the two houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha (“Council of States”), the upper house of parliament, the former is the larger entity. The Prime Minister of India, currently Narendra Modi, acts as the head of Lok Sabha, known as the Leader of the House. Established in 1952 by the newly drafted Indian Constitution (1949), the Lok Sabha is currently in its 16th session. Each session lasts 5 years, after which the entire session is dissolved and reelected. Mirrored after the British Parliamentary system, the Lok Sabha along with the Rajya Sabha act as the legislative branches of the government, although the Lok Sabha is generally thought to have more power because of its size and ability to issue motions of no confidence. The two main parties in the Lok Sabha are the Bharatiya Janata Party, led by PM Modi, and the Indian National Congress Party, led by Sonia Gandhi.

Topic I: Terrorism in India

History:

Like most countries, India borrows its official definition of terrorism from a 1988 report by historians Adam Schmid and Albert Jongman: “Terrorism is an anxiety-inspiring method of repeated violent action, employed by clandestine individual groups or state actors, for idiosyncratic, criminal or political reasons, whereby—in contrast to assassination—the direct targets of violence are not the main targets. The immediate human targets of violence are generally chosen randomly or selectively from a target population, and serve as message generators.”

Because terrorist acts can have a wide variety of motives, goals, and methods, India classifies terrorism into four different categories: ethno-nationalist, religious, ideology-oriented, and narco-terrorism. Ethno-nationalist terrorism, while it has become rarer over the years, focuses usually on the notion of ethnocentrism, “elevating the status of one ethnic group over others,” or policing for the creation of a separate state for a specific ethnic group. Increasingly common is religious terrorism, a form of terrorism in which “the practitioners of terrorism are motivated either in whole or in part by religious imperative, and consider violence as a sacred act or duty.” Ideology-oriented terrorism is broken further down into right-wing and left-wing terrorism, and describes terrorism stemming from an ideological motive that either challenges or works to maintain the status quo. For example, communist rebel groups in several Asian countries, such as the Naxalites, can be classified as left-wing ideology-oriented terrorist organizations, and the Ku Klux Klan can be classified as a right-wing ideology-oriented organization. Finally, narco-terrorism refers to terrorist activity conducted or influenced by any illegal drug trades or trafficking groups in the area.

The history of terrorism in modern-day India dates back to 1984, with the Meenambakkam International Airport bomb blasts in Madras, Tamil Nadu. On August 2, 1984, 30 people were killed at the airport by bombs set up by Sri Lankan militants. The incident was marked as a turning point, making it clear that the Indian public could be targets of terrorism, something that was unusual before. The Tamil Eelam Army, a Sri Lankan nationalist organization advocating for a separate Tamil homeland, was found guilty of the attack and convicted. The incident can be classified as ethno-nationalist terrorism. In the 1980s and 1990s, a wave of terrorism, known as Khalistani Terrorism, emerged in

northern India, specifically in Punjab, as a response to an order by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to forcibly remove the head of a revolutionary Sikh group from the Golden Temple. The Sikh population in the area had formed several forces to combat what they felt was discrimination against them by the Indian government, as well as advocate for a separate Sikh state. Throughout the late 1900s, violence against Hindus on the part of Sikh radical groups continued, but in 1987 and 1991, two incidents occurred that helped to classify their actions as ethno-nationalist terrorism: mass train and bus murders. In July 1987, Sikh militants created a roadblock, seized two buses and massacred 34 specifically Hindu passengers in Haryana. Almost four years later, on June 15, 1991, Sikh militants again overtook two trains and killed around 80 Hindu passengers in the Ludhiana district of Punjab. The Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), a radical, armed Sikh militant organization, was found responsible for the attack. The KCF still exists today and is classified as a terrorist organization by the Government of India, but not by the United States State Department.

Beginning in the early 2000s, the number of terrorist incidents in India escalated rapidly. The targets and methods of these incidents varied greatly, with attacks occurring in south, west, north, and east India. However, by far the most-targeted city in India is the corporate and entertainment capital of the country: Mumbai. Since the first in 1993, there have been almost 10 separate attacks in the city. The 1993 series of 13 bombings in Mumbai killed more than 250 people and injured over 700. It was later found that the bombings were conducted mainly by Dawood Ibrahim and his crime cartel named D-Company. One of the deadliest attacks in Indian history even today, the events can be classified as a case of both religious and narco terrorism, because while the motives behind the attack were religious, the bombings were planned and executed by both Islamic militants and members of the

drug mafia. In addition, the Pakistani intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was accused of providing training and supplies to Dawood Ibrahim and his accomplice Tiger Memon. Throughout late 2002 and 2003, a series of smaller bomb blasts rocked Mumbai, with targets including several forms of transportation, such as cars, buses, trains, and bicycles. While no group claimed responsibility for the attacks, police and intelligence services pinned emerging terrorist syndicate Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) as the perpetrator, especially for the last of the series in August 2003. Earlier, in September 2002, the group had gained infamy for a graphic gunned attack on a Hindu temple in Gujarat, India that left 30 dead and 80 injured. Still active today, LeT is based in Pakistan and its main objective is to “drive out Indian security forces from Kashmir and establish an Islamic caliphate in the surrounding region.”

Two of the most devastating terrorist attacks in India occurred in the late 2000s, both in Mumbai. In July 2006, a string of pressure cooker bombs went off in 7 commuter trains in the city, leaving almost 200 dead and over 600 injured. The bombings painted a gory image for the Indian public, with pictures and television footages showing “the wreckage of mangled trains, torn limbs and stunned, injured commuters, some with blood-streaked faces.” Thirteen men, allegedly associated with the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) were arrested, and Mumbai security forces took initiative to heighten security measures with the addition of closed-circuit television (CCTV) monitors and metal detectors to all railway platforms. Later, however, police arrested five members of the Indian Mujahideen (IM), a banned terrorist organization said to be affiliated with LeT, for the attacks. One man, Mohammad Sadiq, had confessed that he and his co-conspirators were responsible for the bombings, with possible suspected involvement again by the ISI. The identity and affiliation of those responsible for these attacks remains unclear even today.

Finally, one of the most widely-reported terrorist incidents in India occurred in November 2008, again in Mumbai. This large-scale and well-planned attack occurred in several commercially and socially key places in South Mumbai, and included the use of gunfire massacring as well as grenades and time bombs. Targets included the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the Leopold Café, the Cama Hospital, a Jewish community center, and the five-star Taj Palace Mahal Palace and Hotel. The three-day attacks left over 150 dead and injured more than 600, and in addition inflicted significant commercial and architectural damage. Many victims were held as hostages or tortured, and the Taj was under siege for over two days. Police were able to capture one of the shooters, a young Pakistani recruit named Ajmal Amir Kasab, who confessed under questioning that LeT was behind the incidents. The attacks had been in the works for months in advance and were meticulously planned, with conspirators making several trips from to Mumbai to scourge the targets, take pictures, and create maps. Kasab's 9 co-conspirators died in the events, and Kasab was later tried and executed. Both the 2006 and 2008 attacks in Mumbai can be classified as religious terrorism.

Several terrorist attacks occurred in between and after these, but the few mentioned above highlight the importance of choosing targets in India as well as the range in types of terrorist activity. Two additional major targets for terrorist activity include the capital city of New Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir in the north, a prime location for terrorist insurgency. Other victimized cities over the years include Ahmedabad, Varanasi, Hyderabad, and Pune. In general, the Indian government under the leadership of then-Prime Minister (PM) Manmohan Singh responded with heightened security measures and investigations.

Current Status and Analysis:

In 2012, the Lok Sabha passed a bill that sought to widen the definition of

“terrorism” in India. The addition to the traditional definition expanded “terrorist act” to include “offences that threaten the country’s economic security.” The amendment for expansion of the definition also included “procurement of weapons, raising funds for terrorist activities and counterfeiting Indian currency” as terrorist acts.

Large-scale terrorist attacks in India have slowed since around 2012, though there have been small sporadic incidents. Newly-elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made several comments regarding terrorism in India, especially concerning the involvement of Pakistan and the Inter-Services Intelligence. “The neighboring country [Pakistan] has lost the strength to fight a conventional war, but continues to engage in the proxy war of terrorism,” said Modi in a recent speech, referring to the alleged involvement and assistance of groups such as LeT by the Pakistani military and intelligence forces. Pakistan has denied all of these accusations, and diplomats from both countries were scheduled on August 25, 2014 to establish anti-terrorism tactics and discuss peace between them. However, India called off the meeting after Pakistan went ahead and spoke first regarding the terrorism issue with secessionist forces in Jammu and Kashmir. Modi said about the decision to cancel the talks that “any meaningful bilateral dialogue necessarily requires an environment that is free from terrorism and violence.”

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had earlier visited India for Modi’s oath ceremony, and in reference to Modi’s comments, the Pakistani government responded, “Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s visit to India in May was in this spirit and generated a fresh momentum in the bilateral relationship. It would be in the larger interest of regional peace that instead of engaging in a blame game, the two countries should focus on resolving all issues through dialogue and work together to promote friendly and cooperative relations.”

Modi's visit to terrorism insurgency hotspot Jammu and Kashmir on August 12, 2014 was seen as a symbolically significant action because it was the first time an Indian Prime Minister had visited the region in almost 20 years. His visit made it clear that terrorism in India would be adequately dealt with during his term in office.

In early August 2014, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations made a promise for "greater cooperation between the member countries of the grouping and India in combating transnational and non-traditional security challenges," including terrorism, the illegal drug trade, human trafficking and cyber crime and piracy. The effort will be made to forge better relations between the countries of ASEAN and India.

While increased security measures and intelligence resources have certainly helped to combat terrorism in India, more must be done to ensure that India does not succumb to another attack from organizations such as LeT or al Qaeda, which has in the past listed India as a possible target. Efforts must also be made to forge better relations with Pakistan and to prevent domestic terrorism and ethno-nationalist violence. Finally, India must work to ease tensions in the Jammu and Kashmir region and eliminate terrorist strongholds located there. The victory in India's decades-old battle with terrorism, as well as the security and safety of the Indian people, is now in your hands.

Questions to Consider:

1. What evidence points to any Pakistani government involvement in terrorism in India?
2. What are the diplomatic implications for India, Pakistan, and the international community at large if Pakistan is found to be supporting terrorist activity in India?
3. Are there any patterns in terrorist activity in India that could help to predict future attacks?

4. How can India use other countries' anti-terrorism work as examples to eliminate terrorism within its borders?
5. Why do terrorists so often target Mumbai instead of New Delhi, the capital?
6. Where and what background do LeT terrorists come from, and how can they be stopped?
7. Where does domestic terrorism most frequently occur, and why?
8. Based on Modi's political history and background, where do you think he will take prevention of terrorism in India?
9. Does political corruption play a role in the execution of any terrorism-prevention bills, and if so, how?
10. How will cooperation with ASEAN help to combat terrorism in India?

Sources for Further Research:

1. The Siege: 68 Hours Inside the Taj Hotel, by Cathy Scott-Clark and Adrian Levy – A non-fiction book for thoroughly understanding the 2008 Mumbai attacks; includes analysis, pictures, and research.
2. <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/terror-in-mumbai> – Terror in Mumbai, a documentary; another source that explains well the 2008 Mumbai attacks, if you'd rather watch a movie!
3. <http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/cgg/unpan045484.pdf> – Combating Terrorism: Protecting by Righteousness, a report by the Government of India detailing definitions of terrorism, its prevalence in India, how to deal with it, etc.
4. <http://loksabha.nic.in> – The official website for the Indian House of the People, Lok Sabha
5. <http://www.satp.org> – The website for the South Asian Terrorism Portal, it has really useful information about terrorism in India, including timelines, statistics, and documents

Topic 2: Economic Policy and Reform History:

Since the departure of the British in 1947, India has followed an extremely polarizing economic path. India's economic history can be divided into 4 segments: 1947-1965, 1966-1980, 1981-1991, and post 1991. Each segment represents an era of economic policy vastly different from the other. The first era marks the regime of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Nehru believed in a strong, socialist government that would control all major industries, borrowing many ideals from the Soviet Union, most notably the idea of 5 year plans aimed at improving agricultural and industrial output. India enjoyed high levels of growth under Nehru's rule, partly because of the power of the Congress party in the government and Nehru's ability to inspire and lead the people. However, this economic approach required every level of society to share the same belief that the current policies were for the better of the country; this was lost when Nehru died.

The following two eras saw a decline in structure and stability of the government and economy. No leader after Nehru inspired the confidence in the people that is required for a Socialist Democracy to be effective. Indian newspapers declared, "The light has gone out of our lives, and there is darkness everywhere." Although the Congress Party continued to successfully pass centrally driven economic policies, the diversity of the country started to cause disruption. The sense of unity and nationalism that Nehru had brought was nowhere to be found, even as the government attempted to bring the people together. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi tried to forcefully unite the country together, by abolishing foreign investment in 1973 and expanding the powers of the central government. However, Indira Gandhi often corrupted officials in both legislative branches in order to achieve her goals, lowering confidence in the people

even further. This policy of corruption has followed the country into the present day, and remains at the forefront of India's issues. Often viewed as the most corrupt Prime Minister, Indira's regime marks the most centralized government in Indian history. From 1965 to 1991, the Indian economy was stagnant, even anemic in terms of growth. The lack of emphasis on economic policy and focus on social unity greatly hurt the country's economic stability. This fiscal uncertainty reached a tipping point at the start of the 1990's. At that time, India heavily relied on low cost foreign oil from the Soviets, and the collapse of the Soviet Union combined with the effects of the First Gulf War sent the country reeling. Forced to buy oil from the free markets, the foreign exchange reserve of India fell to \$240 million, barely enough money for two weeks supply of oil. Consequently, India was forced to change its closed-door economic policies.

This marks the beginning of India's current era of free market economics. After accepting funds from the International Monetary Fund in 1991, Finance Minister (and future Prime Minister) Manmohan Singh began preparing India for the international market by lowering tariffs and removing restrictions on India's foreign direct investment (FDI) policy, both extremely controversial moves at the time for a member of the INC, a socialist party. Almost instantly, India began to experience vast economic growth. Foreign investors lined up to invest in India, and the IT sector grew at an unfathomable rate. This new economic growth was achieved through very limited liberalization, with the state still controlling most raw material industries and enforcing laws to keep the private sector small. Economic growth continued relatively steadily until the recent economic crisis in 2008. Even then, the growth rate did not slow drastically until 2013, when it slowed to 4.4% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Comparatively, China's GDP growth in 2013 was close to 7.7%.

Current Issues:

As the data shows, India has grown at an astronomical rate since 1991. In 2007, India became 1 of 15 economies to reach a total GDP output of 1 trillion dollars. India is one of the 5 countries in the BRICS group (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) that are considered some of the fastest growing economies. Boasting one of the largest service industries in the world along with a specialty in the growing field of information technology, India seems poised to take the world by storm.

Although this suggests a promising outlook, India has experienced a variety of economic problems that require the attention of the Lok Sabha. 2013 was an abysmal year for the Indian economy, with GDP growth slowing to 4.4%. This was due largely in part to undisciplined spending and extremely poor leadership. India's budget deficit in 2013 was a staggering 5.2% of the GDP. In response, the finance minister, Palaniappan Chidambaram ignorantly proposed increasing spending by 17%.

Part of the reason India's GDP growth is sliding can be attributed to massive inefficiencies in all sectors of the economy, most notably agriculture and pollution. In 2009, The World Bank estimated that environmental degradation cost India close to \$80 billion, which is close to 5.7% of the GDP. This is mainly because air and water pollution destroys crops, forcing the government to increase subsidies for the agricultural sector.

India spends more than 10.7% of the GDP on agricultural subsidies. The government pays farmers subsidies in order to keep the price of food down. Close to 90% of all farmers received government subsidies for their crops. These subsidies primarily serve to pay farmers back for damaged or rotten crops. About 10% of India's crops rot before they can even be distributed. The World Bank reports that as subsidies are rising, public investment in the sector is declining. Copious amounts of money spent on agricultural

subsidies are holding the economy back. The Lok Sabha must find a way to decrease the amount of crops that are being destroyed in order to boost efficiency and lower subsidies.

In addition to high subsidies and rotting food, the agricultural sector also represents a huge inefficiency in the distribution of labor. Over 3/5 of the entire population is employed by the agriculture industry, yet agriculture only accounts for 17.4% of the GDP. 60 million of the workers in the agricultural sector are considered unnecessary. However, these workers have nowhere else to go, as manufacturing is not an emphasized part of the economy. The need for these low-skilled laborers does not exist anywhere, as the service industry accounts for more than 50% of the GDP and requires high skilled workers. Every year, 1 million low-skilled workers enter the Indian economy. However, the overabundance of this class in the agriculture sector creates an enormous inefficiency in the economy. The Lok Sabha should find a place for these workers in order to boost the economies' efficiency.

Perhaps the most profound problem India faces today is widespread corruption. In 2013, India ranked 94 out of 176 countries on the Corruption Transparency Index. Additionally, Transparency International stated that most, if not all, of India's key institutions suffered from widespread corruption. Polls from March of 2014 show that 96% of Indians think that the government is corrupt. Not only does corruption ruin the people's perspective of the government, it costs the economy as well. A study by Ernst & Young calculated that an estimated \$5.92 Billion was lost to corruption between October 2011 and September 2012. On a national scale, very little has been done to combat the corruption in India. The Lok Sabha must find creative solutions to this problem in order to ensure the citizens happiness and bolster the economy.

India's poor economic leadership and corruption were the main reasons the Congress Party lost so many seats to the BJP,

and is the main reason PM Narendra Modi was elected. Modi worked wonders by Indian standards in his governance of the state of Gujarat. By liberalizing the private sector, Modi was successfully able to attract investors and revive the industry sector of Gujarat, bringing unemployment to less than 1% in 2013. He brought running water and electricity to millions of homes for the first time. With his election, the Indian people are hoping that he can recreate these results across India.

Raised by new era economics, Modi's economic beliefs contrasts India's state controlled economy. Despite the liberalizations made by Manmohan Singh in 1991, the government continues to keep a tight fist on important sectors, including retail. Since arriving in office, Modi has begun the process of decentralizing the government and reducing its involvement in the economy. A recently passed bill raised the limit of FDI investment in defense and infrastructure to 49%. Immediately, investors flocked to capitalize on the higher limits, with FDI investments increasing by a staggering 34% in June of 2014 alone. By involving more foreign investors in the economy, Modi plans to release these sectors of the economy to the free market.

An increase in foreign investment completely defies Nehru's beliefs in a Socialist Democracy. Although it seems to be helping the economy flourish, many traditionalists have spoken out against these policies. Since 1991, India has walked the careful line between a central government and gradual economic liberalization. A radical change into a completely liberal state would ruin the economy. If liberalization is inevitable, then the process must occur gradually. However, opposition to this gradual liberalization does continue to exist, especially within the Congress Party. The Lok Sabha must strike a balance between liberal economic policy and a centralized government.

These next 5 years in the Lok Sabha are of utmost importance in deciding the

future of the Indian economy. India is at a crossroads between becoming an international superpower and being marred by an inept government. As the law makers of the country, the Lok Sabha must deal with corruption and decide which economic policies best suit the needs of the people and support the country's growth for the future.

Questions to Consider:

1. Is there any way to recreate the sense of nationalism that Nehru championed? If yes, how can this be used to improve the economy? If no, why not?
2. Is pollution in India a big problem or should it be ignored in favor of economic interests? Can one improve the other?
3. How can the Lok Sabha reduce agricultural subsidies while still keeping the price of food affordable? Consider looking at other government subsidy programs around the world (i.e. USA, GB, etc.).
4. What are some ways the Lok Sabha can reduce the amount of food that rots every year? Be creative with solutions!
5. How can the labor efficiency of the agriculture sector be improved?
6. Is increasing low wage manufacturing jobs in India feasible? Why or why not?
7. How can government corruption be lowered in India? What can be done to convince the people that corruption really has been lowered?
8. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of FDI's? Should the quotas for these investments be increased?
9. Should the Lok Sabha liberalize the economy further, or continue to control major sectors? What are the advantages and disadvantages of both?
10. Can a balance be found between a liberal economy and an effective socialist democracy? Why or why not?

Useful sources for Further Research

1. <http://www.economicshelp.org/india/problems-indian-economy/>- A simple site that provides a quick overview of the 10 major issues facing India's economy.
2. <http://harvardpolitics.com/world/fighting-corruption-in-india/> - An article detailing ways to fight corruption.
3. http://hal.inria.fr/docs/00/84/68/25/PDF/Effects_of_Foreign_Direct_Investment_FDI_in_the_Indian_Economy.pdf - A fairly lengthy scholarly article on FDI's in India. This is a good skim and should really help with understanding FDI's.
4. <http://www.investopedia.com/> - If you need help with basic economic terms, this is the place to go.
5. <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/the-manmohan-singh-legacy-key-achievements-and-failures/> - An overlook of the past PM, and his achievements and failures.

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Nigerian National Assembly

Kayleigh Meighan

Chair

Joanne Choi

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

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General for Logistics

Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Greetings Delegates!

On behalf of GSMUN XVIII, we welcome you to the Nigerian National Assembly! From controversies with child marriage to issues concerning the environment, we hope you will be able to create reasonable solutions and improve the state of Nigeria. Before we get into anything else, let us introduce ourselves: your co-chairs will be Kayleigh Meighan and Joanne Choi, aided by vice-chair Victor Dao. We are all excited for the upcoming conference and cannot wait for you all to knock our socks off. Now that we've introduced ourselves, we would like to remind you of a few important requirements necessary for a rockin' conference.

First off, we stress the importance of a well-written, well-researched, topic-relevant position paper. For those of you who aren't quite sure of the definition of a position paper, it is a statement of your designated delegate's position on the topics that are discussed in our committee background guide. These position papers will entice committee discussion and make up our valuable time during the conference, so we urge you all to prepare accordingly. A good position paper should take a clear stand on issues, provide reasonable solutions, and cover both committee topics: Child Marriage and the Environment. Remember, these papers should summarize your viewpoints in a clear and understandable manner, usually 1-2 pages per topic. Following these technical requirements will make it easier for us to review papers and offer feedback: format your papers with double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman font, Chicago-style footnotes and bibliography, and at least 500 words of text. Additional resources are available at <http://gsmun.weebly.com/delegate-resources.html> gsmun.net to help you get started. Please keep in mind that GSMUN follows Maggie Walker's Honor Code, so any plagiarism will result in your disqualification from awards. Additionally, position papers should be emailed in before committee or turned in during the first committee session.

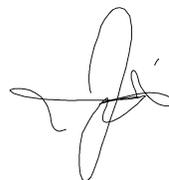
Along with concise, informative position papers, you will also be expected to follow and defend the positions described in your paper using clear evidence. Moreover, you should have a passable knowledge of parliamentary procedure that can be reviewed at any time online or in the "Little Book" provided at the opening ceremony. We do not want our committee sessions to be detracted from because of procedural technicalities, so please come prepared!

Last but not least, don't forget to have fun! Enjoy yourselves and revel in the knowledge you hold in preparation for this conference. It's well-known that knowledge is power and we encourage you to use that power to improve real-life issues outside GSMUN. Most importantly, we want you to try your best. We understand that GSMUN, especially if it is your first MUN conference, can seem daunting, but it's not all about how much you know. What matters most is the quality of your ideas and the passion you put into the debate. We can't wait to meet you all and wish you the best of luck in your preparations!

Sincerely,



Kayleigh Meighan
gsmun.nigerian@gmail.com



Joanne Choi
gsmun.nigerian@gmail.com

Committee Background

Committee Background

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a federal constitutional republic composed of thirty-six states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, governed by a separate administration called the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA). Unlike the states of Nigeria, which are headed by elected governors, a minister that is appointed by the President heads the FCTA.¹ A British protectorate since 1901, Nigeria was originally divided into a northern and southern protectorate and the Lagos Colony. The different interactions and environments of each division resulted in economical and cultural imbalances that continue to influence Nigeria's political life today.

Located in West Africa, Nigeria borders the Republic of Benin, Chad, Cameroon, Niger, and the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. In addition, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, and the seventh most populous country in the world, with approximately 174 million inhabitants. The country's three largest ethnic groups are Hausa (21%), Yoruba (21%), and Igbo (18%), with a diverse religious community dominated by Christianity and Islam. Its capital is Abuja, which the Nigerian government resides. In the events following World War II, a growth in Nigerian nationalism and demands for independence augmented, leading to a series of constitutions that granted Nigeria independence in 1960. After several years of corruption and discontent, Nigeria experienced its first military coup in 1996. Later, a counter-coup commenced, along with the declaration of a new state called the Republic of Biafra. This succession led to the Nigerian Civil War, which ended in 1970 with a siege of Biafra and isolation from trade and supplies.

The years after the civil war turned slightly for the better when Nigeria struck oil and joined the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). However, despite huge revenues from the oil boom, the military administration refused to improve the

population's standard of living. Moreover, the lack of other sources of economy and the increase of oil production and sales caused the Nigerian to become heavily dependent on oil revenues, resulting in economic instability.

Finally, in 1999, Nigeria regained democracy when the new President, Olusegun Obasanjo, was elected, ending almost thirty-three years of military rule. Today, Nigeria is considered to be an emerging world market and is a member of MINT (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Turkey), the Next Eleven, the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Union, OPEC, the United Nations, and more. The current head of the executive branch of the Nigerian Government is President Goodluck Jonathan and his Vice-President, Mohammed Namadi Sambo.

The Nigerian government is influenced by the Westminster System and is modeled after the United States, with the president as the head of both the state and the government. Additionally, the president is elected by popular vote and is allotted two four-year terms in office. The president's power is checked by both Senate and the House of Representatives, a bicameral legislature established under Section 4 of the Nigerian Constitution, also known as the Nigerian National Assembly.

The Assembly is the highest elective law-making body of the country, and consists of a 109-member Senate, with three votes from each state plus one from Abuja, and a 360-member House of Representatives based on proportional representation. The members of both houses are elected to serve four-year terms at the Nigerian general election. Moreover, the current 7th National Assembly (2011-2015) was inaugurated on June, 6th 2011. Out of 109 Senators, 36 were re-elected while 73 were elected for the first time. Out of 360 members of the House, 100 were re-elected while 260 were newly elected.

Currently, the Nigerian National Assembly is under the leadership of David Mark, President of the Senate since June 2007, and Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, Speaker of the House

since June 2011. In this government, at any joint session of the Assembly, the President of the Senate presides with the Speaker of the House next in line. Nigeria also has a multi-party system with two or three stronger parties and an electorally successful third party. Both the leaders of the executive and legislative branches identify themselves with the People's Democratic Party (PDP), a conservative political party that has won every Presidential election since 1999.

Favoring free-market policies that support economic liberalism and limited government regulation, PDP works toward reducing government spending through conservative fiscal policies. In social issues, PDP discourages same-sex relations and sponsored a bill to outlaw homosexual relations in 2007, making such actions punishable by law. Moreover, the party advocates state-autonomy and religious freedom for all Nigerian provinces, which slightly contrasts with their strict perspective of religion.

The opposition party is the All Progressives Congress (APC), an alliance of Nigeria's four biggest opposition parties; the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), the Congress of Progressive Change (CPC), the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), and the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA). APC endeavors to instill change in the Nigerian government, starting with the end of PDP's 15-year reign of power. This party strives to provide the Nigerian people with the security, improved welfare, education, employment, and other promises the PDP made but never upheld. They hope to eradicate what they believe to be a corrupt, inefficient, and dangerous government that is using divisive politics to stay in power.

Furthermore, the Nigerian National Assembly has broad oversight functions over the executive and judicial branches, and establishes committees to review and pass legislation and scrutinize the conduct of government officials. The Senate also has the power to impeach judges and other high executive officials, but is limited in this power because it is subject to a prior request by the President. Moreover, the Senate confirms the President's nomination of federal judicial appointments, senior diplomats, and members of the federal cabinet. In addition, both houses of

the legislative branch must agree on a bill and receive the President's approval before it can become a law. Similarly to the American government, if the President delays or vetoes the bill, the Assembly has the power to pass the law with a two-thirds majority of both houses and overrule the veto.

Due to allegations of corruption since the restoration of democratic rule in 1999, the Assembly has witnessed the removal of several Presidents of the Senate, harvesting further legislative inefficiency. Ironically, despite the more than two-thirds PDP majority of the Assembly, disagreements between the President and the legislative branch has been more frequent than cooperation. This delay in the government is largely believed to be the fault of President Goodluck who has yet confirmed many bills from as long ago as 2007.

Child Marriage Overview

Child Marriage is an international phenomenon, occurring when the bride or groom, or sometimes both, are under the age of 18. Often these marriages are not consensual, and many human rights activists believe that the legal age for marriage should be set at 18. Women are much more frequently involved in child marriage, and the institution comes with a plethora of consequences. These marriages are often accompanied by domestic violence, poverty, and early pregnancies leading to life-long medical afflictions. In some countries, children will be married off from 3 or 4 years old. In countries where child marriage is an accepted practice, the government often will not criminalize domestic violence and marital rape.

Child marriage is typically arranged by the parents without the girl's knowledge, and this results in the girl being taken out of school permanently and are often expected to take on responsibilities at home instead. It is evident that taking away a girl's right to education limits girls' choices and opportunities throughout their lives, not only when they're children. It most often occurs in poor, rural communities where girls are twice as likely to be married before entering adulthood.³ Destitute families who cannot

provide basic needs for their children may give a their daughter away in marriage, so they have one less mouth to feed and this way they know she will be taken care of. Sometimes, poor families will use marriage to settle debts, and some have been know to sell their daughters into prostitution. Educated families are more likely to practice family planning and thus many people see educating women as being a good start to tackling the issue of child marriage.

Current Issues

Nigeria itself has taken a stand against child marriage, though the success is questionable. The Child Rights Act bans marriage or betrothal before the age of 18. However, this competes with local customs, as well as decades of sharia law that governs Muslim states. Sharia law does not prohibit child marriage, and thus this act has not been enacted in 13 of Nigeria's 36 states. It must be noted that child marriage is far more prevalent in certain regions rather than others. The Northwest region of Nigeria, a location largely populated by Muslims, is a hot spot; 48 percent of girls were married by age 15, and 78 percent were married by age 18. In all of Nigeria, 20 percent of girls were married by age 15, and 40 percent were married by age 18.⁴ While the problem clearly cannot be attributed to religion alone, this religious conflict will pose a large issue when handling child marriage.

According to the International Center for Research on Women, 100 million girls will be married before the age of 18 in the next decade, and most will occur in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia. UNICEF reports that 36% of women aged 20-24 were married, forced or consensual, before they'd reached the age of 18.⁵ Child marriage, resulting in early sexual activity and pregnancy, leads to many often devastating health risks for women. Girls are expected to have sexual intercourse with their husbands promptly after marriage, no matter the age gap; if they should choose not to willingly, they are often forced. However, these girls likely do not have a pelvis at full capacity to accommodate the passage of a child. Pregnancy is consistently among the leading causes of death for girls ages 15 to 19 worldwide, and complications from pregnancy and childbirth

are the main cause of death among adolescent girls aged 15-19 in developing countries. Girls younger than 15 are five times more likely to die in childbirth and an estimated 14 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth each year. They are twice as likely to die during pregnancy or childbirth than women in their 20s. The devastating effects of child marriage are in the statistics. Not only is a difficult pregnancy an imminent problem, but domestic violence is far too common among these marriages. A study conducted by ICRW in two states in India found that girls who were married before 18 were twice as likely to report being beaten, slapped or threatened by their husbands than girls who married later. These aren't just physical injuries, but also emotional ones. Young girls are still in a formative stage in their psychological development, and non-consensual sexual intercourse can have devastating consequences for her mental health. Child brides often show signs of sexual abuse and post-traumatic stress such as feelings of hopelessness, helplessness and severe depression. Not only is the livelihood of women at stake, but also their health.

Analysis

Women are much more frequently involved in child marriage, and the institution comes with a plethora of consequences. These marriages are often accompanied by domestic violence, early pregnancies leading to life-long medical afflictions, and poverty. Although studies conducted by the International Center for Research on Women found no connection between child marriage and religion, we know that child marriage is a product of cultures that devalue and discriminate against women. It often takes the form of domestic violence, marital rape, and limited access to both healthcare and education. We also know that the 13 states of Nigeria that did not enact the Child Rights Act were Muslim, so there is a clear correlation within Nigeria, though perhaps not universally in the world. It is extremely difficult to attack child marriage without interfering with a religious group in Nigeria because the states ruled by Sharia law do not prohibit it. Also, there is a problem in simply defining 'adulthood.' Most of us quantify

‘adulthood’; when you are 18, you’re legally an adult woman, and can be married. However, in some cultures, they believe that you have not reached womanhood until you are married, in which case the concept of child marriage is not applicable. Other cultures believe that you are a woman once you begin menstruation, meaning that most girls would be a ‘woman’ years before reaching the age of 18. The conflict of defining adulthood itself causes many complications. However, child marriage ensures that these young brides will not be properly educated or be able to take part in the workforce. This practice results in a cycle of poverty, as women miss out on educational opportunities.

The issue of child marriage extends far beyond just the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Child marriage doesn’t just take a girl from her family, but also from her right to education, and often puts her in a life of poverty. The global phenomenon may occur in any country, developed or undeveloped, but the change begins one country at a time.

Environmental Issues

While Nigeria is well known for its oil deposits, rainforests still remain as a large part of Nigeria’s environment, which house hundreds of different types of animals. However, as expansion and industrialization increase, so does the deforestation of these rainforests. From 1990 to 2005, 80% of rainforests were deforested, contributing to the large amount of deforestation in the early 2000’s.⁶ These actions may cause, and are possibly responsible for, an increase in desertification within Nigeria. Along with the lack of proper irrigation and with the increase of dams, desertification is becoming a serious issue within Nigeria, a region enshrouded with rainforests.⁷

Fortunately, many activists within Nigeria are campaigning for preservation of environment. Working together with other countries such as Chad, Cameroon and Niger, Nigeria has been able to aid itself, along with other countries, with many environmental issues.

However, the lack of laws and programs that enforce such preservation are causing the increase in environmental destruction. With the influence of foreign oil companies to continue

extracting oil, many governments are not able to refuse their demands, thus causing a deficiency in laws with regard to the environment.

Before Nigeria is able to progress with the ever-expanding problem about its environment, it must deal with its oil problem. In order to pass more laws regarding the preservation of the environment, Nigeria must better its own economy due to its high reliance on oil exports.⁸ While many plans have been incorporated, such as the creation of new farming techniques or an increase in industrialization, oil has still remained a large portion of Nigeria’s economy. Without dealing with the problem of Nigeria’s heavy reliance on oil first, most environmental policies are bound to fail, causing no progress to be made in terms of environmental preservation.

First discovered in the 1950’s, the Nigerian oil industry has remained a large part of Nigeria’s economy, with 35% of Nigeria’s gross domestic product (GDP) coming from oil exports. However, because of the high reliance on oil exports, Nigeria has become susceptible to foreign influences from large companies such as Shell, ExxonMobil, and Chevron.

Starting in the mid-2000’s, Nigeria has experienced an increase in kidnappings, theft and vandalism from rogue groups that desire oil. From 2009 to 2011, Nigeria reported to have lost \$10.9 billion in oil revenue because of these oil thefts, thus showing how important oil is to Nigeria’s well being.

One major source of oil conflict is within the Niger Delta. While foreign oil companies continue to invest money into extracting oil, other minority groups, mainly the Ogoni, feel that they’ve been cheated out of the oil that lies within their jurisdiction. These ethnic conflicts have caused an immense increase in corruption and violence that occurs within the region.

While oil influences the economic prosperity of minority groups within the region, oil’s influence has also affected the political affairs across these groups. Ranging from stuffing ballot boxes to distributing illegally obtained oil to certain politicians, these rogue groups attempt to influence general elections through force or bribery in order to benefit themselves.

Even though there have been attempts to deploy military personnel into the region in order to reduce the amount of violent conflicts, not much progress has been made with appeasing these minority groups. Although attempts have been made to appease other minority groups, such as the formation of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), other minority groups have already hanged and murdered countless numbers of these activists, thus only increasing the amount of violence within the region.

Analysis

Nigeria's oil resources are the main sources of the country's economy. In 2012, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimated that oil export revenue accounted for 96% of total export revenue. In 2011, the total primary energy consumption was about 4.3 quadrillion British thermal unit, and of this, traditional biomass and waste consisting of wood, charcoal, and manure, accounted for 83%. Currently, the majority of Nigeria's major oil projects are funded through joint ventures between international oil companies (IOCs) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

In 2008, the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) was initially proposed, expected to change the organizational structure and fiscal terms governing the oil sectors. IOCs are worried that proposed changes to fiscal terms may render some projects commercially unviable, especially deepwater projects that involve greater capital spending. Moreover, the Ministry of Petroleum Resources submitted the latest draft of the PIB to the National Assembly in July 2012. However, this delay in passing the PIB has resulted in a decrease in the investment of new projects due to the lack of a licensing round since 2007.

IOCs participating in onshore and shallow water oil projects in the Niger Delta region have been affected by the instability in the region. Thus, there has been a general trend for IOCs to sell their interests in these onshore and shallow water oil fields to Nigerian companies and smaller IOCs, and focus their investments on deepwater offshore projects. Nigeria's goal is to have a

licensing round for marginal onshore and shallow water fields by 2014.

Foreign companies have contributed to these trends. From 2010 to 2013, Shell has sold its share in eight onshore licenses, and in June 2013, Shell has announced their new strategic review in considering potential divestment in some onshore leases in the Niger Delta. In addition, Chevron has decided that it will sell its 40% interests in five onshore and shallow water leases in June 2013 due to project difficulties. The company also plans the start-up of the Escravos Gas to Liquids (GTL) plant.

In total, Nigeria has the second largest amount of proven crude oil reserves in Africa, an estimated 37.2 billion barrels. Current exploration activities are focused in the deep offshore with some projects concentrated in the Chad basin. Nevertheless, Nigeria's oil reserve estimates have been declining, and the government is hoping to increase proven crude oil reserves to 40 billion barrels over the next few years. The end success of this goal depends on the current strategies and efforts of the Nigerian Assembly.

Conclusion

In sum, Nigeria is in dire need of efficient solutions in their social and environmental issues. Though Nigeria's economy has become the largest in Africa, placing them as the world's 21st largest economy, their future prospects could falter if their ambiguity towards human rights and heavy dependence on oil are not resolved. It is up to you, the delegate, to produce strong, directed legislation and solidify Nigeria's stance on these prominent issues. The stability of Nigeria's future is in your hands.

Questions to Consider

1. With the highest rates of child marriage in Nigeria occurring in the Muslim regions, what is the best way to tackle this issue and remain secular?
2. What is the best way to encourage all states in Nigeria to enact the Child Rights Act?
3. What is the best way to ensure women's rights are being upheld? How can we ensure that rape and sexual violence gets

- reported, and how can we help prevent it from happening?
4. Should Nigeria incorporate better sexual and health education into their school system?
 5. How much would international aid help in the construction of adequate school systems in Nigeria?
 6. Should Nigeria continue its rate of deforestation on the account of larger oil productions despite its harmful environmental effects?
 7. What other methods and exports could Nigeria become involved with to alleviate their dependency on oil exports? Is this precaution even necessary?
 8. Do foreign parties hold too much of an influence over the Nigerian oil business? How can this issue be resolved?
 9. Are environmental regulations necessary concerning the deforestation of rainforests and the oil industry? Or should existing regulations be altered?
 10. Should Nigeria considering joining other international organizations to solidify their stance in the oil industry? Will this augment Nigerian control over their oil exports or increase foreign influence?

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Press Corps

Zada Hall

Chair

GSMUN XVIII

Stand Up, Speak Out

Hello journalists,

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

First of all, welcome to the Press Corps! As your editor-in-chief, I'm hopeful that this weekend will be filled with intriguing stories and incisive articles as we report on the happenings of GSMUN XVIII. If you're passionate about writing and prepared to keep up with this committee's energetic atmosphere, it's certain you'll have a memorable experience at GSMUN this year.

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

But first, let me introduce myself. My name is Zada Hall and I'm a sophomore at Maggie Walker. Last year, I joined Model UN, and have since attended four conferences in addition to helping out as a crisis staffer in GSMUN XVII. In my grievously limited free time, you can usually find me binge watching Netflix, baking various desserts at obscure hours of the night, or honing my fencing skills on my little sisters (just kidding!). As an enthusiastic writer myself, I'm confident I can channel the talent of all my journalists into three successful issues of the GSMUN Gazette.

Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Elizabeth Levit
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Before you begin preparing for the conference, it's important to note that Press Corps is by no means a traditional committee. Each of you will represent a different newspaper as you travel around observing the events of other sessions. After respectfully and courteously collecting material, journalists will return to the press-room, where they will proceed to compose reports to be published in the GSMUN Gazette. Keep in mind that the Pulitzer Prize is awarded based on both the quality of your writing and the consideration of your newspaper's biases and viewpoints.

Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

While we're in the press-room, everyone will be busy typing out commentaries. Therefore, there is no traditional topic for this committee, and parliamentary procedure will not be used. However, it may be worthwhile to become familiar with basic parliamentary procedure, as a fundamental knowledge on this topic will help when you observe committees. Additionally, I recommend becoming familiar with satirical news articles if you are interested in writing a piece to caricature the happenings of a committee for the third session.

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

The rather unconventional nature of the Press Corps' proceedings carries over to the structure and content of your position papers. Journalists are expected to research their assigned news source, and, in the first half of their position paper, include its history, bias, and influences. The second portion of your position paper should consist of a sample article about a relevant and current international topic of your choice, written to reflect the views of your newspaper. In order to make it easier for you to offer you feedback on these papers, please format them in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with Chicago-style footnotes and bibliography. Additionally, I ask your composition be at least 500 words in length. To demonstrate your comprehensive skills as a journalist, it is suggested that you present your information as it would be found in an actual newspaper: with brevity but also linguistic flair. While writing, please remember that GSMUN abides by Maggie Walker's honor code, so any plagiarism will result in your disqualification from awards. Position papers should be turned in either electronically through my email or in physical form on the first night of the conference.

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feel free to contact me at gsmun.press@gmail.com with any comments, questions, or concerns. If you need anything, I would be so glad to help. I'm beyond excited to meet each and every one of my delegates, and I'm confident that our committee is going to be amazing!

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

See you then!

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Zada Hall
gsmun.press@gmail.com

Committee Background

History of Journalism

Journalism, the act of gathering and presenting news and information, has roots no older than the origin of written language.¹ In ancient civilizations, archaeologists have found earth slabs with early languages inscribed in what were once very public places in society. The Ancient Romans in particular were known for their means of transporting information and news throughout their empire with their roads and intellectual prowess.

During the 13th century, scholars used a method known as block printing to print information. The process involved using carved wooden blocks and ink to produce informational works. However, this process proved to be time-consuming and expensive since each word, phrase or picture required its own separate block. By the middle of the 15th century Johannes Gutenberg introduced the Gutenberg printing press that would revolutionize the spread of information. Although Gutenberg intended for the printing press to remain a secret, his printing press design spread quickly. Until 1814, printers used the printing press mainly for the mass publication of books and pamphlets. In 1814, London's *The Times* became the first newspaper to be printed using a printing press.

Fueled by the rapid spread of information following the invention of the printing press, journalism has had a profound effect on history. Commercial journalism, introduced for the first time in China by Ernest Major, had a major impact on Chinese public opinion in the 19th century. The newspaper published by Major, known as *Shen Bao*, emphasized Western traditions in journalism like the avoidance of state propaganda. Journalism also had a profound impact during the late 19th century in American society. A new style known as yellow journalism emerged that emphasized

sensationalism over fact. The peak of yellow journalism came in 1898 when the Maine sunk in Havana harbor. Advocates of yellow journalism latched upon the event and called for war in the papers. Today, yellow journalism is recognized as one of the main factors that pushed the United States and Spain into war.

However, with the strength of journalism in influencing the public, many powerful leaders restricted the spread of news. Journalism while Mao Zedong had power was restricted heavily and controlled by the government. Leaders of the USSR also took great measures to ensure that journalism and the spread of information within their nation would not get out of hand. Even today, China heavily censors events that would make the government look unfavorable, such as the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Today, the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) speaks out against censorship of journalism and seeks to make sure that all journalists uphold a certain benchmark of news. SPJ does this by promoting the free access of news and by creating an atmosphere in which journalistic excellence can grow. The SPJ was first established in 1909 and grew to establish itself as a leader in promoting ethical journalism by adopting its first Code of Ethics in 1926. In 1982, the SPJ began an ambitious project known as Project Watchdog to educate the public about the right of free press through public ad campaigns. In 1996, the SPJ adopted its modern code of ethics.⁵ This code defines a series of standards that journalists should strive to satisfy. The code is as follows:

1. "Seek Truth and Report It" Journalists must make sure that the information provided to the public is accurate. Sources must be known as openly as possible. Do not mislead readers with false or otherwise misleading information and absolutely do not

2. “Minimize Harm” Be sensitive to those affected by events that have taken place and treat all those that you may encounter in your search for a story with utmost respect.
3. “Act Independently” Avoid personal conflicts in a story and remove them where necessary. Do not compromise journalistic integrity for special favors or treatment.
4. “Be Accountable” Be ready to take responsibility for any faults that may be made and encourage those with grievances against the media to make their issues known.⁶

Modern Journalism

With the invention of digital technology and the Internet, the spread of news through journalism took another shift as important as the invention of the printing press. Today, people increasingly turn to reading news on smartphones and other electronic devices, challenging news agencies to adapt to the digitalization of information.⁷ With easy accessibility to publishing software, amateur online journalists appear at astonishing rates on weblogs and alternative media. Mainstream news agencies respond accordingly to this trend, by hiring journalists from weblogs and creating blogs of their own. Journalists now commonly blog live from places such as courtrooms and unstable regions of the world where writing full-length reports would be too time-consuming.⁸

This shift to more accessible information gives ordinary people the capability to observe and report more immediately than many larger news agencies. Important news stories have been known to break on social media like Facebook or Twitter. During influential events like the Arab Spring, social media played a central role in the shaping political scene. Conversations about revolution often preceded major events on Twitter and videos on YouTube showed inspiring stories of protest across international borders. American U.N. ambassador Susan Rice recognized the role of social media in

presenting news and its “power...to channel and champion public sentiment.”⁹ As the public and mainstream news agencies turn more toward open forms of online journalism, the media setting is shifting slowly away from a model in which the few communicate to the many toward a model where the public has a strong voice.

Bias in Journalism

Today, the public looks upon the term “bias” in journalism in a negative light. One of the most well-known and common forms of bias in journalism is market-oriented bias, or checkbook journalism. Market-oriented bias is slanted in that journalists write to appease advertisers and corporate owners of media rather than inform the general population. The practice of checkbook journalism also encompasses the licensing of exclusive information by news agencies.¹⁰ An example of this was ABC News, who paid \$15,000 for an exclusive snake photo during the Casey Anthony trial. This behavior runs rampant in the journalism industry and only hinders the spread of information.

Another form of bias, known as sensationalism, favors the exceptional over the facts. Yellow journalism was an excellent example of this type of bias. Although not as common today as it was in the late 19th century, sensationalism still sees use today in order to gain revenue. With these forms of bias comes a public distrust in the media.¹¹ Because of this, the SPJ Ethics Committee has spoken out against these practices. They remind journalists that accepting payment for releasing information calls into question the reliability of the information.

Although bias negatively affects the journalism industry, there is no denying its existence in modern journalism. As journalists at GSMUN, it is your responsibility to maintain your ethicality while also appeasing to those who support your organization in order to show your recognition of bias in journalism. It cannot be stressed enough that while writing, you must have a clear and thorough understanding of the influences on your news outlet to better help you

understand the direction that you should be taking with your articles. Stay true to your institution, but also make sure to stay true to the information. You have a duty to the people to keep them informed. Do so in the truest and most ethical way that your organization allows, and therein will lie your success.

Committee Background

Hello and welcome to GSMUN XVIII Press Corps! Unlike other committees at GSMUN, Press Corps does not revolve around debating and writing resolutions, but rather reporting on the developments in each committee. Because this is not a traditional committee, you are not required to write a conventional position paper prior to the beginning of the conference. Alternatively, you are required to write a critical analysis of an article from your assigned news agency. You are expected to select an article no more than two weeks old and no less than 750 total words and analyze it for style, content and tone. It is essential that you identify biases present in the author's writing and prepare to follow such biases when writing articles during the conference. Make sure to include the author's name and the article title in your analyses. Additionally, feel free to e-mail me your analyses before the conference for constructive criticisms to improve your final submissions.

When you arrive on the evening of March 20th, you will be assigned to three committees to report on during the conference. You will then write one article for each of your assigned committees as a journalist from your news agency. In order to gather information necessary for your article, you will observe committee sessions and take notes on issues and developments happening within the committee. You will also be encouraged to interview delegates for quotes or unique perspectives at appropriate times. Time management is key in Press Corps. Remember, you have a limited amount of time to research and write your article, so you cannot spend too much of your time at your assigned committees.

Your first article must be finished by the end of the first committee session on Friday night. In comparison to the articles you will write in the second and third committee sessions, your first article will be mostly an overview of your committee. Although you will have less time to write your article during the first committee session, it is important that you invest just as much effort into your first article as you will in your future, more comprehensive articles. The first edition of the *GSMUN Gazette* will be published and distributed during breakfast on the morning following the first committee session. The *GSMUN Gazette* will be the primary outlet in which information spreads among delegates of GSMUN, so it is crucial that you put substantial effort into your first article and your articles to come. Also keep in mind that many delegates save their copies of the *GSMUN Gazette* to commemorate their time at GSMUN.

Your second article will be published during lunch on Saturday and will be your "featured" article. Unlike the first article, your second article will focus more on the specifics and expand upon crisis situations and developments of topics from the previous session. Additionally, your second article is generally longer than your first article since more time is allotted for writing. You will have the choice of writing a satirical article for your third article. This type of journalism is demonstrated well in articles published by *The Onion*, a well-known news satire organization. As such, it is encouraged that you study the writing style of *The Onion* writers if you plan to write a satirical article.

With the research you have gathered of your news agency, you should be prepared to represent your agency as effectively as possible through the tone and bias you convey in your articles. You must remember to retain the professionalism conveyed in the articles published by your news agency. Do not force an opinion onto the readers. Rather, present a bias by emphasizing topics more relevant to the opinions of your agency or going into more depth about a topic relevant to your

agency's normal audience. The journalist who most accurately and consistently represents their agency's style while remaining informative and engaging through strong writing will be awarded the Pulitzer Prize at the end of the conference.

Tips for Journalists

- Place the most important facts near the beginning of the article to grab the attention of the reader. This is called an inverted pyramid style of writing.
- To help plan, make sure to answer six basic questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How?
- Consider the assigned news agency's biases and influences. Would the news agency look favorably upon the observed events?
- How would the events in your article affect the people in the news agency's country? Use this to influence the tone of the article.
- Remember to take detailed notes. Any quotes, short sentences or bits and pieces from a long debate and help add credibility and content to an article.
- Know what to include and what to leave out. While thoroughness is necessary, it is important to know what will keep the reader engaged.
- Be informative, but be concise. Avoid using unnecessarily complicated language for the sake of padding an article.
- Do not write your personal opinions directly into the article. Instead, use word choice, style and tone to properly demonstrate the appropriate beliefs.
- News articles are generally written in past tense in the active voice.
- Keep your news agency's biases in mind when writing. Any political, social or financial factors could influence the tone and direction of an article.

Useful References for Research

www.transparency.org - Website for Transparency International, which does regular surveys of the state of media in countries around the world.

www.spj.org - Website for the Society of Professional Journalism, to find resources and guidelines for writers.

www.theonion.com - The Onion, whose style of satire you could be emulating in the third newspaper.

www.onlinenewspapers.com - Online newspapers from nations around the world, but not limited to English only.

www.hsj.org/index.cfm - The High School Journalism Initiative's website. Great source of help and tools for new journalists.

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Saudi Aramco Board of Directors

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Andrew Leffler
Chair

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*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

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Secretary-General

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Saudi Aramco Board of Directors! Your two co-chairs will be Andrew Leffler and Rajiv Tummala, and your vice-chair will be Yang Zhang.

In this committee, you will be representing one of the members of the Board and debating how the company will adapt to both changing global demand and diminishing oil reserves. Before the conference starts, you should write a position paper that condenses the views of the individual you are going to represent. It is important to ground your paper, as well as your argument in-committee, with facts and the likely views of your Board member. Thus, you should make an argument in the position paper beyond a mere summarization of the facts. Follow the formatting guidelines at <http://www.gsmun.net/delegate-resources.html> for ease of reading. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Keep in mind that your position paper should be your own original work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions by the Secretariat.

Although we will review any points of parliamentary procedure that delegates need clarification on, you should come in with at least basic knowledge. It really helps if we can hit the ground running and build momentum in the committee. That ensures that we can spend as much time as we would like on the debate.

Which, it should come as no surprise, we are highly anticipating. We expect that the delegates will display the utmost decorum, be well-informed, and engage with their fellow Board members. The best delegates are those that talk to, and not past, their peers. We are looking for delegates who know their stuff and are passionate about it, too. For those who are newer and perhaps a little unsure about Model UN, we highly encourage you to voice your opinion as well. Please email us with any questions about parliamentary procedure, position papers, or the conference in general. The chairs look forward to seeing you all in committee and tackling the challenges facing Saudi Aramco in the coming years!

Sincerely,



Andrew Leffler
gsmun.aramco@gmail.com



Rajiv Tummala
gsmun.aramco@gmail.com

Committee Background

This committee is the Board of Directors of the Saudi Arabian Oil Company, better known by its former name, Saudi Aramco (Arabian-American Oil Company). The committee as it exists today is an extension of the Saudi government, an entirely different beast from its original incarnation. It traces its roots back to the early 1930s, from a joint Saudi-American venture to develop the recently discovered oil deposits in the Arabian Peninsula. Initially, the Americans exerted more control over this predecessor (the California Arabian Standard Oil Company). However, as the vast scale of the Gulf states' oil deposits became clear and anti-colonial Arab nationalism swept through the region, the Saudi government began to demand greater control over their national resources. Threats of nationalization to that effect yielded a deal called the Golden Gimmick that funnelled a greater share of Aramco's revenue to the Saudi government in 1950. During this time additional pipelines, export terminals, and associated infrastructure was built to help develop Saudi Arabia's export capacity.

Between the late 1960s and late 1980s the Saudi government pursued an increasingly large stake in control over the company. This culminated in the full government acquisition of the company in 1988. After that point, the company became increasingly politicized and gained even more control over the Kingdom's sovereign reserves. It took control of nearly all aspects of Saudi oil production, marketing, and refining by acquiring stakes in most of the other major companies operating in the country in a prime example of vertical integration. This is when a company acquires the full "supply chain" of materials and processes associated with making a product. Today, the company is a behemoth. It is valued somewhere between 9 to 10 trillion dollars, making it by far the most valuable company in the world. Not only is it valuable monetarily; the smooth functioning of the world's economy is heavily reliant upon the services that Saudi Aramco renders.

The importance of the Board, by extension, is difficult to overstate. The Board comprises 11 members who set and execute strategy for the company. That somewhat vague description is a result of the fact that, because Saudi Aramco functions as an arm of the government, it has governing it enormous power to set policy. The decisions that it makes, therefore, do not solely consider business interests: they are heavily wrapped up in politics. Those politics are both domestic and international. Members of the Board who also belong to the Saudi Royal Family are likely to use their influence here to attempt to gain power nationally. Furthermore, the purely commercial interests of the Company are sometimes disregarded, as the Company is an instrument of Saudi foreign policy.

Planning for Reserve Depletion An Introduction to the Issue

Eventually, our vast oil reserves will be depleted. Crucial to this issue are the far-reaching consequences of such depletion, as well as the basic underlying economic dynamics governing the global petroleum industry. Currently, the Board is reluctant to provide precise data on our reserves. They are known to contain about a fifth of the world's totals of crude oil, and we estimate that we have already extracted about 40%. Although difficult to predict, we believe that we will reach the peak of our oil production within a few years, if we haven't already. After this so-called "peak oil," production will slowly begin to decline until effectively non-existent. The bulk of this decline will be in the coming decades, or, with prudent management, the coming century. Oil depletion will have wide-ranging economic impacts. Most obviously, a shrinking supply of this vital commodity in the face of ever-growing demand will lead to price increases. These increases in the price of energy are likely to impede economic growth and development worldwide.

Domestically, oil depletion can and will have extremely serious sociopolitical

repercussions if left unattended. The ability of the Saudi government to pay its bills is highly dependent upon Aramco's revenues. And those bills are substantial. The Royal Family has for years maintained social stability through providing generous safety nets and energy subsidies to the people. This "investment in stability" only increased in scope after the destabilizing effects of the Arab Spring in 2011. Therefore, if we no longer generate even a fraction of the revenue that we do today, the Saudi government will likely have to choose between insolvency and revolution. Neither option is desirable.

Recent Developments

As stated earlier, the high water mark of oil production for Saudi Arabia is generally believed to be the current day, plus or minus five years. Accordingly, the firm has made some initial steps to bolster our company's future. In a 2009 partnership with a Japanese firm, the Sumitomo Chemical Corporation, Saudi Aramco opened its first petrochemical plant. The 2013 Aramco Annual Review is yet another signal from the Board about its commitment to diversification. The review outlined the commercial interest in becoming a world-class industrial chemical producer in addition to our prowess at oil extraction.

The Way Forward

The recent moves towards the chemical industry are sensible for a company with our expertise and worker pool. In addition, moves towards mining and raw commodity processing would be complementary to a petrochemical-heavy approach. Developing power plants to supply unstable and underdeveloped neighbours with reliable energy could be a promising route. Furthermore, boosting Research and Development spending on renewable sources of energy could allow us to export our technology or products abroad for a hefty fee. With this model, we could become a "green" energy giant, building solar panels at home, wind turbines off the coast of Scotland, and tidal generators in Canada. Due to decades as an exporting powerhouse, both our company and country boast a strong

infrastructure network of pipes, docks, and export terminals. Some of this can be repurposed for new tasks. Shipyards, for instance, could serve as a repair hub for current oceangoing vessels (especially those on the Suez canal trade route) or churn out ships themselves. As there is an anticipated shortage of fresh water on the Arabian peninsula, newly-built desalination plants and the existing pipe network could be used to supply thirsty nations like the UAE, Yemen, and Oman with potable water.

Extending the time before the oil reserves deplete would ease this transition period. We can extract the maximum value from our fields by using our influence in OPEC to restrict global petroleum production. This restriction would artificially raise the price of oil our supplies, bringing in more revenue over a longer period of time. In addition, we can increase production in three ways. First, by scouring every inch of our land for additional reservoirs, even if they are insubstantial. Second, by using "Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) techniques" to extract all, not just most, of the oil from the conventional fields that we have. Lastly, we can augment this by seeking out and tapping unconventional sources, which are increasingly becoming accessible due to advances in technology. Deep water wells and deposits below thus-far impenetrable rock domes are some of the sources that we are increasingly able to reach.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Should production be slowed at all, or kept as high as possible?
- 2) How can we gain a corner on the petrochemical market?
- 3) Should we rebrand our company's mission or description to signal this change in policy to markets?
- 4) How can the domestic political concerns of the government be served while still making prudent business decisions?
- 5) What are the foreign policy goals of Saudi Arabia that we help meet?

- 6) Should Saudi Aramco branch out beyond industrial pursuits, such as finance?
- 7) Are there any additional methods of revenue generation to those discussed in this briefing?
- 8) Does our connection to the Saudi government help or harm us?
- 9) How can we influence the global oil and natural gas market to maximize the value of our product?
- 10) What are the downsides to diversification?

Further Reading

<http://www.investopedia.com/articles/economics/08/determining-oil-prices.asp>

A good refresher on basic economics applied to oil prices

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/michael-t-klare/peak-oil-is-dead_b_4567978.html

An excellent examination of the current debate surrounding peak oil theory.

<http://blogs.platts.com/2014/05/19/saudi-aramco/>

A summary of the 2013 Saudi Aramco internal review that is easier to understand than the original and contains context for the key decisions.

<http://oilprice.com/Alternative-Energy/Nuclear-Power/Why-has-Nuclear-Power-become-so-Important-to-Saudi-Arabia.html>

This explores some of Saudi Arabia's current and future plans to venture into renewable energy

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sa.html>

The CIA World Factbook gives a great overview of the country as a whole, useful for trying to understand the context in which Aramco operates.

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<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424053111904060604576572552998674340>
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<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/views/business/economy/2013/09/25/Saudi-Aramco-shaping-the-kingdom-s-future.html> (accessed August 25, 2014)

The Pivot to Asia

Background:

Aramco has a wide span of operations ranging from exploration missions to find new oil fields, refinement oil in one of many refineries located across the Arabian Peninsula, and distribution of the oil across the world through shipping routes. Because of its total control of the entire means of production for its supply of oil, Aramco stretches to a truly global span. While the majority of oil fields under its control are in the Middle East, Aramco ships to the entire world, most notably the US, Europe, and China. The future of Saudi Aramco operations rest with this last country. Most of Aramco's tankers, by number of shipping routes, are destined for European and American cities, which suggest the majority of exports is to these countries. Changing trends however, show that Asia is now the largest consumer of oil worldwide.

The Asian Behemoth

In 2012, Asia as a whole consumed 28 million barrels of oil a day far outstripping that of North America (23 million barrels a day) and Europe (14 million barrels a day). However, just 30 years ago, Asia consumed 10 million barrels which, during that time period, was a small amount. This is massive increase that can be explained by the rapid development of

countries like China and India, two largest consumers of oil in Asia, both dwarfing the oil consumption of other countries that Saudi Aramco exports oil to such as France, Germany, and the UK. This large amount of oil consumption, leading to a massive demand for oil, is even more significant due to the domestic production of oil in Asia.

Asia's oil production is relatively low, excluding the Middle East. Two years ago, the top four producers of oil in Asia were China, Kazakhstan, India, and Indonesia. Altogether these countries produced about 8 million barrels of oil per day while in turn consuming about 16 million barrels per day. This deficit was and currently is made up by importing from other oil companies, including Saudi Aramco. In fact, many countries in Asia run a deficit in their oil consumption to production ratio. It is in these countries where the most profit can be made selling oil. It should be noted, if one considers Russia as another Asian country, that Russia has a sizable oil surplus which it then sells to European countries. Therefore it would be impractical as an area of profit for an oil company looking to sell.

The reason that Asia is such a large consumer of oil is quite obvious. Since the majority of Asian nations are developing countries, they have critical energy needs, which only increase with time as domestic industries and economies continue to grow. The idea of Asian economic ascendancy is so assured that intellectuals have called the 21st Century the "Asian Century" in the same sense as that of the American Century (1900's) and the British Century (1800's) during which the respective countries were the dominant powers. Even with the global recession, Asian countries still post significant GDP growth rates. In 2013, China had a growth rate of 7.70%, Cambodia 7.00%, Bangladesh 5.80%, Indonesia 5.50%, and India at 3.20%. Even countries considered to be already developed have ideal growth rates. Japan's GDP grew by 2.00%, Taiwan grew by 2.20%, South Korea grew by 2.80%, and Singapore grew by 4.10%. All these figures are set in comparison to Western countries GDP growth such as the US at 1.60% and France at .30%. Such is the case with most of Asia,

especially the Far East and the South, where countries boast large populations of workers.

The South China Sea

However, a common inquiry about Asian oil needs is the South China Sea. Asian countries as a whole run at an oil consumption to production deficit, but studies have shown that the South China Sea has large oil and natural gas fields. The US Energy Information Administration estimates that there are about 11 billion barrels of oil, both proven and possible, in the sea. Compared to Russia or the Middle East this is a relatively modest amount, but for Asian nations with no oil reserves to speak of, it is invaluable. While there are some companies exploring the reserves of the South China Sea, such as Brunei LNG Ltd. (which will be mentioned later), the main problem with the mass exploitation of resources in the area is due to the complex political situation currently present. China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei all have overlapping claims in the region, creating a maze of artificial lines on an environment where borders are already hard to enforce. With no future plans of cooperation on the horizon, the use of resources in the South China Sea is extremely low. With that in mind, oil companies, such as Saudi Aramco, can expect as safe market for oil exportation as demand and consumption of oil will by far outgrow what domestic oil industries can provide.

Recent Events

Now that it has been established that Asia is a large consumer of oil and that it will remain so for the foreseeable future, a brief overview of Saudi Aramco presence in the region is needed. Saudi Aramco currently has nine shipping destinations in Asia one of which is in the Middle East. There are actually only eight shipping routes to Asia, four of which are in China: New Delhi, Seoul, Tokyo, Singapore, Shanghai, Beijing, Xiamen, and Fujian. This constitutes a little less than half of the total number of shipping routes that Saudi Aramco runs. Saudi Aramco also has joint oil exploration ventures with Indonesia's state oil company, Pertamina, and with Brunei LNG

Ltd., of which Aramco also owns an 18% share. These two ventures are also relatively recent, within the past year.

Even more events in the past few years suggest a shift in Aramco's focus from the west to the east, such as Saudi Aramco's 2007 deal when they signed a series of agreements with ExxonMobil and the Fujian Provincial Government of China to form Fujian Refining and Petrochemical Co. Ltd., a refining venture. This is especially significant because Saudi Aramco, prior to this deal, had refineries only in the Middle East, specifically in the Middle Eastern cities of Jeddah, Ras Tanura, Yanbu, and Riyadh. Since then, Saudi Aramco has expanded to ventures with Showa Shell in Japan and S-Oil in South Korea. To further establish this idea of the shift from west to east, the raw data about oil exportation to Asia, from Saudi Aramco's 2013 corporate report, shows that 53.8% of its exported crude oil was shipped to Asia. That is in comparison to the 17.1% shipped to the US, 12.1% shipped to Europe, and 17% shipped to the rest of the world.

Current Analysis:

Asia's huge rise in consumption is indicative of an extremely lucrative market, a market which is not fully tapped into. Saudi Aramco does ship oil to eight locations in Asia, located in five countries: India, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, and China. True, these are the biggest economies in the region, but there is definite room for expansion. Asia consumed 28 million barrels of oil a day in 2012, a vast amount that could be provided by Aramco for a hefty profit.

The individual country figures for the aforementioned countries to correspond as so: India consumed 3.62 million barrels a day, South Korea consumed 2.3 million barrels, Japan consumed 4.73 million barrels, Singapore 1.2, and China a staggering 10.28 million barrels surpassed only by the great American machine itself at 18.49 million barrels. Altogether, the five countries that Saudi Aramco exports oil to consumed 22.13 barrels of oil.

It is important to remember is that not all of the oil consumed was Aramco oil. Thus these countries are open sources of revenue. As

evidence shows Asia's rising consumption of oil, it would be greatly beneficial for Saudi Aramco to open more shipping routes to these countries and perhaps in the future divert oil from the west to the east as the developing economies of Asia are guaranteed to consume even more oil in their expansion, especially China and India.

Call to Action

As a member of the Board of Directors for such a prestigious institution, it is up to you to discuss the leading issues for the company and to agree upon solutions for those problems. Essentially acting as the leadership of the company, your decisions will have a profound effect so you must build up support with other board members, as each is powerful in their own right. Compromise will be necessary for the ultimate betterment and profit of the company, and hard choices must be made. You will decide the future of the world as the leaders of the world's richest company. Choose well.

Questions:

1. If Saudi Aramco continues to export oil to Asia, which countries should be prioritized?
2. Taiwan stands out as a relatively modest consumer of oil for a country its size. Though nowhere near that of China, Taiwan could still be a profitable country to export to. Should Saudi Aramco export oil to Taiwan at risk of upsetting China or should it continue exporting to China and potentially miss out on a rich customer?
3. On that same note, Indonesia and Thailand are also modest consumers of oil. Should Aramco open up routes to these countries or focus on the consumers it has shipping routes to? (This would mean India, China, South Korea, Japan, and Singapore)
4. Saudi Aramco has experience with working with other oil companies in joint exploration ventures, such as the previously explained 2013 deal with Pertamina. Should Saudi Aramco seek to make similar deals with other native

oil companies, especially with the future potential of the South China Sea's oil resources, or should it focus on solo ventures which would provide increased profits if successful?

5. Should Saudi Aramco continue joint refining ventures or strive to open an independent refining solely owned by Saudi Aramco in the region? If so where? (Opening an independent plant would give Saudi Aramco more control over the oil being refined as well as its potential destinations. It would also be the first international fully Saudi Aramco owned refining plant.)

For Further Information and Research

The link below is for the US Energy Information Administration. The interactive visuals show the oil production and consumption rates of every country. Clicking on any of the country links gives you in depth information about the energy industry of each country:

<http://www.eia.gov/countries/index.cfm>

The website for Saudi Aramco is a very good introduction to the company. It provides a diverse amount of information about operations and is a good introduction to the company:

<http://www.saudiaramco.com/en/home.html>

Furthermore, in the top bar with tabs, look under publications for in depth info on facts and figures about Saudi Aramco. Each yearly report is downloadable in pdf format. For a quick link, here is one below:

<http://www.saudiaramco.com/en/home/news-media/publications/corporate-reports.html>

This Council on Foreign Relations provides a very thorough look into the South China Sea crisis, which is vital in understanding why the oil production in many Asian countries, which should technically have access to oil reserves, is so low:

<http://www.cfr.org/china/south-china-sea-tensions/p29790>

For an introduction to the oil industry in Asia, the link below is for a journal which looks at the policy behind oil consumption and exportation. It also has a lot of graphs for those who are visually inclined:
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/fileadmin/stored/pdfs/api085.pdf>

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SPECPOL

Jessica Kong

Chair

Annie Zhang

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SPECPOL, the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly! This year we are looking forward to an especially riveting debate concerning two of the world's most exigent issues; domestic violence and Syrian refugees. As this is our first time meeting most of you, allow us to introduce ourselves.

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Elizabeth Levit
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Annie Zhang is a sophomore at Maggie Walker and has been active in Model UN for 3 years. She is very excited to be co-chairing this year's SPECPOL committee. She joined the Maggie Walker Model UN Club as a freshman, and has been to many different conferences, debating everything from internally displaced children in Syria to land disputes in the South China Sea. Aside from Model UN, she is involved with many other activities at the school, including the Varsity Girl's Tennis Team, EduPAC, and SECSEE recycling. In her somewhat limited spare time, she enjoys playing piano, wasting more time on the internet than she cares to admit, and harassing her co-chair.

Jessica Kong is a sophomore at Maggie Walker and has participated in Model UN since the 6th grade. She's eager to co-chair the SPECPOL committee this year with her lovely friend Annie. She has participated in GSMUN as both a delegate in middle school and as Charge d'Affaires assistant as a freshman. In addition to Model UN, Jessica is also co-president of the Class of 2017, co-captain of the JV Field Hockey team, and an active member of Model Congress as well as Newtowne Tutoring. In the little free time left, she enjoys spending time with her youth group, playing the guitar, and binge watching Netflix.

Emily Martin is a sophomore at Maggie Walker and is super excited to be Vice Chairing the SPECPOL committee this year. Emily was first introduced to GSMUN as a delegate in 8th grade, and she served as a volunteer at last year's conference. Outside of Model UN, Emily serves as the Director of Technology for Walker Model Congress, as well as being a member of Maggie Walker's forensics team. In her woefully limited free time, she can be found catching up on social issues, crushing the patriarchy, attempting to bake her own weight in cupcakes, looking at seal photos, and crying over fictional characters.

We know that for many of you, this may be your first Model UN experience. Remember to come prepared with your position paper. Guidelines on how to write a paper can be found at gsmun.net/delegate resources. Please keep in mind that your position paper should be your own original work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions from the Secretariat. We encourage you to contact us at gsmun.specpol@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding your position paper or any of the topics. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Remember to focus on procuring innovative and substantive ideas, as these are the components that fuel a lively debate. We are eager to meet all of you, and we hope to enjoy the best GSMUN to date with you.

Best Wishes,



Annie Zhang
gsmun.specpol@gmail.com



Jessica Kong
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Committee Background

Established on June 26, 1945 by the UN Charter, the United Nations General Assembly is the main policymaking and deliberating body of the United Nations. Comprised of all 193 members of the United Nations, it covers a broad range of global issues and plays a major role in creating and enforcing international law. In the interest of maintaining national sovereignty, the General Assembly cannot pass mandates or resolutions that force a country into a specific course of action, nor can it use any force. Rather, it advises and assists nations with current international issues and concerns.

The General Assembly is divided into six committees to allow for specific discussion. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is the fourth committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. SPECPOL works with the UNSC and the rest of the General Assembly to propose solutions to current global issues. It encompasses a variety of topics including, but not limited to, decolonization, peacekeeping, human rights, outer space, and refugees. Many countries consider SPECPOL to be the most versatile of all the committees, as it mainly addresses issues not dealt with by the first committee, DISEC. The committee meets once a year for one month, and all member nations are invited to attend. SPECPOL also works with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the rest of the General Assembly to propose solutions to current global issues.

Recently, the committee took actions in June 2014 urging countries around the world to implement of peacekeeping protocols in Africa. It also discussed possible peaceful uses of outer space, the effects of atomic radiation, and Palestinian refugees, among other

Topic I: Domestic Violence

Overview

Domestic violence is commonly defined as violent or aggressive behavior within the home, usually from a spouse or

partner. Although domestic violence can occur against men or women, it is more prevalent against women, with women being around 5 times more likely than men to suffer violence from an intimate partner in the United States. The UN defines domestic violence as " violence perpetrated by intimate partners and other family members, and manifested through physical abuse, ... sexual abuse, ... psychological abuse, ... and Economic abuse."

Current studies indicate that around one in three women will become a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime, and many experts even suggest that women are inclined to under-report their victimization in fear of shame and social stigma attached with it. Recent studies have shown that domestic violence against women between 15-49 is decreasing worldwide, but is still at an average rate of around 30%. Reasons for this decrease are commonly attributed to the efforts already made by the UN and its agencies.

Organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA) record statistics and conduct studies about domestic violence. The WHO conducts studies through unbiased surveys around the world and UNPFA volunteers assist struggling countries as well as collect data about specific issues concerning population and human rights. In 2011, volunteers in the Hunan province of China conducted a workshop teaching women about gender equality and collected research about qualities generally ascribed as being masculine. This study, led by Partners of Prevention, was part of a wider research project on gender-based violence in the Asia-Pacific region. The results of this study generated a new analysis on stereotypes and violence in the region and is expected to improve measures to prevent and respond to violence against women.

History

Records and policies regarding domestic abuse extend as far back as the 18th century. Then, English Common Law allowed

for a man to physically assault his dependents in the name of discipline. Although this law expressly included only servants and children, many interpretations by courts included women as well. Another commonly cited example of historical domestic violence against women is described in Sir William Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England, published in 1766. In it, Blackstone reasoned that, because a man was legally responsible for his wife's behavior, he should be permitted, within reasonable bounds, to physically restrain her if necessary. However, as "reasonable bounds" is a fairly subjective limit, these views eventually developed into a culture that abated and condoned domestic violence. In fact, they became so ingrained into these societies that the first movements championing women's rights in the late 19th century did not challenge men's prerogatives to discipline their wives. Rather, they expressed concern over excessive wife-battering and successfully lobbied many jurisdictions to pass laws against such violence. This led to more police interventions, but arrests were still rarely made.

After these movements, the next large campaign was made in the late 20th century, as part of the feminist movement. During this time period, the modern definition of domestic violence first came into use, and consequent studies showed that men could also be victims of domestic abuse surfaced. This type of abuse is typically more psychological, but can be just as damaging. Modern studies of domestic violence against men, such as Mirrless Black's survey entitled Domestic Violence: Findings From a New British Crime Survey Self-Completion Questionnaire, all cite failure to report as why many people overlook this problem. Other reasons include less physically scarring and less resources for aid available. This is due to the pervasive stereotype that men are physically stronger than women and should be able to stop it themselves.

Historically, the General Assembly has passed several resolutions acknowledging the presence and growing concern over domestic violence. In December 1993, during

the 85th plenary meeting of the General Assembly, one such resolution titled the "Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women" recognized the rights of women in international documents and the unequal power relation between genders. It also made statements expressing that violence against women is a pressing issue and supported organizations that champion women's rights. Article 4 of this resolution details specific actions states should take to minimize domestic violence, including harsher punishments, more rigid enforcement, and widespread support of organizations that raise awareness of the situation. It also includes resources for all of these aforementioned actions in the national budget of all countries. Although this plan may have contributed to a decrease in domestic violence for the next few years, trends will begin to flat line at the turn of the 21st century.

Current Status

Although domestic violence has been brought to the public's attention in most Western nations, countries located in Asia and the Middle East have yet to pass any legislation, even though Asian women are proportionately more likely to experience domestic violence, at 41-61%, as opposed to the worldwide average of around 30%. Many areas in Southeast Asia still uphold customs including child or arranged marriage and a stronger preference of men over women in society. Many Muslim countries also have similar customs, such as strict modesty guidelines for women and a more accepted view of men as authority figures. This creates a large age gap between partners and further belittling of women. It is also much more difficult to report domestic violence in these areas, as the laws defining domestic violence are less clear than those of Western nations. Even when defined, these laws are not well enforced. Additionally, women in developing countries are more at risk because the government cannot afford to allot funds to combat domestic violence. Although many organizations, such as the UN's UNiTE To End Violence Against Women Campaign, have been created to raise awareness, little progress can be made without the

government's aid and intervention.

As previously mentioned, statistics showing that around 30% of women worldwide, or roughly one in three, will be victims of domestic abuse have remained fairly constant for the last decade. In 2009, more serious efforts were made to eliminate domestic violence against women. Resolution 64/137, appropriately titled the "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" was adopted on December 18, 2009. It implores non-governmental agencies to help disadvantaged women suffering from domestic violence in place of their government. Furthermore, it calls for more research to be conducted on the matter and restates many ideas expressed in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Analysis

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his support for the cause by stating that "Violence against women and girls continues unabated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a devastating toll on women's lives, on their families and on society as a whole. Most societies, western and eastern alike, prohibit such violence – yet the reality is that too often, it is covered up or tacitly condoned." Many of the world's leaders are in agreement concerning the prevalence and urgency of domestic violence.

Most experts, such as William Ickes, author of Compatible and Incompatible Relationships, argues that more funds to be put local shelters for women who have escaped violence and other relief programs. Others call for more programs like the UN's UNite to end violence campaign. They stress that the first priority should be to provide relief and support to the many victims of domestic abuse. Unfortunately, this does not allow for a decrease in domestic violence overall.

Professor of Psychology Neil Jacobson offers some less prevalent ideas. He believes that focus should be put on helping women leave abusive relationships. However, each individual case of domestic violence is complicated and leaving is not always a viable

option, especially when the women have children or rely on their husbands for economic support.

Many, less popular opinions regarding domestic violence also exist. For example, the aforementioned Professor Jacobson, and many other countries, advocate for the rehabilitation of men that commit these crimes.. Some countries, such as the Republic of Iran, have not ratified documents that acknowledge domestic violence and do not acknowledge domestic violence in their laws.

Other organizations such as Break the Cycle advocate educating youth about early signs of domestic or dating abuse. Their aim is to help young adults recognize when a relationship has turned poisonous and thereby prevent the problem before it begins. Helen Rubenstein, Deputy Director of Women's Human Rights Program, and Professor Evan Stark have a similar solution. They advocate that habits like stalking and extreme monitoring or controlling of the victims actions should be taken more seriously as they commonly lead to more serious forms of domestic violence.

The topic of domestic violence has been championed and brought to light by numerous individuals over the course of the last century. In general, because of large differences between each individual case, it is difficult to come up with a solution that can help all women. Many solutions also require a significant amount of funds to succeed. However, the solution to domestic violence is a vital part of ensuring basic human rights for everyone across the world.

Questions to Consider:

- Do you believe that previous efforts by the UN to resolve the issue have succeeded? Why or why not? If yes, why? If no, how do you think that they could be revised to resolve the issue?
- What should be done about customs that abate and even encourage violence against women in the household? Should they be abolished

or changed? If yes, how do you plan to do this?

How do charities and nonprofit organizations like Break the Chain help the issue?

What kinds of legal action, if any, has your country taken in response to the growing issue of domestic violence?

Why do you think that domestic violence is still so prevalent around the world, especially after the UN has taken so many measures to fight against it?

Why do you think that there is so little focus on domestic violence in some countries even though 30% of women around the world are victims? What steps could be taken to solve this issue?

What is the best way to prevent men (and sometimes women) from abusing their partners? Should there be stricter punishments? If so, what type?

Do you think that awareness of the issue (or lack of it) is a problem? If yes, what steps could be taken to resolve this?

What, in your country's opinion, is the best way to eliminate domestic violence? Should there be a greater focus on creating new laws, enforcement, relief to victims, or something else?

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<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/> - Recent news from the UN WomenWatch, such as UN resolutions and reports.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm> - The General Assembly's Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, which served as the "spark" for women's rights.

<http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/digest6e.pdf> - UniCEF's report on the causes and

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Syrian Refugees

Introduction

Situated along the Mediterranean Sea between Turkey and Lebanon, the nation of Syria began as a province of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, France obtained a mandate for the then province and granted Syria its independence in 1946. For a brief period of time, Syria joined with Egypt to form the United Arab Republic, but the two entities parted in 1961, resulting in the Arab Republic of Egypt and Syrian Arab Republic. In 1970, the leader of the minority socialist Ba'ath Party, Hafez al-Assad, assumed power through a bloodless coup. The rise of al-Assad brought political stability to Syria as well as the beginning attempts to modernize the Syrian economy and society. Following his death, al-Assad's son, Bashar al-Assad, took his father's place as president in 2000. Both al-Assad and his father are members of the Ba'ath Party and the Alawi sect of Islam. In a population of over 18 million, 74% of Syrians are Sunni Muslims, while the Alawites belong to a sect of the minority Shia Islam. In 2011, a series of uprisings known collectively as the Arab Spring spread across the Middle East and North Africa. In Syria, dissenting opinions against the reigning regime rose together in an uprising that led to an ongoing civil war, resulting in the displacement of millions of Syrians.

History

In addition to the structure and stability Hafez al-Assad brought to Syria, he is also remembered notoriously for violently silencing the opposition to his rule. Although Syria is technically regarded as a republic, Bashar al-Assad ran unopposed for the presidency in 2000, and up until the Syrian Uprising, al-Assad imitated his father in successfully suppressing opposition to his authoritarian regime. Since 1963, Syria has operated under Emergency Laws, allowing the government to suspend constitutional legislation and greatly restrict the freedom of citizens. The Emergency Laws allowed for the ban of certain political parties, restriction of

personal freedoms such as speech and assembly, and arrests without charge. In March of 2011, a group of teenagers graffitied the words, "The people want the fall of the regime" on a wall in Deraa, a Syrian city on the Jordanian border. As a result, security forces detained the boys, releasing them after a week of apparent mistreatment and torture. In response, protests against the regime emerged, demanding for the repeal of the Emergency Laws and the resignation of al-Assad. Although al-Assad remained president, authorities repealed the Emergency Laws. Officials met protests in Damascus and various other cities with a violent response, opening fire on demonstrators. The use of military force in order to silence dissent against Bashar led to more demonstrations and protests across the nation calling for al-Assad's resignation. Militants continued to use force on protesters, and protesters themselves eventually took up arms. Five months after protests first began, rebels began to fight government militants in a full blown civil war. Although the government faced strong resistance from insurgents, hundreds of different rebel groups divided the opposition.

For the past three years, such fighting has resulted in a substantial amount of damage, demolishing many areas of cities and claiming more than an estimated 150,000 lives. Along with the homes and lives of Syrians, the war resulted in the departure of millions of citizens. In 2011, only a few Syrians left their homes in order to escape the conflict. However, a small trickle of refugees into neighboring nations has quickly turned into a mass exodus. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), almost 3 million refugees fled abroad to Syria's neighbors. Along with its external refugees, Syria has an estimated 6.4 million internally displaced persons (IDP) within its borders, half of which are children. Therefore, the total number of displaced Syrians is 9.4 million, resulting in the world's largest humanitarian disaster. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 10.8 million people within Syria need humanitarian aid, 4.6 million of which

reside in isolated areas.

Additionally, the overwhelming flow of refugees out of Syria has created major problems for its bordering nations. Egypt houses almost 140,000 refugees, Iraq 218,000, Jordan 611,000, and Turkey 822,000. Lebanon has received the most refugees of all. 1.16 million Syrians have entered in the past three years and now contribute to a quarter of Lebanon's total population. However, unlike Iraq, Jordan, and Turkey, Lebanon did not set up refugee camps until 2013. Refugees lived in rented housing, nomadic camps, or in the homes of Lebanese families. In Jordan, 80,000 of the refugees live in the Za'atari refugee camp, now the fourth largest Jordanian city and second biggest refugee camp in the world. These nations struggled to accommodate the vast influx of refugees and continue to grapple with the high costs of maintaining camps. Turkey spent \$1.5 million on accommodating refugees as of May 2013, and has requested additional international aid which has come partially from the United Nations.

Life outside of Syria is not easy for refugees or host nations. The arrival of refugees means limited resources for both refugees and nationals. In some areas such as Jordan, where only 20% of refugees reside in camps, the price of rent and other items on the market have skyrocketed. Because refugees have a right to work even when displaced, the job competition increases. Food supplies consequently decrease. Without proper nutrition and diet, refugees find themselves more susceptible to malnutrition and disease. Even Syria, regarded as the breadbasket of the region, does not have enough food to sustain citizens.

Current Status

Regarding the Syrian conflict itself, the United Nations has passed several resolutions calling for an end to violence. In 2012, the UN Security Council (UNSC) implemented a Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) in hopes of bringing about an end to the war. Since November 2011, the Arab League has suspended Syria's membership due to disproportionate violence from the conflict. Internationally, several bodies,

including the United States, European Union, and Turkey have imposed sanctions on Syria in hopes of pressuring the regime to end the war.

In a 1951 Convention, the United Nations defined the universal rights of refugees. Refugees cannot find protection under certain states, either because of nations' unwillingness or inability to protect them. In such a case, the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol outline the rights of people who meet refugee criteria, upheld by the United Nations and international community. Such rights, including the right to work, housing, and freedom of religion ensure that, "refugees deserve, as a minimum, the same standards of treatment enjoyed by other foreign nationals in a given country."

While the UNSC focuses on passing resolutions in an effort to end the civil war in Syria, the General Assembly has passed several resolutions condemning the actions of Syria. Most notably, the General Assembly condemned the human rights violations of the Syrian government and called for the UNSC to take measures to end such violations in 2013. As of 2014, the UN has also requested 2.28 billion USD in order to provide humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees. However, only 30.3% of this request has been funded.

Current Analysis

Although the United Nations has dedicated many resources towards the aid of Syrian refugees, certain factors exist that prevent refugees from receiving the help they desperately need. The UN estimate of refugees tend to be on the lower end, as thousands of people fleeing Syria do not register themselves as refugees out of a medley of fear, ignorance, and paranoia. Suspicious refugees avoid the complicated registration process as they believe the bureaucratic Syrian government could potentially run it. Subsequently, the United Nations is unable to deliver supplies to unregistered refugees.

The Za'atari camp costs \$500,000 a day to run, with only poor living conditions. However, the manager of the Za'atari camp, Kilian Kleinschmidt, notes that because the Syrian people in the camp no longer trust

authority due to recent experiences, the UN workers in the camp changed tactics. Instead of distributing handouts and emphasising authority, workers distribute vouchers as a currency within the camps. This resulted in an economy within the camp that resolved another problem commonly associated with refugees - boredom. This system led to refugees, many traders and merchants now with a purpose, setting up their own supermarkets and businesses. Within the Za'atari camp a community is forming; refugees looking after one another, even looking after each other's children through the expansion of the school system for refugee children.

Conclusion

In the past three years, the Syrian people experienced a whirlwind of hardships. They witnessed and experienced torture, saw violence committed against their neighbors, and some uprooted their lives in order to escape the raging war in their homeland. The conflict has led to a mass exodus of an almost unparalleled degree, while still leaving millions of citizens displaced within Syria's borders. It is imperative to quickly find a solution to best aid these citizens in response to the physical, mental, emotional, and psychological damage inflicted by the conflict. Please submit a position paper on behalf of your delegation on the topic, taking into consideration several questions below. The issue at hand is complex and must be analyzed from several aspects in order to ensure the best possible solution for all parties involved.

Questions to Consider

- What are the relations between your country and Syria? Does your country support the government, the rebels, or is it indifferent?
- How is your country affected by the influx of Syrian refugees? Even if refugees do not directly travel to your nation, how do they indirectly affect you?
- How do sanctions on Syria affect your nation's economy?

- What measures has your country taken in response to the Syrian conflict?
- What should be done to reach Syrians who have fled their country but are not registered refugees?
- From where should the other approximate 70% of funding for refugee camps requested by the UN come?
- How can the United Nations effectively provide aid to IDP in hard to reach areas?
- Can the growing system of refugees working to create an economy and society within the Za'atari camp be successfully applied on a large scale? If so, how?
- What programs are in place to help refugees get back on their feet after the conflict is over and they choose to return home?

Sources for Further Research

- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> - The CIA World Factbook provides detailed statistics and overviews to every country and is a great starting point for basic information on your country.
- <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home> - The UN Refugee Agency homepage, where you can find statistics and information on refugees.
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703856> - A detailed profile of Syria including a timeline of events, description of leaders, and statistics by the BBC.
- <http://www.un.org/News/> - Recent news from the UN News Centre, including articles and publications.
- <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> - A quick and interactive facts sheet on Syrian refugees, provided by the UN Refugee Agency.
- <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/syria/> - Past UN resolutions concerning the Syrian conflict and Syrian refugees.

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UNSC
Derrick Wang
Chair

Wilton Wu
Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

Tallie Hausser
Director-General

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council! This year we're very excited to begin debating about Peacekeeping in the Central African Republic and Middle East. As members of the United Nations Security Council, you have great responsibility in determining the fate of the rest of the committees in the UN. Before we go into details, however, we'd like to make a few introductions:

Radhika Srivastava
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Wilton Wu, one of your co-chairs, is a senior at Maggie Walker. This is Wilton's fourth, and last, year participating in GSMUN, serving as a crisis staffer, vice-chair, and chair over the last three years. As the UNSC chair of GSMUN last year, Wilton is excited to continue the legacy of GSMUN's United Nations Security Council. Outside of MUN, Wilton plays tennis for the school tennis team, participates in various honor societies, and enjoys competitive Words with Friends and Scramble with Friends.

Elizabeth Levit
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Derrick Wang, your other co-chair, is a junior at MLWGS and has had a deep love of Model UN ever since his first conference in 7th grade, GSMUN XIV. Since then, he's attended every GSMUN, as either a delegate or as a member of the staff, serving on the dais of the 1976 Chinese Communist Party last year. However, Derrick has also attended conferences at colleges, such as VAMUN at UVA and WMHSMUN at William & Mary. In the little time he has not consumed by schoolwork, Derrick enjoys reading and hanging out with his friends. This year, Derrick looks forward to chairing UNSC with all of its exciting new twists!

Ciaran Lowell
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Reed Canaan
Chargé d'Affaires

Your starting point in being a member of the UN Security Council at GSMUN is writing a position paper. Information on how to write a position paper can be found at gsmun.net/delegateresources. This is to be emailed to the dais before the conference or turned in physically at the first committee session. Without a position paper you cannot be considered for awards. Keep in mind that your position paper must be your own work; plagiarism is unacceptable and will result in disciplinary actions from the Secretariat. Despite all of this, we want you to know that the Security Council's role at GSMUN has been vamped up this year. We now have the power to make decisions for other committees at GSMUN who need Security Council approval. We suggest that you look at the topics of the General Assemblies for this year to familiarize yourself with them if you have time; committee will be a lot more effective!

Elena Zhou
Director General
Assemblies

Anant Kharkar
Director of
Specialized Agencies

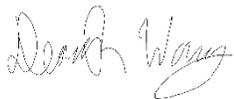
Purnima Ghosh
Director of
Press and Publications

While GSMUN may seem intimidating, we want you to realize that the important thing is not how often you speak or how well you sell your ideas, but the quality and specificity of your ideas. Ultimately, we want you to give your best effort. This is what's going to make the committee fun and enjoyable for not only us, but also you. We hope that all of you will dive into debate the moment committee begins. We're also looking forward to hear your creative solutions to some of the world's most controversial and crucial issues. Can't wait to see all of you in March!

Srishti Sanya
Director of
Technology

Feline Lucas
Director of
Charitable Giving

Best Wishes,



Mr. Max Smith
MUN Club Sponsor

Derrick Wang
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Wilton Wu
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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The United Nations Charter, signed in San Francisco in 1945, established the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as one of the six primary organs of the UN. The UNSC acts to maintain international peace and security, as well as to foster cooperation in solving international issues. Additionally, the Council recommends the appointment of the Secretary-General and, with the General Assembly, elects the Judges of the International Court of Justice. The Security Council is the only organ of the United Nations that has the authority to issue binding resolutions to all member states. While the General Assembly and other bodies of the UN can pass resolutions or make recommendations of their own, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that all member states are obligated to carry out. Since the General Assembly's resolutions are not binding, these issues are often recommended to the UNSC so that a binding resolution can be passed on the topic. Whenever an issue threatening international peace is brought before the Council, the first step is usually to seek a peaceful resolution. The Security Council often sets up mediation for disputes. When a dispute leads to a conflict, the Council seeks the fastest solution to the subsequent violence possible by brokering ceasefire agreements or through military observers and peacekeeping forces. The UNSC can use other measures such as sanctions, embargoes, financial restrictions, travel bans, severance of diplomatic relations, blockade, and peacekeeping military action to enforce international security.

The Council itself consists of fifteen members. The United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China serve as the five permanent members of the UNSC. These five permanent members all have veto power over any Security Council resolutions; without the unanimous approval

of all five nations, the resolution automatically fails. However, abstentions are not usually counted as vetoes, except for votes concerning admission of new UN member states or when amending the UN Charter. The other ten members of the Security Council are elected by the General Assembly to two year terms. For a procedural vote to pass, there must be nine affirmative votes, while a resolution requires nine affirmative votes including the concurring votes of the five permanent members. As opposed to the General Assembly, the UNSC meets all year-long, often holding emergency sessions to discuss various crises.

It is the duty of the United Nations Security Council to address the most pressing and critical issues throughout the world. The resolutions of the UNSC seek to maintain stability, peace, and prosperity, while condemning violations of international law and human rights, wherever they may occur.

Topic I: Peacekeeping in the Central African Republic Background

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a small former French colony of just over 4.5 million inhabitants, bordering several other central African nations such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Cameroon. The country gained its political independence from France in 1960, and ever since then has been plagued by corrupt government, political repression, extreme violence, and abject poverty. Despite the abundant natural resources of the region, including gold, diamonds, and uranium, the Central African Republic remains one of the poorest countries in the world due to endemic corruption and exploitation.

For over five decades, changes in government for the CAR have mainly been brought about by coup d'état. David Dacko, the first president of the CAR, took control

of the Movement for the Social Evolution of Black Africa (MESAN) and established a one-party state. General Jean-Bédél Bokassa conducted the first coup in 1965, ousting Dacko and proclaiming himself emperor. After fourteen years of brutal rule, France aided Dacko in deposing Bokassa in 1979, thereby restoring him to power. In 1981, General André-Dieudonné Kolingba ousted Dacko again and suspended the constitution, ruling through a military junta. Kolingba remained in power until 1993, when a pro-democracy movement brought Ange-Félix Patassé to power in the first elections since independence. After Patassé's government became unstable and increasingly unpopular, General François Bozizé launched multiple attempts to overthrow the government, until eventually taking control in 2003. In March of 2013, Michel Djotodia ousted Bozizé in a coup and declared himself President. Djotodia stepped down as President in January of 2014 to allow an interim government to govern the country and establish order.

After each coup d'état, the new governments always made attempts at national reconciliation. However, these efforts did not benefit the people of the Central African Republic, but instead served to reconcile political elements and provide amnesty to participants of the coups. Upon taking power in 2003, Bozizé was pressured by both the Central African people and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to hold elections, which occurred in 2005. Other political parties, however, considered these elections to be fraudulent, and various rebel groups formed during this time period to violently protest Bozizé's government. The current conflict stems from this eight-year struggle against Bozizé. Some of the primary fighters include the Democratic Front of the Central African People (FDPC), the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), and the People's Army for the Restoration of Democracy (APRD) led by Michel Djotodia. These various groups fought against the Bozizé government for multiple years in the Central African Republic Bush War. The ECCAS held several peace conferences during this period,

many of which took place in Libreville, Gabon, in order to form peace agreements between the government and all opposition parties. However, during the the 2011, leaders of the armed groups and opposition parties accused Bozizé of failure to implement the various agreements made from 2006 to 2011. The opposition groups massed in the north east, combining with other rebel groups such as the Patriotic Convention for Saving the Country (CPSK), the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (PJCC), and the Union of Republican Forces (UFR). In late 2012, these elements formed an alliance called "Séléka", meaning "coalition" in the native Sangho language.

Séléka forces quickly took over several major north-eastern towns, before advancing towards the capital of Bangui. The ECCAS hurriedly arranged peace talks in order to prevent another coup from taking place. All parties managed to show up and sign the Libreville Agreement on Resolving the Political and Security Crisis in the Central African Republic in early 2013. However, this last minute agreement failed to stop Séléka forces from continuing into Bangui and forcing out Bozizé. Michael Djotodia, the leader of the Séléka forces, took control of the government. Most of the populace celebrated the change in power, as Bozizé had proven to be an ineffective leader kept in power by political support from other African countries fearing the instability that another coup would cause. After taking over the government, Djotodia signed a presidential decree dissolving the Séléka forces in September of 2013. Despite this decree, Séléka continues to operate throughout the Central African Republic.

As Séléka forces organized and took over almost half of the country, they committed wanton acts of violence, looting, and destruction. While many in the capital initially welcomed the change in power, the killings quickly made the Djotodia regime very unpopular. The primarily Muslim Séléka consists of various Central African rebel groups, as well as foreign fighters allegedly recruited from Chad and Darfur. In response to the Séléka killings and violence, self-defence groups known as the anti-balaka,

meaning anti-machete or sword, formed armed militias. The primarily Christian anti-balaka consists of mostly autonomous groups of young men, originally formed to defend villages and communities from robbers and cattle rustlers. Anti-balaka forces confronted Séléka fighters, believing them to be a threat to their lives and property. The situation quickly devolved into violent attacks and retaliation killings on both sides. After failing to control the Séléka forces and under mounting international pressure, President Djotodia and Prime Minister Nicolas Tiangaye both resigned in January of 2014 to allow for an interim government to be put into place. The mayor of Bangui, Catherine Samba Panza, was elected as the interim president due to her past neutrality. However, the situation in the Central African Republic continues to degenerate.

Current Status

During and after the overthrow of Bozizé, members of Séléka committed numerous human rights violations against the populace of the CAR. Séléka forces systematically looted and destroyed throughout the areas they occupied. These incidents of looting were widespread and commonly perpetrated against civilian populations, resulting in property destruction and the deaths of many civilians. Members of Séléka were also involved in the indiscriminate killing and mass executions of civilians whom they believed to be anti-balaka. In addition to these extrajudicial killings and torture, Séléka members have also committed multiple acts of sexual and gender-based violence. These attacks on civilians by the Séléka rebels prompted reprisal attacks by the anti-balaka forces. The Christian anti-balaka forces primarily target Muslim communities, and subsequently commit human rights violations against Muslim civilians. These acts of murder, torture, and destruction are meant to essentially remove the Muslim population from the territory of the CAR. Anti-balaka members consistently target and kill Muslim civilians along with Séléka soldiers, often while chanting anti-Muslim slogans. Men, women, and children have all been victims of this continued

violence. The anti-balaka have also destroyed mosques and looted Muslim property. These acts of violence that systematically target the Muslim population are becoming part of a larger campaign of ethnic cleansing, and a possible precursor to widespread genocide.

This violence has taken its toll on the Central African Republic. Thousands have been killed in the inter-communal clashes, while 2.5 million are in need of humanitarian aid, which is nearly half of the total population. Almost 700,000 people have been internally displaced, with more than 232,000 in Bangui alone. Over 290,000 refugees have fled the country into neighboring Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Republic of the Congo. Many state institutions have completely broken down, and the government is incapable of enforcing peace and order. Functioning courts, prisons, and law enforcement barely exist outside of regions like Bangui. Killings between the Séléka and anti-balaka occur often, with the armed forces splintered and unable to act.

The international community has sent multiple operations into the CAR in order to stabilize the country and prevent further violence from breaking out. In December of 2013, France sent Operation Sangaris, consisting of 2,000 troops, to contain the spreading violence. The African Union sent their own 6,000 troop peacekeeping operation, the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA) replacing the Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC). Despite the presence of these soldiers, violence continued to persist. It was clear that there were not enough soldiers to adequately secure the country. In April of 2014, the UN Security Council created the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA). The newly mandated peacekeeping mission takes over the responsibilities of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). Authority is set to be transferred from MISCA to MINUSCA in September of 2014 with an initial force of 10,000 personnel.

In late July of 2014, Séléka fighters signed a ceasefire agreement with the anti-

balaka in Brazzaville, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The deal raised hopes for an end to the fighting, but both sides immediately accused each other of breaking the peace agreement after the signing. The sectarian violence resumed, with Séléka launching another wave of attacks in the north, while the anti-balaka continued to assault the Muslim fighters. Widespread atrocities and abuses of human rights continue to occur between Christians and Muslims in the CAR, while the interim government struggles to establish order.

Analysis

While a peacekeeping operation is set to deploy in the Central African Republic, questions remain over the state of the nation. The Central African Armed Forces are in tatters. By the time of Djotodia's coup, most of the army was already splintered and divided. Many of the soldiers fled in the face of the Séléka advance, abandoning their posts for friendly communities. Some of these men and women have regrouped under the anti-balaka banner, while others remain independent supporters of Bozizé. The interim government's control only extends over Bangui and parts of the country like it, while much of the CAR remains under Séléka or anti-balaka control. While Séléka is a fairly well organized force with a political and military command structure, the anti-balaka lack a credible hierarchy or structure. Ceasefires and peace agreements have failed in the past, due to lack of participation or failure to adhere to the agreements by independent groups of Séléka or anti-balaka.

One of the major issues that the international community must face is the threat of ethnic cleansing and genocide. The conflict has become increasingly sectarian, and both Muslims and Christians are at threat. Despite President Catherine Samba Panza's recent selection of a Muslim prime minister, Séléka refuses to participate in a unified government, stating that they were not consulted over the choice. Some members of both the anti-balaka and Séléka have called for the partition of the CAR into separate Muslim and Christian states, although this proposal is not supported by the international community or the government. A major task

for the interim government is to establish reconciliation between the two sides of the conflict.

Another critical problem for the CAR is the lack of a functional judiciary system. Without police forces, courts, or prisons in many areas of the country, it is difficult to establish stability. Investigating and prosecuting violations of human rights would be a step towards stabilizing the entire country. Humanitarian aid is also desperately needed throughout the CAR. International efforts must focus on providing aid to the millions of citizens, both within the country as well as those that have fled.

While the situation in the CAR is difficult, the international community must intervene. It is the mission of MINUSCA to stabilize the country and aid the people. It is essential that the United Nations take direct action to prevent further deaths and atrocities from occurring on either side of the conflict, and it is the obligation of the Security Council to solve this pressing issue.

Questions to Consider

- What should the main focus of the MINUSCA peacekeeping operation? Establishing order or humanitarian efforts?
- Is a political solution still possible? Can negotiations bring a peace agreement that lasts?
- How should refugees in other countries be dealt with? How will humanitarian aid reach those within the country?
- How can the interim government best establish stability? How can an effective judiciary and police force be implemented?
- When should elections be held? How can the UN ensure that these are fair and legitimate?

II. Peacekeeping in the Middle East Background

Ever since its founding, Israel has

been a point of tension in the Middle East. In 1973, the tension between Israel and the surrounding Arab nations culminated in the Yom Kippur War. An Arab coalition, led by Egypt and Syria, launched a surprise invasion into Israel on October 6th. While Egypt and Syria initially made gains into Israeli territory, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) locked Egypt into a stalemate at the Sinai peninsula, while pushing Syrian forces back over the Golan Heights and back into Syria. As the conflict continued to escalate, the United Nations Emergency Force II (UNEF II) was sent into the Israeli-Egyptian conflict in order to stabilize the situation. However, no force was initially sent to the Israeli-Syrian front.

Despite the UN-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Egypt, the situation in the northern front remained unstable. Israeli and Syrian forces continued a small-scale conflict of attrition, with skirmishes and bombings taking place throughout the battlezone. Through early 1974, tensions continued to rise between the still-entrenched forces. To establish stability in the region, the United States launched an initiative for an agreement on disengagement. The agreement called for an area of separation between Syria and Israel and for a UN observer force to implement this zone. The USNC established the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on May 31st of 1974, the same day that the agreement was signed.

The UNDOF began operations starting in June of 2014, in the Israel-Syria sector with an initial deployment of 1,250 personnel. The Force carries out its mandate by maintaining an area of separation over forty miles long and varying from 6 miles to 600 feet in width between the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Syrian territory, where no military personnel except for UNDOF are permitted. On either side of the area of separation are zones of limitation, where bi-weekly inspections are carried out to ensure the adherence to armament and forces limitations. The area is inhabited and under the governance and policing of the Syrian government. UNDOF is completely deployed in this hilly terrain and around the area of separation with multiple base camps, permanently manned positions, and

numerous observation posts. Military observers actively patrol the area of separation to supervise the area and intervene when military personnel from either nation attempt to enter. UNDOF also participates in mine-clearing efforts, marking known minefields in the area and raising public awareness, as well as facilitating the medical aid of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Since 1974, UNDOF has effectively carried out its mandate, maintaining stability between Israel and Syria with the cooperation of both governments. However, the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War in 2011 proved to be problematic for UNDOF operations. As the conflict in Syria escalated, both the Syrian armed forces and the armed opposition members have significantly raised the risk of disrupting the ceasefire between Syria and Israel. The fighting and military operations of both sides raise the potential to jeopardize stability of the entire region by increasing tensions with Israel. Syrian armed forces or members of the opposition frequently violate the area of separation, provoking Israeli Defense Forces to respond with shelling or other military actions. These incidents directly violate the decades-old ceasefire agreement and could result in a major conflict.

The Syrian Civil War has also resulted in direct threats to the safety of UNDOF personnel and their ability to carry out their mandate. Members of the Syrian armed forces and the opposition have directly and indirectly fired at UNDOF military observers, destroyed UNDOF facilities and property, and even abducted personnel. In March of 2013, as clashes between the opposition and the government forces spilled over into the ceasefire area, Syrian rebels took twenty one Filipino UNDOF observers hostage following heavy combat at an observation post. While the observers were released under mediation from Jordan, this incident highlighted the growing safety risks for UNDOF. Croatia withdrew its regiment of observers, as did Austria, a long-time troop contributor. However, the UN Secretary General maintains that the presence of UNDOF is essential to prevent the Syrian conflict from spilling into Israel and provoking another

major war in the region.

Current Status

The situation for UNDOF is extremely tense. As the Syrian Civil War continues, the ceasefire line and area of separation become increasingly difficult and dangerous to maintain. Syrian armed forces and armed opposition members constantly battle in the area of separation, where their presence is strictly forbidden by the disengagement agreement. These clashes often take place in close proximity to UN observation posts or facilities, endangering the military observers present. As of June of 2014, there were 1,249 troops, 49 international staff, and 108 local civilian staff. Troops are contributed from Fiji, India, Ireland, Nepal, the Netherlands, and the Philippines. Despite the danger to UNDOF personnel from the Syrian conflict, the mission is considered essential to the stability of the region.

The reports of the Secretary General show a volatile situation. Tanks and air strikes are frequently used within the area of separation and the limitation zones. Syrian military and opposition forces Improvised explosive devices and mortar rounds often explode within the area or in Israeli territory, provoking shelling and airstrikes from the IDF. Violations of the ceasefire agreement

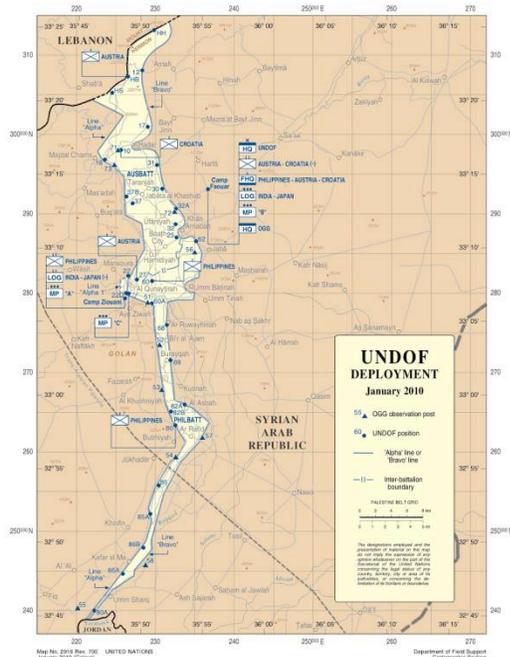
take place on both sides of the area of separation. The continuing degeneration of the Syrian conflict has led to an increase of these incidents, as well as the perpetration of further atrocities.

UNDOF personnel themselves remain in danger from Syrian armed forces and the opposition. Mines and improvised explosive devices expose UN peacekeepers to extreme risk. The danger of personnel being caught in the crossfire of a battle is also deeply concerning. Additionally, UN property and facilities are also sometimes assaulted and placed in danger. All of these reasons make the safety of UNDOF a major concern for the Security Council.

Analysis

The UNDOF remains in a high-risk situation. The frequent military incursions of both the Syrian military and the opposition forces directly violate the ceasefire and disengagement agreements. It is unacceptable for military personnel besides the UNDOF to be within the area of separation. The airstrikes and tanks within either the area of separation or the zones of limitation are strictly forbidden by the disengagement agreements. The presence of armed Syrian forces also risks escalating tensions with Israel. Before the Syrian Civil War, the Israeli-Syrian border remained relatively stable, despite general tension between Israel and all of its Arab neighbors. However, Syria now risks provoking an assault from Israel. Mortar shells, improvised explosive devices, and other attacks have crossed into the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The IDF often responds with warning shots, shelling, or even airstrikes within the area of separation, to force Syrian forces away. This volatile situation risks becoming a widespread conflict, and it is essential that both the Israeli and Syrian governments continue to work with UNDOF towards the resolution of these incidents.

The instability of the Syrian conflict makes it difficult for UNDOF to carry out its mandate, and often threatens the safety of the military observers and UN facilities. On



multiple occasions, UN forces have been fired at directly or indirectly. So far, UNDOF has suffered 45 casualties throughout the entirety of its history, though the increased safety risk has convinced some countries to stop contributing troops. Syrian armed forces and opposition troops have sometimes disrupted UNDOF operations by closing supply roads or otherwise obstructing the Force from its duties. The primary responsibility for the facilitation and security of UNDOF lies with Syrian government, since the area of separation is Syrian territory. However, the UN must also act to ensure the safety of its military observers.

The continued presence of UNDOF is considered absolutely necessary to maintain stability. Despite the volatility of the situation, maintaining the ceasefire and area of separation between Israel and Syria is essential to preventing a region-wide conflict.

Questions to Consider

- Is it safe for UNDOF personnel to remain in the area of separation?
- Should the size of UNDOF be expanded to provide more peacekeepers? How can the UNSC ensure that the Force can defend itself?
- How can the situation between Israel and Syria be de-escalated? Can negotiations be opened up through UNDOF?
- How can Syrian armed forces and opposition forces be moved out of the area of separation? How can UNDOF enforce the zones of limitation?
- Should humanitarian aid to the civilians in the area be considered? Is this a primary concern for UNDOF?
- How can the continued cooperation of both Syria and Israel with UNDOF be assured?

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**Weimar
Republic**

Zach Bampton

Chair

Matt Ladocsi

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
Speak Out*

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Secretary-General

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Willkommen Delegierten!

Welcome to the Weimar Republic, a committee set in the middle of a time of chaos and uncertainty. Fear not, with a bit of research and time, you will be qualified to work together (and sometimes against each other) to address the pressing issues of the time. You will be the thread holding the 1920s Germany together, and you are the first and last line of defense against enemies of Democracy. Before we go any further, here are some introductions:

My name is Matt Ladocsi, and I'm a junior at Maggie Walker. I'm ecstatic to be chair of this committee, and I've been a big fan of World War history for a long time, especially regarding the reasons for the wars starting. I'm curious to see how each of you will be analyzing and looking at the problems during this tumultuous time for the whole world, and presenting solutions diplomatically throughout the conference. I also enjoy art, debate, and science, but I've found Model UN to be a particularly diverse and exciting event, especially when it can include so many different subjects and fields of study. I'm hopeful that each of you will come to the conference with your own perspective and ideas to contribute to the committee!

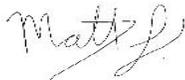
My name is Zach Bampton, and I am excited to serve as the second chair in the Weimar Republic Committee. As a junior this year, I am in my third year of German and hope to put it to some use in committee. My interests include reading history, philosophy, and writing, and hopefully during this conference we will touch on all three! This committee has been my dream since Freshman year, and I am looking forward to realizing it this spring.

Our expectations for committee are straightforward and simple, but we insist upon them being followed. The committee session we will be collecting your position papers, which should be at least 500 words and double-spaced in Times New Roman. This is essentially your introduction to us, and should include your assigned party's position on the issues outlined in the following background guide. This will factor into awards, but your performance and display of diplomacy and critical thinking in committee will be what is important. If you have any further questions, feel free to email us or consult the delegate resources page on the GSMUN website.

Delegates are also reminded of the severity of plagiarism and encouraged to maintain honor and integrity while writing these papers. Cheating is never justified, and we will catch you. Plagiarism will result in you being barred from awards, and we will notify your sponsor. Please keep integrity, and we will all have a great time in committee.

Thank you for choosing the Weimar Republic, and we look forward to an energizing committee full of political intrigue and conflict. Though it is by no means required, please consider German accents and historical costumes. Your chairs will think you are the best, and although it won't necessarily assure you the gavel, you will get our love.

Your Chairs,



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Committee Background

Committee Overview

Inaugurated in the aftermath of the First World War and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the German Reichstag served as the primary legislative governing body of the Weimar Republic. As part of a bicameral legislative body, the Reichstag dealt with national matters while the less significant Reichsrat investigated regional conflicts. Election by direct proportional representation- a system that awards representatives to a party based on percentage of the population that voted for that party- allowed for the mainstream political thought to be injected with contentious and radical ideologues. German politics were fractured with various parties jockeying for electoral dominance.

Though Reichpräsident Hindenburg hamstrung the Republic's authority in its later years, the Reichstag was intended to represent the nation and deal with issues such as taxes, foreign policy, and domestic policy. Comprised of many parties varying in both size and ideology, coalitions were required to facilitate governance. However, as interpreted by period politicians, the Reichspräsident could veto any unfavorable laws and dissolve the Reichstag in a case of national emergency. The early years of the republic were marked by frequent attempted *putsches*, or coups, by both radical extremes of the political spectrum. Thus the nascent Reichstag sought to establish order in the post-war chaos beneath the specter of authoritarian powers.

Topic I: Political Radicalization Government Organization

The Treaty of Versailles organized the new German government similarly to that of Great Britain's, using a parliamentary system to determine the amount of power each of the multiple political parties had, which is a multi-party system of government that has delegates from a large number of parties representing smaller percentages of the populous. This system also generates alliances between parties to create majorities sufficient for passing legislation. There were seven

significant parties while the Weimar government was in power, all having essential similarities and differences that led to various alliances and rivalries. The political party with the most influence was the Social Democratic Party of Germany. It never held a full majority of the vote, but it held the largest vote out of all of the other political parties, and therefore had a larger say than any other single party in the Parliament. The party focused on striking a balance between the various parties and various extremes on either end of the political spectrum. The German Democratic Party was very progressive, and had a platform that aligned with the people in charge of reorganizing the government, which gave them influence in that process, especially with the constitution. The party's platform included the separation of church and state and restricted government involvement, and the party was the largest advocate for democracy. The Centre Party represented Catholics in Parliament, and was led by Matthias Erzeberger. The party wanted to protect the Catholic Church and Catholic Germans, and had a very wide spectrum of political views. The party generally supported Catholic ideals at the time, including the preservation of religious schooling, strictly Christian marriages, and Church autonomy, but because of its wide base, its members had no single platform to unify under. Heinrich Brüning was a member of this party in 1930. The German People's Party represented heavy industry and the upper classes in Germany. It was not as supportive of the Weimar government, as it called for a much stronger central government, and even experienced a movement towards authoritarian radicalism in the mid-to-late 1920s. The party reached its height in 1923 with the rise of Gustav Stresemann as the chancellor of the Weimar Republic.

Some of the Parties represented in Parliament actively protested their own government. The Independent Social Democratic Party of Germany, formed by Hugo Haase, falls into this category, having split off from the Social Democratic Party of

Germany after a diplomatic dispute with Friedrich Erbert over ending World War I. This party became the second largest in Parliament, holding a loosely Marxist platform and supporting dissent within the Weimar government for the majority of the government's duration. The Communist Party of Germany actively advocated for the destruction or overthrow of the Weimar government. Led by Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the party wanted Germany to follow Russia's footsteps and gained a lot of influence after the global depression in the 1930's. The National Socialist German Workers' Party, also called the NSDAP, became the most notorious political party from the Weimar era. It originated in 1919 as a party that represented the lower middle class in Munich, who had suffered a loss of social status due to the many economic struggles during that time period. The party grew in recognition when it began violent anti-Semitic and nationalistic protests in 1921, which was the same year that Adolf Hitler became a leader in the party. The party caused so much turmoil that it was temporarily banned and Hitler incarcerated after an uprising in a Munich Beer Hall in 1923. These events all led up a powerful and growing dissent within Germany, with a lot of the outcry over unfair treatment after World War I being redirected at social minorities as well as the Weimar government.

Growing Dissent

With the acceptance of the Treaty of Versailles by German leadership after World War One came significant unrest within Germany over the treaty's unfair terms to the German people. This included a war guilt clause, limits to navy and army size, and other terms designed to weaken Germany. After these restrictions, and the subsequent public outcry against the "November Criminals," the government was considered an illegitimate across most demographics, and many people refused to abide by its decisions, especially the acceptance of the Treaty of Versailles. The consequences of this dissent first materialized in 1919, with Communist uprisings in Berlin and Bavaria. Communism was considered to be a hopeful alternative for the Germans that

had been suffering from economic inequality and instability. In 1920, a nationalist politician named Wolfgang Kapp created more unrest when he led a group of soldiers into Berlin to attack the new government, known as the Kapp Putsch. The regular army principally refused to put down the rebellion, not only showing the weakness of the new government, but also forcing the government officials to flee the city. The government eventually regained control, but relocated to Weimar, Germany, which is the reason for the name, Weimar Republic.

Between protests against specific political leaders, Communist rebellions, and growing anti-Semitism, the numerous issues facing the Weimar government made it a challenge for them to maintain control from growing radical groups for a long period of time, especially with the organization of its government. France also involved itself in the conflict after Germany failed to pay its reparations from World War I. The French government punished the default by militarily occupying the industrial region known as the Ruhr in 1921. This led to government supported strikes and protests in the region, and further increased the turmoil in the nation as a whole.

Conclusion

The many problems that faced the Weimar Republic has created a perfect environment for political unrest and extremism. This combination of governmental weakness and strength of new ideologies helped to create a perfect storm for political extremism and upheaval. It is necessary to look at Germany's political turmoil to come up with the solutions that could have kept Germany from continuing on such a dangerous path. The German population had to be brought back under control, and the different radical groups had to be quieted. The true challenge to this situation comes from having to balance all of the different conflicts and issues that Germany faced with limited resources and limited time. As members of the Weimar government, you are responsible for responding to the needs of the German nation with decisive, thorough actions to help

Germany stabilize and recover from the war and recent years of chaos.

Questions to Consider

1. Do the freedoms granted by the current Weimar Government make it impossible to suppress dissent and have a functioning government?
2. Should the government allow leaders like Hitler take control of the government or should they resist the will of the people?
3. Is it the place of the government to resist change in public opinion in the face of extremism?
4. Will you consider oppression of political dissent over trying to solve the economic problems at hand?
5. Which groups require the greatest numbers of resources to be dealt with? How do you determine proper resource allocation?
6. Are some of the groups correct in their complaints about the current government? Should their protests lead to substantial change?

Recommended Sources

German Bundestag- Political Parties in the Weimar Government

BBC Bitesize- Problems Facing the Weimar Republic

European History- Weimar Republic (1919-1930)

The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich

II. Economic Troubles

Background

Emerging from the mustard-gassed ashes of World War I, the Weimar Republic immediately found itself saddled with crippling national debt and an inflation rate soaring out of control. The German economy teetered on the brink of collapse while poverty and unemployment sharply rose. Germany needed a scapegoat to allay the national shame felt by its fall from grace as an international powerhouse. Some radical nationalists branded the government as November Criminals, referring to the date of the source of the nation's economic maladies: the Treaty of Versailles.

Drafting the treaty following the Armistice signed in 1918, the Allied Nations unilaterally dictated the terms of Germany's surrender. Delegates from various countries involved in the Allied war effort arrived in Versailles to deliberate the eventual treaty, with the leaders of Great Britain, France, and the United States at the helm. Revenge dominated the mindset of the French, as it had sustained heavy casualties and infrastructural damage during the war. Though privately Lloyd George of the British preferred more lenient terms for Germany in the interest of staunching the flow of Communism, publicly he too pressed for punitive measures. Woodrow Wilson, in failing health and waning public support, acquiesced.

The terms of the treaty staggered the Weimar diplomats upon viewing it for the first time. Under the Treaty of Versailles, Germany accepted responsibility for starting WWI and began to pay exorbitant reparations to the Allied Powers. France and Belgium received the largest fractions, as most of the fighting occurred inside their country. Furthermore, Germany lost all overseas colonies as well as select mainland territories. France received the disputed Alsace-Lorraine territory on the west edge of Germany and extended a demilitarized zone deep into the Rhineland. To add insult to injury, the treaty required Germany to accept the guilt for starting the war. This aspect brought enormous national shame to a proud nation. Lastly, Germany's military was shackled and reduced to such a level that left the state at the mercy of its neighbors. Such were the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, and Germany was in no position to refuse.

Reparations

The payment of reparations imposed enormous amounts of stress on the Weimar Republic and threatened the nation's stability both domestically and abroad. Internally, many Germans detested the imposed fines of the treaty and grew agitated towards their government that paid them. The final sum of reparations measured 132 billion gold-backed Marks. Notably, however, this amount was strictly nominal, and divided into three

categories of bonds. Germany was only mandated to pay 'A' and 'B' bonds, which totaled 50 billion Marks. This sum was largely punitive and intently calculated to capsize Germany's industrial might. Payment could be made in money or in materials but many economists speculated this was beyond the means of the weakened Germany. The first payment was to be made in 1921 of 500 million Marks. Germany supplemented their inability to pay exclusively with cash with coal and building materials from their industrial heartland: the Ruhr region.

Germany maintained scheduled payment of reparations until January 1923, when, at the height of the hyperinflation pandemic, they simply did not have the capital to make the payment. France and its economy relied heavily on these reparations, and in an attempt to forcibly extract them the French invaded the Ruhr. Occupying the industrial district, the French believed they could coerce Germans into continuing manufacturing. However, soon Germany became united in mind and spirit against the invasion of the Ruhr. Labor workers refused to cooperate with their Merovingian occupiers, and began passive resistance. Production in Germany ground to a halt, and soon many laborers found themselves without a functioning job. The Weimar Republic feared unemployment more than the invasion as the Communist Revolution in 1918 relied on the pent up tensions of the working class to instigate their rebellion. To prevent such a reoccurrence, the government quickly signed for the prolonged payment of benefits to keep workers and their families sustained. To pay for this, more Marks were printed out en masse by the Reichsbank, resulting in critical spike in national inflation.

Recognizing the debilitating burden of the reparations, and realizing realistically that the Allies would be unable to repay their debts without the influx of Weimar reparations, Charles Dawes of the United States intervened on the behalf of Germany. Establishing a plan between Germany and the Allies, eponymously known as the Dawes Plan, he introduced a system in which the U.S. lent Germany money to energize their economy, generating more income to pay its

creditors who would in turn reimburse the U.S. for loans made during wartime. For a time, this system alleviated the pressure on Germany to pay its fines, and the Allies lowered the magnitude of the reparations over the subsequent years. Germany, through the Dawes Plan, bonded itself with the US and entered into a period of economic prosperity known as the *Goldene Zwanziger*, or the Golden Twenties. Consequently, however, the Weimar Republic grew inextricably tied to the U.S. economy. When the effects of the Great Depression reached Europe, Germany's reliance on American money proved disastrous for both the people and government.

Hyperinflation

Following the Armistice in 1918 and peaking in 1923, the German Mark, the national currency, sharply fell in value as the economy experienced unsustainable inflation. The Allies mandated that Germany pay their reparations in the form of gold-backed Marks and goods, a condition that exacerbated the tensions on the fragile Weimar Republic. These problems stemmed from 1914 where, anticipating a short war in favor of Germany, Kaiser Wilhelm decreed that, instead of instituting new taxes to pay for the war, the Mark would be severed from its gold-backing and the war would be entirely financed by borrowing money. Therefore, since the German Mark had lost value compared to other European currencies based off the gold standard, the amount nominally owed effectively increased in converting to a gold-backed currency.

To deal with this predicament the Reichsbank, helmed by Dr. Rudolf Havelstein, simply printed more Marks. The prevailing wisdom of the time saw no issue with the increased circulation, and in the beginning the inflation was manageable. As some economists reasoned, a devalued Mark would increase Germany's competitiveness against other nations. Germany would regain her former industrial prowess and begin rebuilding herself as a regional superpower.

In 1921, Germany delivered their first payment of Marks and coal to its various Allied creditors. Immediately following the

payment the Mark declined in value, and confidence in the economy's stability was shaken. In order to maintain savings many Germans began transferring their assets from paper notes to tangible goods such as pianos, jewels, art, and furniture. As payments continued, the government lost money and the Mark lost value, and soon Germany fell behind on material production. Ultimately, it no longer possessed the capital to continue settling the reparations. The invasion of the Ruhr in early 1923 stalled the economy and brought the Mark to its lowest point, at a ratio of around 1 trillion Marks to a single prewar Mark. Inflation and reparations worked in tandem to incapacitate the Germany ability to work and produce goods. Money became essentially useless.

Amidst the ruinous straits of the economy, Hjalmar Schacht, Director of the Darmstadt & National Bank, offered a radical solution in the form of the Rentenmark. Turning economic theory on its head, Schacht suggested a monetary reset: replacing the worthless Mark with a currency linked to the prewar gold standard. Despite not having the gold to back it up, and being rooted in mortgages and bonds, the Rentenmark proved to be a 'miracle cure'. Twelve zeros were cut from the currency, and the economy began moving again. The population accepted and embraced the new currency, with seemingly no detriment to the economy. American investment as part of the Dawes Plan strengthened the budding currency, and the Rentenmark was replaced by the long-term Reichsmark, which was similarly linked to gold. For a time, the Republic stabilized and entered into half a decade of prosperity.

Conclusion

When considering reparations and hyperinflation, one is tempted to think of them as independent issues occurring at separate times during the Weimar Republic. In reality, the issues happened concurrently and often found themselves interwoven through the time period. Reflect on the political roadblocks and limitations faced by politicians and investigate, if unfettered, what actions could have been taken. Understanding the nuances of these events will prepare for

an uncertain future.

Questions to Consider

1. How did nationalistic feelings reflect themselves in dealing with reparations?
2. Could Germany have realistically paid reparations? What if they had cooperated with the French during the invasion of the Ruhr?
3. How did interaction with the Soviets impact the German economy?
4. Why did Germany continue to print new money instead of curtailing inflation?
5. Should Germany have imposed new taxes to increase revenue?
6. In what ways did political instability contribute to the economic woes of the Weimar Republic?
7. What other proposed solutions were there for reducing the hyperinflation, and could aspects of these plans have been effective?

Recommended Sources

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2. Explanation of the Rentenmark: <http://www.forbes.com/2011/06/09/germany-gold-standard.html>
3. General Overview of Reparations after WWI: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I_reparations
4. Hyperinflation in Weimar Republic, and some solutions: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/comman dingheights/shared/minitext/ess_germanhyperinflation.html

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World Health Organization

Nivi Saravanan

Chair

Ishani Pendse

Chair

GSMUN XVIII
*Stand Up,
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Sam Schwartzkopf
Secretary-General

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Elena Zhou
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Anant Kharkar
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Purnima Ghosh Director of
Press and Publications

Srishti Sanya
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Dear Delegates,

It is our honor to welcome you to GSMUN XVIII and the World Health Organization. This weekend you will discuss topics as diverse as Zoonotic Diseases and Infant Mortality tied together by the common thread of having fundamentally central effects on the world's well-being for years to come. We are looking forward to your passionate debate, incisive comments, and fresh insight into these issues. We hope you are as ready as we are!

As delegates in the World Health Organization, you have an obligation to come prepared to this Committee having completed research and prepared thoroughly for debate. Please make sure to read the background guide to glean preliminary knowledge into the topics. A key part of preparing for GSMUN is writing your position paper. Guidelines on how to write a position paper can be found at gsmun.net/delegateresources. The papers we expect should be at least 500 words, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, and with Chicago-style footnotes and a bibliography. Please know that GSMUN follows the Maggie Walker Honor Code and that plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification from the conference. Please either email your paper to us before the conference or bring it for the first committee session. It is a good idea to have your paper at all times in order to reference your country's beliefs as well as your ideas. We expect nothing but the best from all. Feel free to contact either on comments, or questions. We look forward



Good Luck,



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Committee Background

Committee Overview

The World Health Organization was formed on the day that the United Nations was set up in 1945. The diplomats that met to form the United Nations also discussed setting up a health organization that would be effective worldwide. On April 7, 1948 the World Health Organization's Constitution came into force. This date is now celebrated annually as World Health Day.

The World Health Organization is directly in charge of all matters related to health within the United Nations. The organization's responsibilities include leading the effort against a lack of worldwide health, organizing research and studies necessary to write policies, supporting and providing technical assistance to nations, and monitoring progress as well as trends in healthcare policy. The six leadership priorities the World Health Organization has undertaken are providing universal health coverage, establishing and enforcing the International Health Regulations, providing better access to medical products, addressing social, economic, and environmental health determinants and decreasing the potency of noncommunicable diseases. Another key goal is reaching the Millennium Development Goals that directly relate to health which include reducing child mortality, improve maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases. The International Health Regulations are an "international legal instrument" whose purpose is to prevent the spread of disease across borders. You have to make sure to detail the MDGs and the International Health Regulations. Currently, the World Health Organization is laboring to keep up with demanding problems that the 21st century has presented. Some of its recent projects include providing education to the illiterate, preventing the spread of diseases, reducing child and infant

mortality, and finding a way to contain and cure Ebola, among others.

Topic I: Zoonosis

Zoonosis is classified by the Pan American Health Organization as "any disease or infection that is naturally transmissible from vertebrate animals to humans and vice-versa". Birds, primates, insects, domestic animals, and wildlife are all possible vectors by means of which diseases or infection are communicated to the human population. The reverse, in which humans infect the aforementioned non-human animals, also occurs, and is aptly referred to as reverse zoonosis. Two major classifications of zoonosis include direct zoonosis, in which the disease or infectious agents are passed between the two sources without significant change in disease composition during transmission, and indirect zoonosis, in which an intermediary party transmits the disease but fails to become affected.

Over 200 diseases and infections have been classified under these terms spanning back hundreds of years in human history. In early human history, small bands of hunter-gatherers with little intersociety contact formed causing epidemic diseases that depended on constant exposure by numerous individuals to die after an initial passage through the community. From a pathogen's point of view, the infection or disease had to be chronic and sustain its life in a non-human reservoir while waiting for humans to infect. The disease would then accidentally find itself into the population and have the potential to consistently recur as the pathogens were incubated inside a non-human organism. In reality, many modern epidemic diseases, such as influenza, HIV, diphtheria, measles, and small pox among many others, originated from zoonotic roots. The five major classifications of the agents of zoonoses include bacteria such

as Salmonellosis, anthrax, brucellosis, *Escherichia Coli*, and leptospirosis, parasites such as trematodosis, toxoplasmosis, and trichinellosis, viruses such as rabies, avian flu, Ebola, and Rift Valley Fever, fungi, and other unconventional agents.

The Bubonic Plague, a historical example of a zoonotic disease, was spread by means of rodents and fleas that killed approximately 25 million people in 14th century Europe. The bacterial culprit begins in the intestine of a flea. After continuous regurgitation or ingested blood and aggregation in the gut of the flea, the infected pathogen can spread to a rodent or human host and transfer the disease in an indirect manner. The disease's manifestation and action period consists of four days in which bacteria attach inside a lymph node to cause painful gangrene of the extremities, fevers, chills, lymph gland inflammation and swelling, vomiting, and extreme fatigue.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, more commonly known as mad cow disease, is a neurological degenerative disorder obtained when humans consume animals infected with the bovine counterpart disease. Epidemiologically, the disease can spread anywhere with infected bovine and human populations. A prion, the protein rendered defective by the disease, taints nearby proteins causing an incorrectly folded structure that ultimately causes the brain to develop holes and a sponge-like texture. Due to the fact that the disease is transferable by blood, officials are concerned about a potential large epidemic of the disease in the near future. As of right now, there is no treatment for the disease, guaranteeing death for all patients.

Zoonotic diseases can spread with great celerity. For example, In 2012, West Nile Virus killed 286 citizens living in the United States of America when the bacteria were originally found, for their namesake, in the West Nile Region of

East Africa. Since its discovery, moreover, the disease has spread to Asia, Australia, Europe, and the United States. The primary vector for this disease is the female mosquito acting as an indirect disease transmitter, meaning that the mosquito fails to feel the negative effects of the disease that it carries.

Many additional zoonotic diseases and potential animal vectors exist causing epidemic and endemic disease concerns for many healthcare officials. The possibilities of the creation of diseases are also endless, so the need has arisen for adequate attention be donated to the control of such pathogens.

Human Public Health Concerns

Currently, 840 species of infectious human pathogens as well as two out of every three emerging infectious diseases are derived from animal sources. With nearly one tenth of the world's population directly connected to animals by means of livestock, the need for effective disease control has been exacerbated. The WHO Technical Report Series denotes that zoonotic diseases originate from "endemic, chronic, disabling, frequently misdiagnosed and often unreported infections of remote populations that are dependent on livestock for their survival and asset base." These infectious diseases also tend to more prominently affect war populations, refugees, and displaced persons who are affected by natural disasters for there is an inadequate surveillance of and report of these diseases. Due to the infrequent resource imports as well as counterfeit or black market medicines, drug efficacy for these infected animal and human populations cannot be verified. Although every human is susceptible to a zoonotic disease, individuals with a weakened immune system, whether naturally or medically induced, children under the age of five, the elderly and pregnant women

are most susceptible.

Additionally, the vast majority of zoonotic diseases more greatly affect impoverished populations whose lack of adequate health care services is ignored due to third world country status. These “bottom billion” poorest persons degree of healthcare to various zoonotic diseases depends on the specific disease, donor quantities, and single-issue advocacy groups. Many large healthcare organizations focus on funds to fight AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis with minimal funding and efforts designated to additional global diseases. There has been stagnation of research and resources to fight these additional diseases, such as the World Health Organization’s seven neglected zoonoses, the plural of zoonosis, are anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, cysticercosis and neurocysticercosis, cystic echinococcosis, rabies, and zoonotic sleeping sickness, which will ultimately offer a higher global burden than the three prominently funded aforementioned diseases combined.

Despite efforts to control zoonotic diseases, the recent outbreak of Ebola this summer 2014 showcases the much needed room for effective control, treatment, and emergency planning. Ebola virus disease is spread by contact with the bodily fluid of an infected animal. Symptoms include fatigue, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, and headaches. The circulatory impairment stage involves vomiting blood, blood in the stools, heavy bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract, or impaired clotting. The final stage involves death due to multiple organ dysfunction syndromes within two weeks of initial viral infection. Local burial traditions in which the still infectious body comes into contact with susceptible individuals, healthcare workers with inappropriate protective clothing, and reuse of needles due to inadequate resources or universal precautions all

allow the spread and further contamination of the disease. The 2014 outbreak began with a two-year old child who died on December 6, 2013. As the disease spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone with suspected cases and deaths on the rise, the WHO declared the epidemic to be an international public health emergency urging the international community to collaborate in the aid effort. By mid-August, however, the situation was deteriorating rapidly with Ebola treatment centers shutting down in fear of personal harm, protestors attacking treatment centers in distrust of the government due to corruption, as well as thousands of citizens across Africa in quarantine without access to medicine or nourishment. Although the United Nations’ World Food Programme has been set to deliver rations, the considerable level of unpreparedness concerning the entire outbreak must be made apparent as well as changes be made to the approach of zoonotic disease outbreaks.

Veterinary Public Health Concerns

The WHO defines Veterinary Public Health (VPH) concerns as “the sum of all contributions to the physical, mental, and social well-being of humans through an understanding and application of veterinary science”. Between human health and animal health exists a close bond only strengthened when animals provide transportation, clothing, nourishment, as well as monetary value. Thus, veterinary medicine has long aimed to sustain the health standards of animals that thereby reflect the relative health of their human companions. Due to the presence and risk of zoonotic diseases, effective production of food derived from animals as well as many nutritional benefits have been stunted from the international trade market.

The main areas of veterinary

concern according to the WHO include: “diagnosis, surveillance, epidemiology, control, prevention and elimination of zoonoses, food protection, management of health aspects of laboratory animal facilities and diagnostic laboratories, biomedical research, health education, and production and control of biological products and medical devices.” Provisions must be made for domestic and wild animal populations and the transport of them across nations with minimal risk of disease transmission, for safe drinking water in developing and developed countries alike, as well as a clear and universally accepted public veterinary health emergency plan. Concerns in animal-assisted therapy and animal visitation programs for rabies, ringworm, and external parasitism must be addressed.

Challenges

Currently, zoonoses are not clearly mentioned in the Millennium Development Goals and are relegated to the status of “other diseases” with much focus diverted to HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis. The cycle of poverty sustains the threat to zoonotic epidemic diseases. Lack of access to governmental services, lack of resources, civil unrest, as well as political, social, and cultural upheaval have all increased the difficulty of organized group efforts to provide long-term help.

In addition to outside circumstances dictating the quality of care, inadequate surveillance and reports of clinical manifestations in which the disease is falsely recorded as a simple fever or in which the incidence of the disease is kept hidden in fear of stigmas or governmental intervention have caused additional challenges in the control of zoonoses. There is also an information gap pertaining to weighing treatment costs against productivity losses in the form of manual labor, and livestock; thus, there is not enough of an incentive for

intervention or enough fiscal planning to distribute resources as intelligently as possible. Additionally, many professionals have died while in contact with the zoonotic diseases they prevent against. For example, of the 240 health care givers infected with Ebola in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia, and Guinea, more than 120 have died.

Call to Action

By placing a focus on the animal reservoir of diseases, zoonotic diseases can be more easily contained. This containment would in turn decrease disease burden, reduce poverty, increase the food supply, and lead toward the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. To accomplish this goal, the WHO and other international agencies must work in conjunction over agricultural, health, and environmental policies at the national and international level, and though they already do so when a zoonotic disease such as Ebola breaks out, this multidisciplinary communication effort must be constant. Your duty is now to solve this global issue placed before you. Time is of the essence. Good luck.

Questions to Consider

- How might we increase the “importance” of zoonotic diseases (i.e. mention on Millennium Development Goals) in order to designate increased financial resources to them?
- Should there be a universally accepted emergency plan for the spread of zoonotic diseases?
- How can the WHO increase surveillance of these diseases to obtain more epidemiologic information? What kinds of information would the WHO gather?
- Can anything be done to ameliorate the cycle of poverty

that fosters the spread of zoonotic diseases?

- Can zoonotic diseases be dealt with as a single entity, or should the WHO make divisions among them?
- How can we increase the level of trust that individuals and their government have in the efficacy of zoonotic disease treatment options?
- What is the production loss in human and animal resources due to zoonotic diseases?
- Is there any way to stop the geographical spread of zoonotic diseases from in the way of more specific border checks?
- Should more resources be diverted into the research of zoonotic diseases such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease that have no cure?
- What concerns of zoonotic diseases are out of the hands of the WHO committee?

Sources

- <http://www.who.int/en/> - World Health Organization's main website
- <http://www.who.int/zoonoses/en/> - World Health Organization's Zoonoses website
- <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/Zoonoses/TableZoonoticDiseases/> - Table of Zoonotic Diseases and Organisms
- http://www.who.int/foodsafety/zoonoses/final_concept_note_Hanoi.pdf?ua=1 - FAO-OIE-WHO Collaboration
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1088493/pdf/TB010983.pdf> - Risk Factors for Human Disease Emergence
- <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0001706X00001790> - Article on Environmental

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Topic II: Infant Mortality

Infant mortality is defined as the death of a child under 1 year of age. It has always been a part of human history; however, due to technology that deals

with specific issues that research has found to cause infant mortality, infant mortality rates have been significantly reduced in most countries. While WHO is targeting child health, 73% of the deaths of children under five years of age occurred in the first year of life in 2012, qualifying them as infant deaths. This shows that pediatric health may be significantly increased around the world by the recent attempts to prevent infant deaths.

The highest rate of infant mortality occurred in the African WHO region with 63 deaths per 1000 live births. The European WHO region had 10 deaths per every 1000 live births. Over the last few decades, the number of infant deaths every year has globally decreased from 8.9 million deaths in 1990 to 4.8 million deaths in 2012. While this constitutes a nearly 50% decrease, there is still much to do.

Nearly half of the mothers and newborn babies of third world countries do not receive the proper care that is required of a birth. Nearly two-thirds of all these deaths can be prevented with simple treatments that are common in first-world countries, which is the reason that the World Health Organization agrees that a major aspect of increasing child health is providing "lifelong access to healthcare" with care that starts before childbirth and can be available throughout all communities and homes.

The World Health Organization's main goal being universal health coverage, building a resilient base of research is of the utmost importance and contributes to trials, case studies, and plans for further action. In order to provide the highest quality of care, the World Health Organization has taken enormous steps to methodically ask and answer questions with pertaining research. The importance of child health has warranted the identification of the most important

questions on this topic. The WHO has chosen to focus on research as results from these studies can lead to the provision of health services that are both accessible and affordable.

In relation to child health, the World Health Organization recently performed an observational case study in Bangladesh, Brazil, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The study consisted of 1,262 children in 265 government facilities. The purpose of the study, “Task shifting in the scale-up of interventions to improve child survival,” was to determine if the duration of the training undertaken by the caretakers of the children affected the quality of care provided. By comparing the performance of workers who had varied times of training, the WHO was able to find that task shifting did not affect the level of care given. It was concluded that switching from a few health workers with more training to many more workers with adequate training will improve health care systems and be effective in areas lacking proper resources.

As preventing infant deaths is such a universal problem that requires many delicate solutions, the World Health Organization has resolved the only solution will be to improve health systems worldwide. In 2000, the United Nations adopted a set of goals titled the Millennium Development Goals, which aim to decrease child and maternal deaths by 2015. Member States of the UN have set their own goals and established strategies to monitor conditions and reduce infant mortality.

The leading cause of child death globally is prematurity; after that, pneumonia, pre-term birth complications, noncommunicable diseases, diarrhea and malaria, and birth asphyxia are the major causes. Malnutrition has been linked to 45% of all child deaths. Providing proper care can prevent many infant deaths:

maintaining the health of the mother and child during pregnancy, a secure delivery by a skilled health worker, and postnatal care are all examples of necessary measures. Immediate care after the baby is born includes neonatal resuscitation, noting the baby’s weight and warmth, and initiating breastfeeding early. Exclusive breastfeeding for at least 6 months, swift immunization, using antibiotics appropriately, utilizing insecticides, and ensuring hydration can prevent an infant from dying. Other solutions include effective health interventions, improving practices and establishments that care for families, increasing access to clean water and sanitation, and having a system for responding immediately to emergencies.

Delegates, you are being called to intellectually discuss possible solutions to assist in the continued effort to resolve infant mortality. Good luck!

Questions to Consider

1. In lesser-developed countries, should WHO directly target infant mortality first or attempt to develop infrastructure that would indirectly reduce infant mortality rates but may take a longer time?
2. With the ever-increasing population, how should WHO, other organizations, and Member States allocate resources?
3. How much importance should be placed on this specific issue in terms of resources as there are so many other issues that lesser developed countries are facing?
4. How should WHO give all mothers an opportunity to receive proper care before, during, and after birthing despite the location?
5. How much research should be done before taking action as

- conditions are always changing and research requires resources?
6. As malnutrition and poverty have a profound impact on the health of infants, how should WHO attempt to overcome these obstacles?
 7. How should WHO assist those who are illiterate as they would not be able to read prescriptions among other important things?
 8. Should WHO provide quality care to a small group of people as opposed to adequate care and supplies to a larger group of people?
 9. In war-torn areas such as Syria, how should WHO prevent protect infants in addition to providing care to the infants and mothers?
 10. How much responsibility should individual nations be given in terms of providing infrastructure, giving aid, and monitoring progress?

List of Possible Sources

1. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs178/en/> This article is published by the World Health Organization and discusses the main causes of child mortality.
2. http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85761/2/9789240690837_eng.pdf?ua=1 Published by the World Health Organization, this is the World Health Report for 2013. It is well over 100 pages but contains information about research systems and case studies.
3. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs333/en/>. Again published by the World Health Organization, this article provides insight on the causes and prevention strategies for newborn mortalities.

4. http://www.who.int/gho/child_health/mortality/neonatal_infant/en/. This article provides data and a short summary for specifically infant mortalities.
5. http://www.who.int/gho/child_health/mortality/mortality_causes_region_text/en/. This article provides information on the organized data that shows the causes of child deaths from 2000-2012.

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Conference Logistics and Planning

Schedule of Events

Tentative schedule - subject to change

Friday, March 20th, 2015

4:00-6:00 P.M.	Registration	Lobby
6:00-6:30 P.M.	Opening Ceremonies	Auditorium
6:30-10:00 P.M.	Committee Session I	
	2015 Election of Aung Sang Suu Kyi	237
	Association of East Asian Nations	244
	Bandung Conference	238
	DISEC	124
	ECOSOC	Blackbox
	Environmental Committee	111
	European Union Parliament	230
	Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Brain Trust	319
	French National Convention	303
	International Court of Justice	234
	Iranian Constitutional Convention	313
	JCC - First Intifada, Israeli Government	203
	JCC - First Intifada, Palestinian Liberation Organization	200
	JCC - Iranian Hostage Crisis, American Government	206
	JCC - Iranian Hostage Crisis, Iranian Government	204
	Legal Committee	Commons
	Libyan General National Congress	336
	Lok Sabha	232
	Nigerian National Assembly	128
	Press Corps	123
	Saudi Aramco Board of Directors	126
	SPECPOL	Forum
	United Nations Security Council	243
	Weimar Government	209
	World Health Organization	312
7:30-8:00 P.M.	Sponsor Meeting	153 (Sponsor Lounge)

Saturday, March 21st, 2015

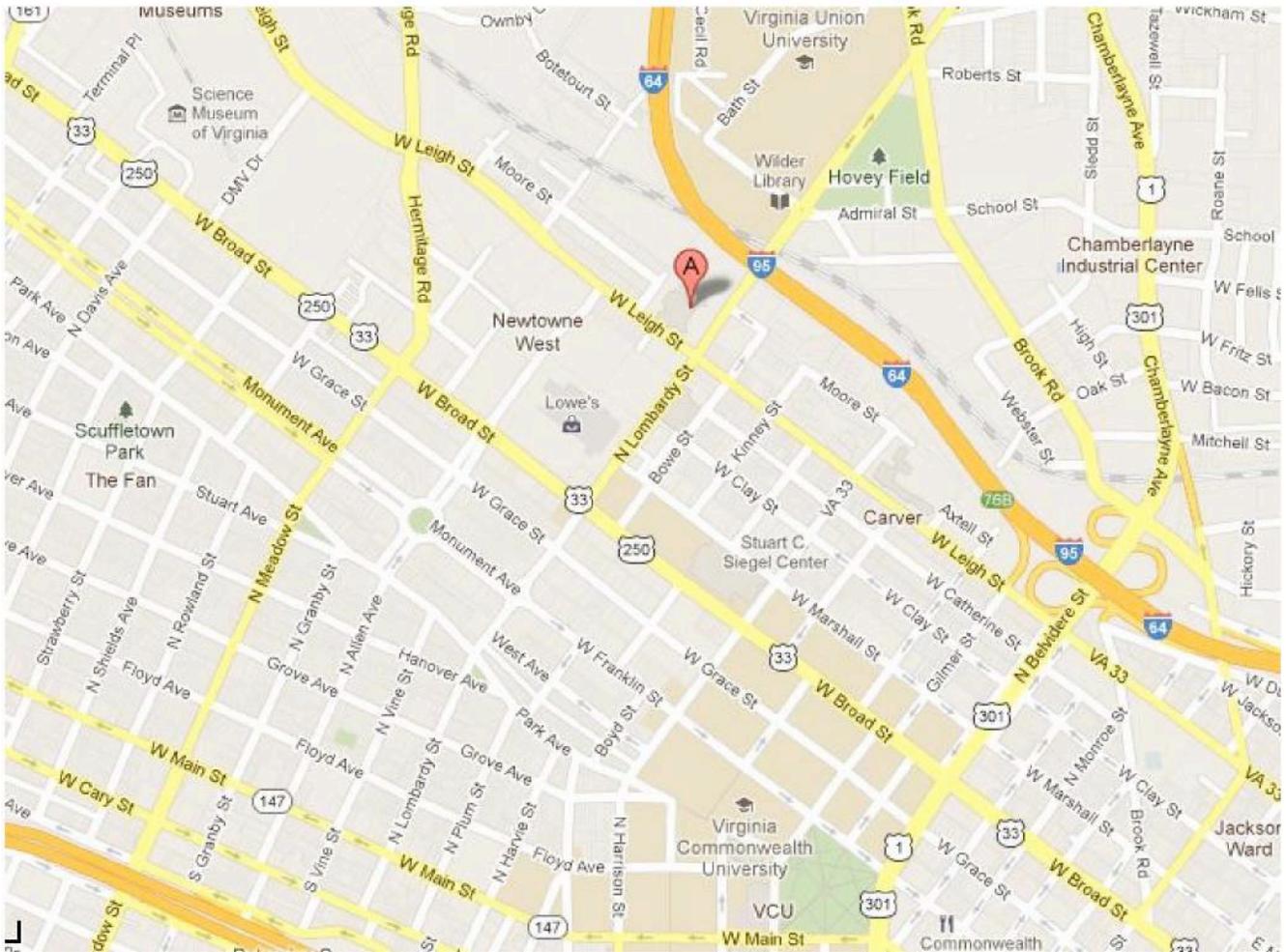
7:30-8:30 A.M.	Breakfast (Provided)	Cafeteria
8:30-9:00 A.M.	Charity Speaker - Ms. Ruchira Gupta	Auditorium
9:00-12:00 P.M.	Committee Session II	
11:30-12:45 P.M.	Lunch Shift A (Provided)	Cafeteria
11:45-12:45 P.M.	Shift B	Cafeteria
12:00-12:45 P.M.	Shift C	Cafeteria
1:00-2:00 P.M.	Keynote Speaker - Dr. Ben Bernanke	Auditorium
2:00-5:00 P.M.	Committee Session III	
3:30-4:00 P.M.	Sponsor Meeting	Sponsor Lounge
5:00-5:30 P.M.	Refreshment Break (Snack provided)	Cafeteria
5:30-6:00 P.M.	Closing Ceremonies	Auditorium

Conference Location

The conference is held at Maggie L. Walker Governor's School. The address is as follows:

1000 N. Lombardy Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Free parking will be available. Please use the Elizabeth Street entrance to the school.



Other Resources

GSMUN will provide all delegates with the Delegate Handbook on the 20th. This book will provide information on parliamentary procedure as well as some logistical aspects of the conference.

In an effort to keep in mind the health of the environment, the Secretariat has elected to entirely digitize the Sponsor Handbook for GSMUN XVIII. The staff of GSMUN will provide more succinct sponsor guides upon arrival at the conference.

Delegate training is available for all schools interested. This training is all-encompassing, instructing delegates how to write position papers and navigate the intricacies of parliamentary procedure. The sessions are led by student with at least 4 years of Model United Nations experience, including Secretariat members. Please email our Director-General, Tallie Hausser, at gsmun.dirgen@gmail.com noting your interest by February 28th.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.



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