

CIMUN VI

Chicago International Model United Nations
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Historical United Nations Security Council
Topic Briefings



Dear Delegates,

It is our distinct pleasure to welcome you to the sixth annual Chicago International Model United Nations. If this is your first time as a delegate at CIMUN, you will soon realize that this will be unlike any other conference that you have ever attended. All committees at CIMUN feature a fully-integrated crisis simulation, forcing delegates to think on their feet and work between multiple committees to solve challenging problems in a variety of forums.

From the General Assembly and Security Council to the Cabinets and Regional Bodies, all committees at CIMUN are vital participants in the crisis, and successful delegations will have to work as a team to coordinate their efforts to best promote their national interests, simulating the work of actual diplomats and politicians. As a result, this background guide and the committee topics you have been assigned are intended only as a starting point. It is much more important to be familiar with the “character” and vital interests of your country than to focus on specifics, as you will inevitably be placed in many situations where you will be forced to think outside of the box and make important decisions in real-time. To assist you with this challenge, we encourage you to take full advantage of our extensive Home Government and Simulations staff and the variety of other resources that will be available during the conference.

Additionally, CIMUN employs a much different philosophy that most other high school conferences. Instead of forcing delegates to work towards unrealistic compromises and pass “consensus” resolutions at any cost, we encourage you to faithfully represent your national interests and to always place your country’s strategic motivations, both public and covert, at the forefront, even if it means being confrontational. Our crisis has been specially designed to pit the interests of key players against each other in ways that will involve every country at the conference, and we strongly advise you to always keep your nation’s own interests in mind.

This year, our historical simulation will begin on September 20, 1980, set right in the heart of the Cold War. Though historical events up to that point will still apply, everything after the start date will be solely determined by your actions, so we encourage you to think freely and not be bound by the confines of history.

We will continue to post more specifics, updates, and research materials as the date of the conference approaches. Information on Position Papers and other requirements can be found on our website in the “Position Papers” section. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us or your committee dais. See you in December!

Sincerely,

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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Topic 1: Situation in the Persian Gulf

The international community has been witnessing the escalation of tensions arising in the Persian Gulf. Just a year ago, Iran became an Islamic Republic with the fall of Shah, and the reins of leadership seized by Ayatollah Khomeini. The declaration of an Islamic Republic on April 1, 1979 tested the geopolitics of the Persian Gulf.

The United States Embassy in Tehran was stormed, entailing the capture and holding of 53 American citizens. The hostage crisis that continues to ensue has caused an uproar of restraint against retaliatory action by Iran and the United States. The United Nations Security Council stressed that all diplomatic means should be utilized in resolving the crisis as stated in Resolution 457, passed on December 4, 1979.

Coinciding with the Iranian Islamic Revolution is the resignation of al-Bakr, former leader of Iraq's Ba'athist regime. As a result, the leadership was passed down to Saddam Hussein. This change of leadership has caused a drastic shift in Iraq's regards towards Iran. Saddam's accession has caused additional concern in the potential further qualms of the Persian Gulf.

In recent months, both Iraq and Iran have been increasing propaganda within their territories against one another. The Ayatollah sees Saddam's programs as too secular, while Saddam sees the Ayatollah as too Islamic. Thus, an ideological conflict is not only heightening tensions within the Persian Gulf, but is also taking a toll on the global economy. The 1973 oil crisis devastated the global economy with the high oil prices caused by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). During the crisis, Saddam had been a heavy proponent who spearheaded the rise in oil price. Although OPEC has weakened significantly after the crisis, disruption to the oil supply, especially in the Persian Gulf can affect the price of oil around the world. Thus, any conflict in the region will cause disruption in supply, resulting in a significant hurdle for the global economy.

Furthermore, neighboring countries, such as United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, should be kept in mind as the Security Council proceeds to prevent and resolve any crisis that may arise. It is important that these countries are involved, but is also imperative that their sovereignty is not violated in order to halt disaster in the Persian Gulf.

Bloc Positions

Western Bloc: Consisting of Western Europe and North America, this bloc views the instability in Persian Gulf with grave concern, fearing a potential repeat of the 1973 Oil Crisis and possible communist expansion. Also, the 55 American hostages being held in Iran are an utmost priority. It is recommended that diplomatic means are utilized, but if any action taken by parties residing in the Persian Gulf occurs, further retaliation may need to be taken.

Communist Bloc: Consisting of eastern bloc and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), this bloc views the Persian Gulf's rapid deterioration into conflict as an opportunity for communism to spread. The success of the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan has shown that there is a new front open to communism. The bloc will stress supporting diplomatic means, since any interference in oil supply in the Persian Gulf can take a significant toll on the bloc.

Non-alignment Movement: Since Iran and Iraq are part of the Non-alignment Movement (NAM), it is in the interest of all NAM members to make sure that the Persian Gulf resolves all its issues within the boundaries of NAM charter.

Selected Resources:

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"The Hostage Crisis in Iran." Jimmy Carter Library and Museum. Jimmy Carter Library & Museum, 6 Feb. 2006. Web. 01 Sept. 2009. <<http://www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov/documents/hostages.phtml>>.

Rizwan, Amer. "The Seoul Times." The Seoul Time. Seoul Time, 2 Sept. 2009. Web. 01 Sept. 2009. <<http://theseoultimes.com/ST/?url=/ST/db/read.php?idx=8621>>.

UN Security Council, comp. "Resolution 457 (1979)." United Nations. United Nations. Web. 1 Sept. 2009. <<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/370/75/IMG/NR037075.pdf?OpenElement>>.

Topic 2: Situation in Afghanistan

Afghanistan plays a vital role in the security of both South Asia and the Persian Gulf. It is situated on the border of Iran to the west, Pakistan to the east, and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) to the north. During the colonial periods, when India was under British rule, Afghanistan was invaded numerous times by the British with Sepoy divisions, but very little success was attained. These lessons have significant consequences; since many parties within the region recognize that once Afghanistan is in conflict, the neighboring regions are entailed in the conflict due to the geographic location mentioned earlier.

On December 24, 1979, USSR invaded Afghanistan, which caused the regime to change overnight. This invasion has caused the following repercussion that echo across the region: 1) increased tension in the immediate geographic region, 2) neighboring countries aiding differing parties in Afghanistan and 3) the involvement of the international community and foreign entities in the crisis. The United Nations (UN) Security Council has still not taken any action concerning the region, and the continuing instability that is taking place.

The Security Council needs to address the issue of security and peace in the region. The Security Council should keep in mind, that failing to respond may cause complaints with the United Nations, especially in the General Assembly. The Security Council needs to comprehend that no response may mean the awakening of conflict and future problems in Asia.

Bloc Positions

Western Bloc: Consisting of the Western Europe and North America, this bloc views the instability in Afghanistan was a threat to democracy, and the specifically to the untouched region of South Asia. The bloc will pursue any means that condemns the Soviet invasion and prevents further escalation of conflict, whether that be through sanctions or the use of peacekeeping forces.

Communist Bloc: Consisting of the Eastern bloc and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), this bloc views Afghanistan with a sense of vision and hope for the expansion of communist bloc in both South Asia and the Middle East. They wish to assert Afghanistan's as a legitimate regime and uphold its sovereignty in the Security Council.

Non-alignment Movement: Since the region falls under the NAM membership, India and Pakistan in particular wish to take further measures in preventing the spread of communism within their region since they believe that the invasion of Afghanistan violates the NAM Charter. Thus, Afghanistan's regime is not a legitimate one in their view. The other members wish to stick to the principle of condemning the invasion and possibly utilizing sanctions within the confines of United Nations resolutions.

Bibliography

"Security Council Resolutions 1980." Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World. Web. 01 Sept. 2009. <<http://www.un.org/documents/sc/res/1980/scres80.htm>>.

"The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan 1979-1989." Needham Schools. 2001. Web. 01 Sept. 2009. <http://nhs.needham.k12.ma.us//cur/Baker_00/2002-p4/baker_p4_12-01_mj_sz/#back>.