

BACKGROUND GUIDE FOR THE HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Committee Overview

The Historical Security Council acts as the Security Council but settled at a different time period. That is to say, it deals with breaches of international peace in the past. In this case, the year treated during this session is the year 1979. Consequently, all aspects of the MUN shall be restricted to this period, ranging from the evidence to the treaties the delegates use as a tool for their performance. The Security Council of the United Nations deals with the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council has fifteen members, five that are permanent and the rest that are temporal. The permanent members are the following countries: The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are the following countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Gabon, German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, Kuwait, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Tunisia, Zambia. The permanent members of the Security Council are wielded the right to veto a resolution, whilst the non-permanent members don't and only have the right to one vote. The right to veto means that if one of the P5 votes against the resolution, it does not pass by default. The competence and powers of the Security Council are limited by any matter regarding any breach to the peace of the world. Therefore, the council may take measures in anything that it deems it may threaten worldwide security. The Council may take the following measures to any dispute:

1. Call states to settle their quarrel by negotiation, inquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, etc
2. Complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.
3. Take action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

The Security Council is arguably the most influential organ of the United Nations since the world's safety relies on it. It is the responsibility of its members to act according to the purpose of the United Nations and leave aside any intrinsic motive of their political aim.

1. United Nations. "UN Charter." *United Nations*, United Nations, 2019, www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter.

The Iran Hostage Crisis

Date to be considered: November 4, 1979

The United States embassy in Tehran, Iran has been attacked by Iran's militant students. This is attributed to Jimmy Carter's decision to refuse Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi (for cancer treatment), the pro-Western shah that favored the British and American control over the oil in Iran. It is of ultimate importance to take into account the fact that the mentioned Shah had been strategically placed by the CIA and British Intelligence to depose anti-imperialist Muhammad

Mossadegh to secure their claim over the profitable reserves of Iranian oil. Moreover, Pahlavi took power over a coup, meaning that he never had the approval of the Iranian populace in the first place. Reza proved to be a brutal dictator that tortured and murdered his opposition while taking the country to economic mayhem. Consequently, the Iranian people revolted and brought Ayatollah Khomeini to power, a fierce anti-imperialist that desires to nationalize all industries in Iran to profit the people instead of the United States or the United Kingdom. Iranian radical students, noticing Carter's decision to refuge the Shah for cancer treatment, decide to enter the US embassy and take all staff members hostage. The leader of these students, Ayatollah, asks that the Shah is returned to be tried in Iranian soil for his crimes. Carter's presidency is threatened and the whole international community is awaiting his response. The Security Council, noting that this is, in fact, a breach of peace since it involves an attack against a fellow nation's soil, has the competence to act according to its powers (mentioned above already). Since the United States does not negotiate with terrorists, it will be a challenge to save dozens of American citizens under the will of Iranian radicals. If the US does not act with effectiveness, the lives of these people may end and the Carter administration will collapse, along with the reputation of the US.

Bibliography:

1. History.com Editors. "Iran Hostage Crisis." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 1 June 2010, www.history.com/topics/middle-east/iran-hostage-crisis. The source is excellent to comprehend the crisis. It provides a detailed outline of the entire crisis. Nonetheless, it may not be used during the model since it was made in 2010. Only sources until 1979 may be used during the model.

2. New York Times. "Iran Students Seize U.S. Embassy, Want the Shah Returned for Trial." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 4 Nov. 1979, archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/991104onthisday_big.html. This is an appropriate source to use during the model since it explains the facts and is relevant to the time that this simulation takes place in. It outlines the basic facts of the crisis as well as the demand made by the students.
3. O'Toole, Dan, and Jared Diamond. *1000 Events That Shaped the World*. National Geographic, 2013. This book explains what made the crisis spark. It illustrates the role the US and UK played before the crisis and how they contributed to it. This source may not be used during the model due to its year of creation.

The Situation in Nicaragua about the Sandinista uprising and the Contra US-led rebels

Date to be considered: July 4th, 1979

During the early 1900s, Nicaragua was ruled by the famous Liberal Zelaya dictatorship, which exploited a multitude of low-class workers in order to control and develop massive product commerce in the country (especially coffee exports). After the country's economic development started to gain some international reputation, the United States of America started to develop some inmates in the Nicaraguan legislation and commercial systems, as it offered a wide variety of strategic control over central America. The main reason why such interest was placed upon the Nicaraguan exportation system was due to the water commerce canal that could be used to further implement military routes into Latin America. As the US proposed such ideas to the Nicaraguan government, the Zelaya government (ruled by José Santos Zelaya) decided to grant the US some power over mining profits, banana plantations, wood material based products

and Nicaraguan local transport, but still refused to grant permission over the military use of the Interoceanic Canal that was supposed to be used for product exports only. As the United States started to be faced with international threats and conflicts, the nation started to view the Nicaraguan commerce canal as indispensable and key for future military attacks and navy placements worldwide. This is when, in 1909, the American forces invaded Nicaraguan territory, removing the Zelaya dictatorship by force. As the movement was successful, the United States placed a capitalist based government in Nicaragua, under the authority of conservative Adolfo Díaz Recinos, which granted the US absolute control over the Nicaraguan sovereignty through economic, political and social aspects of the country. In 1915, the Nicaraguan government agreed to sign off the *Chamorro Bryant Treaty*, which allowed the construction and military use of the Nicaraguan interoceanic canal under the American authority. The effects of such legislation can be seen as the US started to control every Nicaraguan exportation and product-based profit. The nation of Nicaragua also became absolutely dependant on the US economic systems and ideologies, as the 70% of Nicaraguan commerce was now being developed under the American government. In 1926, a massive division and conflict started to be noticed between the liberal and conservative parties, which caused a civil war between both political ideologies. As the US attempted to invade Nicaraguan territory, in order to assure their own political and economic interests, the popular low-class group of the country managed to dismiss the American forces, reassuring the Nicaraguan freedom from American ideals. *The Popular Sandinista Army*, which managed to resist foreign occupation, was lead by Augusto Nicolás Calderón Sandino, a low-class Nicaraguan activist that controlled the opposition towards the US intervention in the country. Sandino was allegedly killed by US forces in 1933, as the

liberal party once again gained control over the country. As the Roosevelt administration started to control Nicaragua once again, through the forced placement of Anastasio Somoza Debayle as president in 1936. The American influence was then maintained under a series of Somoza chosen dictatorships until his death in 1956. This causes Somoza's son, Luis Somoza Debayle, to be placed in power as he continues to grant immense power to the US through Nicaraguan resources. As a consequence, the unemployment rates start to rise and poverty begins to increase at an immense rate in the country. In 1961, many young politicians and government officials, inspired by the Cuban revolution, start to take part in the *Sandinista front of national revolution*, led by middle-class politician Carlos Alberto Fonseca Amador. The overall movement stays hidden until further preparations are developed in order to confront the violent American based dictatorship. During this time period (1963), the national revolution front begins to follow former Nicaraguan law student, Daniel Ortega. As the new elections start through the Somoza dictatorship, the revolutionaries gather in Nicaraguan *Roosevelt Street* in order to protest against the dictatorship. That's when, on January 22nd (1967), the Somoza officials are sent to control the conflict, resulting in a complete massacre, where 1,500 low-class revolutionaries are killed. The violent conflicts between Nicaraguan Sandinista supporters continue until 1972, when the country suffers a massive earthquake, leaving the country in ruins. The Zomosa forces take advantage of such a catastrophe by locating the Sandinista officials, which caused the assassination of revolutionary Fonseca in 1978. Such events cause the whole country to support the Sandinista liberation army which led to the bombing of low class neighborhoods in Nicaragua, killing 5,000 people, led by American and Zomosa forces. In 1979, Daniel Ortega creates the *National Patriot Front (NPF)*, a revolutionary association conformed by a variety of

anti Zomosa forces. As the conflict between the national guard (Zomosa's forces) and the NPF develops in Managua during July 4th (1979), many violent encounters start to be noticed between both sides of the conflict, resulting in a variety of human rights violations from both sides. During this time period, the UN has acknowledged the series of human rights violations caused by both parties, but has failed to come up with a conflict settling resolution. As the Security Council, some decision must be made in order to prevent further casualties due to the conflict, by reaching a pacific accord that includes both perspectives in regard to the future leadership establishment of Nicaragua.

Bibliography:

1. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Sandinista." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 8 Nov. 2016, www.britannica.com/topic/Sandinista.
2. Toussaint, Eric, and Nathan Legrand. "Nicaragua 1979-2019. History of the Sandinista Revolution." Global Research, 19 July 2019, www.globalresearch.ca/nicaragua-1979-2019-history-of-the-sandinista-revolution/5684056.
3. Hoyt, Katherine. "Nicaragua: Memories of the 1979 Final Offensive." NACLA, nacla.org/news/nicaragua-memories-1979-final-offensive.

The Situation in Southern Rhodesia

Date to be considered: 1888 - 1979

Since the year 1888, in the South African region, what is known as *Southern Rhodesia* stood as a British colony which was indispensable for the United Kingdom's economic

development and stability. As the British forces continued to have absolute control over the African territory, the majority of native citizens were exploited through rigorous work practices and mining methods. Still, almost every native citizen remained in a deplorable state of living, as the poverty rates began to increase during the early 1920's. As many violent conflicts started to occur during the year 1965, a group of subversive individuals present in the African Territory developed the *Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI)*, which declared the British territory as independent under the name of Southern Rhodesia. Many international conflicts started to spark, as the United Nations (and other international independent organizations) recognized such document as illegal. This led to the implementation of economic sanctions towards the new established Rhodesian government officials. Even though South Rhodesia received support from several African Regions and the nation of Portugal, the newly established independent territory remained as an unrecognized state for almost a decade, during which many violent attacks were held by British forces in order to suppress and take back the territory. The British economy started to drop, which caused the country to take desperate measures in order to take back its territory, causing a series of human rights violations against Rhodesian citizens. In the year 1979, the *Rhodesian Civil War* is at its peak, as the violent attacks from British supporters in Africa have been developed through American supported army forces. The United Nations has failed to reach a unanimous decision in regards to the conflict, as it has only incentivized dialogue between the British and Rhodesian citizens, but has failed to actually establish it through peaceful methods. As the Security Council, a proposed resolution should include methods of ending further casualties in the predetermined area, by also ensuring a balanced conclusion of the territorial disputes between the UK and Southern Rhodesia.

Bibliography:

1. “Peacekeeping or Peacemaking? The Commonwealth Monitoring Force, Southern Rhodesia-Zimbabwe, 1979–1980.” Taylor & Francis,
www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13533319408413524?journalCode=finp20.
2. United Nations. “Security Council Resolution 445 (1979) [Southern Rhodesia].”
Refworld, www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f168c.html.
3. Brailsford, Jack. “British Government Policy and Diplomacy in Southern Rhodesia, 1979-1980.” *SemanticScholar.org*, Dec. 2016,
pdfs.semanticscholar.org/de29/e0224e398922f08fbecb9a5a5c9b3875fbf1.pdf.