

Committee: Crisis Committee

Issue: The Age of Modern Colonisation

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Introduction

Crisis committees differ vastly from the General Assemblies and other specialized UN agencies; they are less formal, and in many ways, far more dynamic. The Crisis Committee of the SAIMUN 2018 is composed of 25 delegates, headed by two chairs and a crisis director responsible for facilitating the debate.

The Crisis committee is extremely versatile because debates are simulations of fictional scenarios as opposed to the debate on solutions to real life issues. Granted that the crisis is fictional, it has real life grounding; it's possible the scenarios may play out in the future and thus the engagement in the committee will enhance delegate's understanding of current international affairs and its forecasted implications.

Delegates of the crisis committee will have to be able to think and act very much 'on their feet'; crisis changes thus delegate's flexibility in response to such changes is demanded. The ultimate goal of a delegate in a crisis committee is not to be the most influential member of the committee; to be successful, delegates must contribute to committee's discussion, write directives, formulate potential solutions as well as engaged in their own crisis arcs. Delegates may strive to have their crisis arcs be the focus of the committee.

There is one major overlying theme for which the crisis committee will start off with, however, the situation will rapidly change due to the nature of the committee, where the storyline updates as debate progresses. Directives from delegates, press releases from the house, along with some plot twists peppered here and there by the director as well delegates create the narrative of the plot. The major overlying theme of the committee is introduced below:



Figure 1: An example of a historical representation of a colonisation

The Age of Modern Colonization

The concept of colonization is one that has been a prominent figure in shaping the historical socio-political and cultural landscape of human existence. Ever since the formation of the first human tribes 70,000 years ago, the idea of overtaking and ruling other tribes, communities or colonies has been present. Up until roughly 50 years ago, a large subset of the world was under colonization of a small sum of nations, such as the United Kingdom, Spain, the Netherlands, France, and Portugal amongst others, who controlled most of North & South America, Africa, Oceania as well as large chunks of Asia. However, with the financial instability of the colonizers due to the 2 world wars and the subsequent large streams of revolutions that globally took place, there is no full fledge nation that is currently under colonization, with only a few small islands remaining in the hands of these once world conquerors.

Having stated all of this, assassination of its totalitarian ruler has led to the near collapse of an unnamed nation. With a large amount of land, agricultural resources and a strategic placement, this nation has proven to be quite an attractive option for several countries, all of which are interested in colonizing it after it's demise. A world superpower ends up controlling the nation, leading to conflict and tension with other respective countries who felt they had the right to gaining this soon to dead sovereign state. More information on the matter won't be disclosed until the conference itself to leave a sense of surprise and excitement. How the debate progresses and what course of action is taken is dependent upon you, the delegates.

Structure

Debate Flow

1. A Press Release is announced by the Crisis Director; the crisis is introduced. Delegates may ask POIs to the Crisis Director, concerning the details of the crisis.
2. An unmoderated caucus is entertained. Delegates are allowed time to compose directives, communiqués, or press release. Any documents delegates wish to be present to the house should be approved by the chair before the unmoderated caucus elapsed.
3. A moderated caucus is entertained. Delegates discuss and debate the given directives, concerning documents, or the crisis in its entirety. Delegates introduce Directives and Communiqué to the house. Chair set an open debate time on directives, and concerning documents. A closed debate time is set for amendments.
4. Crisis director and delegates may release a crisis through the form of a Press Release that may or may not change the landscape of what is being debate. Depending on the implications of the press release, another unmoderated caucus can be entertained.
5. A finalized directive is voted upon, closing the debate of the crisis.

Note

Point of Privilege, Point of Order, Point of Inquiry are similarly applied as other committees.

Motion to Divide the House, Motion to Previous Question, and Motion to Extend POIs are also similarly allowed as other committees.

Directive, Press Release, and Communiqué are entertained and presented to the house under chair's discretion.

P5 members are present and their respective veto power applies. Veto can be used against any Directives and Communiqué. A P5 caucus is entertained when appropriate.

Documents

There is no usage of resolutions in the crisis committee; the working documents of the committee is specified below:

Directives

Instead of resolution, delegates in the Crisis Committee write, debate, and vote upon directives. These are the messages to the world dictating the intent of the Committee regarding the crisis.

Each directive consists of the actions and orders that the committee as a whole wants to take. Directives are written in resolution format, but are not expected to include detailed preambulatory clauses. Preambulatory clauses, however, can be incorporated to address the issue through providing historical and legal contexts.

While other GAs and committee give delegates only the power to suggest and recommend, Crisis Committees give delegates power to take action.

Example of Directive:

1. Condemns the Russian Federation for being the chief perpetrator of the plane crash over Northern Sweden according to the evidence presented by Turkey, the US and Canada;

2. Issues an ultimatum to the Russian Federation, demanding the following points to be acted upon:

- a. Conducting an investigation involving neutral parties to determine whether the plane crash was carried out under the orders of the armed force of the Russian Federation or its government,*
- b. Acquiescing the pilots responsible for the crash to the Kingdom of Sweden for trial on homicide and terrorism charges,*
- c. Accepting to be challenged by the families of the crash victims in a neutral court of law,*
- d. Complying to any decision made in these legal cases (e.g reparations for families);*

Communiqué

Communiqué are messages that delegates in a Crisis Committee can send on behalf of the entire committee to another country, organization, the Dais, or the external world.

Communiqué are used to facilitate dialogue, including but not limited to negotiations, threats, as well as requests for aid and support.

Communiqué should be as well worded as a directive. There is however much more emphasis on the linguist style as the tone of letter/communiqué can change the meaning of it and affect the intended effect of the Communiqué.

The difference between a directive and communiqué is that the directive takes specific action, whereas the communiqué is only used to pass on some information on.

Communiqué can be used to steer the plotline. Crisis can change in response to the Communiqué.

A communiqué must be voted on by the committee in order to pass and it is eligible to be vetoed.

Example of Communiqué:

Dear Mr. Philip Hammond,

It has come to our attention that British naval forces are currently forming a blockade across the mouth of the Mediterranean Sea, and blocking United States naval vessels. This is a threat to both our national security as well as economic security and we will not take it lightly. We expect full compensation for damages to trade, as well as full reversal of the blockade. In your capacity as the United Kingdom's Secretary of State of Defense, stop this nonsense or face consequences.

Sincerely,

The United States Cabinet

Note: The Communiqué here is released by the United States Cabinet not a UN Council.

Press release:

Press release is similar in style to a communiqué, however, it is not a message on behalf of the entire committee but a specific country or the crisis director. A press release is further addressed to the public and not a specific organization, country, or the Dais.

Press release is used by the Crisis Director to introduce crises. Delegates may use press release to announce actions that have been taken by their own respective countries such as but not limited to the call for a presidential or executive resignation, 500,000 troops sent to a specified country's border or to describe their respective countries' climate in response to the crisis such as an outbreak of a civil unrest.

The house takes in the information as they proceed with debate. Information introduced by Press Release can change the entire course or objective of the debate. For instance it won't be uncommon for countries to be allies before a press release and then find themselves opposed afterwards.

Press Release should be approved by the Crisis Director and the Chair before it can be presented to the house.

Press release does not have to be voted upon.

Example of Press Release:

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2017

The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland, expressed great displeasure towards the Canadian Plane Crash, which resulted in the death of the NATO Representative of Canada and 100 NATO staffs. As previous investigation pointed out that a Russian SU-24 (NATO Code Name: Fencer) was responsible for the plane crash, and Russian is the sole country to operate this model of aircraft in the Baltic Region, the Minister of Foreign Affairs demand Russian Federation's explanation on the event. Should no official statement from Russian Federation be made, Canada will resort to more extreme measures.

Note paper:

Note papers are used as a communication line between delegates, chairs, and crisis director. Queries can be made to the chair, crisis director, concerning the crisis. There is no difference in the way note paper is used in the crisis committee compared to other committee.

Amendment paper:

Amendment paper is used to make change and amendments to directives or communiqués. There is no difference in the way that it is used in the crisis committee compared to other committees with the exception that all amendments can be vetoed.

Preparation:

Delegates should briefly research on the history of the topic and the possible roots of the crisis concerning the topic. Granted the given topic overview is vague, delegates should be able to gauge and predict possible narrative planned out by the crisis director. Delegates should further be vigilant of current international affairs as this is indicative of the relationship between the delegate's country and others in the house; the understanding of the delegate's country's stance is as important as it is for other committees. Delegates, however, should be adaptable entering the committee, knowing that delegate's enemies and allies may change as the crisis unfolds. Notes will be sent out to delegates at the beginning

of the conference. The notes will entail the nation's involvement in the crisis and their ultimate goal as the debate progresses, acting as a launchpad for delegates in the committee.

Keys to Success:

Delegates' organisational skills and ability to think quickly on their feet are the keys to their success in the crisis committee. Organisational skills are extremely important as it is demanded of delegates to engage in the discussion, formulate potential solutions to the crisis, draw up directives, press releases, and communiqué simultaneously throughout the conference. Delegates should take precaution in isolating themselves from the crisis debate and paying too much time in developing their own crisis arcs through press releases; the debate's ultimate aim remains to resolve the overriding crisis presented by the crisis director. Agility in terms of thinking is further vital in ensuring delegates' success in the committee. Delegates will inevitably face instances where their ability to think on their feet is needed. When met with a crisis or an update that concern their countries, delegates should be quick to respond and propose a solution; any stalling in reaction is a sign of weakness.

Delegates should, however, fear not of the crisis committee; it promises an experience that likens to no other committee and will leave an unforgettable mark in delegates' MUN endeavour.