



Historical Security Council (1994) President's Letter

Lake Erie International Model United Nations

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CHAIRING STYLE

Greetings Delegates,

I would like to welcome all of you to Historical Security Council 1994. I am honored to be the committee president for the Lake Erie Conference. As delegates, I expect much from you. In the year 1994 there was many an important turn of events: One of the worst genocides in modern history, the first fair and open election in Apartheid South Africa, a series of crises in Palestine, the first of many dances with North Korea on nuclear development, another flair-up in the Balkans and first post-Soviet break-up conflict in Chechnya, among other issues. As you well know, the ramifications from these events still echo down the corridors of time to today; most are still unresolved. As a chair I, am quick to welcome a laugh and slow to except a discourtesy. You will be prepared not only as an exercise in literature but also prepared to offer ideas. This re-enactment takes us down the rabbit hole of what-ifs. We may use our hindsight to try and build a world better than what has been offered to us by the decision makers of yesteryear, at least theoretically. This should be a play land for the delegate with a practical imagination; use it.

I highly recommend two things for everyone coming into the HSC: 1. Have at least looked at a copy of one of the year-in-review books mentioned in the research letter. 2. Have a copy of the rules with you at all times. I cannot begin to tell you how important having a firm knowledge of the rules can be—it can make or break your performance. It is essential to stay on policy. Behave and dress like adults. As students, you're used to the social laxity of living in an environment of your peers. I don't care. In the world that confronts your future, the least people will ask of you is to be dressed and on-time. In this, I too, am only expecting the least of you. Finally, have fun. After the niceties of promptness and etiquette, those that are loved most are the ones that can turn a smile and turn a head.

As for my chairing style, I'm pretty relaxed. I want people to learn and so don't have a problem correcting improper use of procedure and misuse of facts...to a point. I also do the research and study the rules so that I make sure things run as smoothly as possible for you. I give you one warning. While we have the benefit of seeing our past we do not know the future - meaning that while we all know the truth of 1994, I am wily and full of mischief. Your decisions may alter the course of events as equally as I may choose to do so...for giggles. Time progresses linearly, though not evenly in this committee so you will be getting periodic current event updates as the conference passes on.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a bit of background as a first step to your research. As delegates in Historical Security Council, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to be well-researched, and well-prepared. I do hope that the information and resourced provided prove helpful.

When starting your research, there are two essential steps. First, access various chronicles or day-by-day type books. The reference section of any library would be a good place to start. *Facts on File* is one such resource to examine. Second, if it is possible, get your hands on a copy of the Yearbook of the United Nations for 1994. You should be able to access this book at most university libraries, or at a UN depository. This book is ESSENTIAL in knowing your policy and to have ideas of the pertinent topics of the year. You will also have the advantage of knowing where your fellow delegates stand on the issues. You can find a listing of UN depositories at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/deplib/countries/usa.htm>. These two sources will prove most useful in beginning your research.

Here are a few more guidelines for your information. Since this is the Historical Security Council, and the date we convene is 15 January 1994, ALL INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE GATHERED FROM AFTER THIS DATE DOES NOT EXIST, UNTIL WE MOVE FORWARD IN TIME, WHICH IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR. What you know about Rwanda, for example, today will not necessarily be helpful in council. You must keep this fact in the back of your mind as you prepare your research, as well as when you are participating in council. To be successful, you must have a strong knowledge of the topics, your policy, and the rules. Do not underestimate the importance of any of the facets. Your research must include all of these aspects. One last hint, you CANNOT rely solely on the Internet for research. While it is a useful tool, I would expect that most of your research will be done in a library. You would be doing yourself a great injustice if you do not refer to the sources provided.

Should you have any questions, further information on the evaluative process, rules of procedure, and conference policies can be found on our conference website, www.leimun.com.

Good luck,

Historical Security Council, 1994 President

THE TOPICS

Elections in South Africa

Apartheid as a state police of discrimination goes back as far as colonialism does in South Africa; however, as a practical policy, its roots go back to the election of 1948. Apartheid officially divided the people of South Africa into 4 groups (whites, colored or mixed raced, Asians and Native) where the rights of all the groups but the whites were limited or completely eliminated. Those of African heritage were completely deprived of their citizenship and given citizenship to one of 10 semi-autonomous states within South Africa. As citizens of a different state, white national leadership could then limit those people to the services provided by that state--vastly inferior to that provided by the South African state - mixed marriages and even sexual relations were treated as a criminal offense. All living conditions were segregated, as was education, career opportunities and more. The whole of South Africa had been divided amongst color lines. Such deeply institutional racism had sparked series of revolts over history, and a long standing embargo of the South African state. Boycotts forced some reforms in South Africa through the 1980s, and by 1990, true negotiations to end Apartheid had begun between white nationalist parties and African ones. With a radical change of government on the horizon, historically disenfranchised African political parties began to struggle for positions of importance, leading to periodic violence both between whites and Africans and African groups. The election took place on April 27, 1994, with the African National Congress, led by Nelson Mandela, winning 62% of the votes for the National Assembly. The United Nations had a mission to South Africa at the time to coordinate electoral observers, and may also have decisions to make in terms of ending the embargo of arms to South Africa and their re-inclusion to the United Nations, from which they had been removed since 1974.

Questions

- What is your country's position on Apartheid?
- What (if any) action should be taken by the UN?
- Does your country support transition?
- What measures could be taken to lessen violence surrounding the upcoming elections?

Resources

- Obtaining speeches made by your delegation from a UN depository
- Security Council Resolutions on the matter: <http://www.un.org/Docs/scres/1994/scres94.htm>
- South Africa under apartheid:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa_under_apartheid#Final_years_of_apartheid
- South African general Election:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_general_election,_1994
- Negotiations to End Apartheid:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Negotiations_to_end_apartheid_in_South_Africa
- O'Meara, Dan. *Forty Lost Years : The National Party and the Politics of the South African State, 1948–1994*. Athens: [Ohio University Press](#), 1996.
- Terreblanche, S. *A History of Inequality in South Africa, 1652–2002*. University of Natal Press, 2003.

Humanitarian Crisis in Rwanda

The events in Rwanda in 1994 stand as the worst instance of genocide in modern History. Fueled by generations of ethnic division, colonial abuse and post-colonial warfare and violence, the civil war and the genocide grew so out of control as to result in the death of as many as 1 in 5 Rwandans. The history goes back to the pre-colonial epoch, when a minority Tutsi monarchy had controlled a majority Hutu Rwanda. That monarchy remained in power during the colonial period under the Germans and Belgians and was co-opted in many instances of colonial violence, and in fact institutes a system of nominal slavery to the Hutu peoples all on their own. As the colonial epoch wound down, so did the Tutsi power structure, and the Hutu took control of government in 1962, persecuting and banishing much of the Tutsi political class. By the 1980s, the Tutsi diaspora had organized themselves and participated in the Ugandan Bush War, only to turn around their success and allies from that into a new invasion of Rwanda. In August of 1993 a ceasefire was declared, and talks resulted in a plan for transitional government including both Hutu and Tutsi political parties. At the last stage in the accords, however, both the militant Hutu party and the Tutsi rebels disavowed the agreement at the last minute, and a UN peacekeeping force (UNAMR) was sent with 2,500 troops to maintain the ceasefire. All the while, the national Hutu militia, the Interhamwe, organized and prepared for a genocide, arming themselves sometimes with guns but mostly with machetes. By January 11th of 1994, UN forces became aware of the Interhamwe's plans and even an attempt to spark violence. On April 6th, the Rwandan Hutu president's plane was shot down with many of his senior staff on board. The next day, the Rwandan Armed Forces attacked the Prime Minister with an escort of UN soldiers, killed her and ten Belgian UN soldiers, and made the rest prisoners. With the transitional government now effectively destroyed, the Rwandan armed forces and Interhamwe began a systemic system of genocide against all Tutsis.

UNAMIR was more or less powerless to stop it, being understaffed and sent with a mandate of self-defense only. The Belgians, who made up the bulk of the force, became discouraged with the Security Council's lack of action and their own high casualties, withdrew from the mission, and the Security Council downgraded the mission to 270 men. In June, a Security Council resolution allowed a French force to occupy Southwest Rwanda, largely after the genocides had been completed, to quell violence and create an area of safe transport for refugees. Shortly after the initiation of violence, the Tutsi led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) re-invaded Rwanda from Uganda. and by July 4th had capture the capital. By July 17th, they had defeated the Rwandan armed forces, effectively stopping the genocide. Approximately 2 million Hutus had taken part in the genocide and out of fear of reprisals, immediately began to flee for Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda, often through the French controlled safe zone. Not until after the RPF victory did UNAMIR get returned to fully staffed levels.

Questions

- What is your country's willingness to take part in UNAMIR? the peace talks?
- What (if any) action should be taken by the UN to maintain peace?
- How involved should the UN get in a domestic dispute?
- How should the UN best handle the massive refugee problems?

Resources

- Obtaining speeches made by your delegation from a UN depository
- Security Council Resolutions on the matter: <http://www.un.org/Docs/scres/1994/scres94.htm>
- Rwandan Genocide: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rwandan_Genocide
- Build up to genocide: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial_events_of_the_Rwandan_Genocide
- French Commission on Rwanda: <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dossiers/rwanda/rapport.asp>
- Voices of Rwanda: <http://voicesofrwanda.org/>
- International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda: <http://www.unictr.org/>

Ongoing Crisis in Palestine

Pick a year in the decades since 1948, and it is difficult to find one without some crisis in Palestine. Its history is well known and often debated and so I will not go to heftily into the details here, so much as I will summarize the continuity of crises that happened in 1994. We are now in the gap between the First and the Second Intifada, after the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991, which was the first true international peace conference to address the issue and resulted in the Oslo Accords, a series of ongoing negotiations between both sides lasting until August of 1993. Within those, the Palestinians had tentatively agreed to reject violence and recognize Israel, and Israel agreed to recognize the PLO as representative of the Palestinian people, allowing for the return of Yasser Arafat to Palestine. Israel agrees also to begin the process of slow removal from the Occupied Territories to allow for some Palestinian self-rule. Nothing in Palestine is easy, however. On February 25th, a little known Jewish physician opens fire on a group of worshipping Palestinian Muslims, killing 25, which garners a reprisal suicide bombing from Hamas in April. In May, Israeli forces withdraw from Jericho and Gaza, allowing Arafat to return to much fanfare. He heads the new Palestinian National Authority. In October, Hamas carries out another suicide attack, killing 22 on a bus, and in December, in what many consider to be the most ironic giving of the award in history, Yasser Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres are granted the Nobel Peace Prize for the Oslo Accords.

Questions

- Does your country support a side?
- What action should be taken to ensure peaceful execution of the Oslo Accords?
- What should be the Security Council reaction to terrorism carried out by groups not a party to the Oslo Accord?
- How should the Council treat Israel in its new peace-oriented direction?

Resources

- Obtaining speeches made by your delegation from a UN depository
- Security Council Resolutions on the matter:
<http://www.un.org/Docs/scres/1994/scres94.htm>
- History of the conflict: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-Palestinian_conflict
- Oslo Accords: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_Accords
- Eran, Oded. "Arab-Israel Peacemaking." *The Continuum Political Encyclopedia of the Middle East*. Ed. [Avraham Sela](#). New York: Continuum, 2002.
- Declaration of Principles on Interim Self Government Arrangements:
<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/dop.html>

Other Topics You May Wish to Consider

- Ongoing Mission in Cyprus
- Croatian War of Independence
- Bosnian War
- Russian occupation of Chechnya
- Withdrawal from Somalia
- North Korean Nuclear Weapons Programs

These topics are just ideas to help you get your research started. This list is by no means exhaustive. There are many other issues a delegate may wish to address in session, so be prepared to discuss other significant topics that are not specifically listed above. Anything that occurred in 1994 is fair game! The amount of research and knowledge you amass will have a significant impact on your success. I would also suggest looking into articles in the *New York Times* (or similar papers), as well as older issues of *A Global Agenda* for the individual topics. The UN website can also provide you with information. Overall, you have a lot of work ahead of you, and I am sure you are capable of it as educated young adults. I look forward to seeing you soon, and remember to have fun with all this!

Good Luck and Happy Hunting!