



HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lake Erie International Model United Nations

**Northcoast High School Conference XXXI
March 30 - April 1, 2010**

CHAIRING STYLE

Welcome to the Lake Erie International Model United Nations Corporation's Northcoast Conference XXXI. I am the President of the Security Council of the United Nations. I will not dwell on myself here, other than to say that I have extensive experience with Model United Nations conferences, both as a delegate as well as throughout my time at college. The main point of this letter is to let you get a glimpse at my chairing style. This will allow you to know what I expect of you, what you can expect of me, and how to get an excellent or superior score when all is said and done.

The first thing to know about me as a chair is that I am very strict about adherence to the Rules of Procedure. Please know that I am not strict to be mean. Rather, I have found that a committee that knows their rules well and has them enforced by the dais runs much smoother and has more delegate participation than one where the chairs are lax. In addition, learning and applying the rules is a part of the learning experience that I hope each of you will take from the conference. You should also remember that each conference has its own rules that, while often quite similar, do have subtle differences. Please take the time to learn the LEIMUN rules well.

As far as debate goes, I am very hands-off. I believe that it is the role of the chairs to facilitate and evaluate debate, not to control it. As delegates to the Security Council, you will control the direction debate takes. This is your council. I will only intervene in the business of the council when dictated by the Rules of Procedure.

Another thing to remember is that I am not here to do your research for you. As I said above, I am here to facilitate and evaluate debate. This means that it is impossible for me to answer individual questions about countries' policy positions. The background guides for the topics are good resources for you to begin your research, but they cannot be the extent of it. While I have researched the positions of the members of the Security Council and have a fair understanding of the topics to be discussed, the burden of work is on you. Remember that what you will get out of this conference is determined by what you put into it. If you do your research and know your country, this will be one of the most enjoyable and rewarding few days of your life. If you don't do your research, you will sit bored in committee for three days wishing you had. I've been in both situations, so I speak from experience.

As delegates to the Security Council, you should be prepared to meet the following guidelines:

1. Substantial research should be conducted concerning the Security Council (as it existed in 1961), the topics in the background guides, and especially your individual country

(including history, government, resources, allies and enemies, and foreign policy). I know from my own experience as a delegate that there is enormous pressure to compromise in order to pass a resolution. However, you should remember that the most points are awarded for portrayal of country. I see nations compromise their core principles far too often in the interest of passing a resolution, and it heavily affects their portrayal of country score.

2. Be aware of events outside of those discussed in the topic paper below. Remember that the agenda of the Security Council is open, and thus any topic concerning international security may be discussed. You should endeavor to learn as much as possible about the global security situation and any and all flashpoints in our time (meaning 1961). While I am more inclined to be lenient on *minor* policy slip-ups if the council does choose to discuss matters not in the background guides, I will look favorably upon those nations who are prepared.
3. **Know the Rules of Procedure** and know how to use them. Failure to know and use the rules properly will cause delegations to receive lower evaluations.
4. Know the Conference Handbook and the Conference Policies therein. Failure to adhere to these policies will cause delegations to receive lower evaluations.
5. ***Come to the conference prepared. Arrive at each session on time. Be ready to debate at the beginning, middle, and end of each and every session.*** There is nothing more frustrating and heartbreaking as a chair than seeing an excellent delegation *just* miss getting an award because they initially were too timid to involve themselves in debate or caucusing or, even worse, lost energy and trailed off at the end.
6. Remember that you are simulating your nation's permanent representative to the United Nations and act with the level of poise and professionalism befitting that position. Treat one another, as well as the conference staff, with respect and common courtesy.
7. Learn from and teach one another.
8. ***Have Fun!!!***

More detailed information on the evaluative process, rules of procedure, and conference policies can be found on our conference website, www.leimun.com. I encourage all of you to visit.

COMMITTEE STYLE

Because of the unique nature of this council, I feel it is only fair to provide a little more detail about the mechanics of the council than is normally included in a president's letter. First, and most obviously, you will notice that our council consists of only 11 members. As you may know, this was the case of all Security Councils until an amendment was made to the Charter of the United Nations in 1965. As a direct result of our limited membership, **there is a much greater responsibility on each of you to contribute to the council.** I refer you on this point to Article 13 Clause 4 of the LEIMUN Rules of Procedure. This also means that the majority required to pass any procedural or substantive motion is seven instead of the nine stated in the LEIMUN Rules of Procedure.

In the first session, our council will begin as though the date is January 1, 1961 (or, more precisely, January 2, since the first was a Sunday). Periodically, the council will receive news briefs from the chair. These will serve two purposes. First, they will move the council along in time as we progress through the year 1961. Second, they will bring new important events happening around the world to the council's attention.

On this point, it is important to note that the information contained in the “Topics” section of this letter includes information only up to the start of our council simulation. It contains topics that directly affected the United Nations in 1960 and which had not been resolved by 1961. It does not contain any topics new in 1961, nor does it update any existing topics after the New Year. Those updates will be provided to the council by way of the news briefings described above. However, the council should note that these news briefings will mirror very closely the way events actually unfolded in the “real world,” so I would strongly encourage all nations to gaze into their crystal balls in order to divine the events of 1961 (or use the resources suggested in this letter, whichever you find easiest).

Remember that this simulation takes place at the height of the Cold War between the capitalist states of the West and the communist states of the East. John F. Kennedy has just been elected President of the United States, and Nikita Khrushchev, as Premier of the Soviet Union, adamantly asserted his position on the Security Council with his shoe only two months ago. Most events in the world, and most intergovernmental relations, should be examined through the lens of these two separate camps.

THE TOPICS

*As a prelude to the topics section, I would remind the council once again that the agenda of the Security Council is open, and that any topic relevant to international peace and security can be discussed. Relevant topics will be brought up in the news briefs that the council may wish to discuss that are not listed below, as they have not happened yet. While you should do ample research on the topics presented below, your research should be broadened to include the major events of 1961 as well.

The Congo Crisis

Perhaps the most difficult challenge facing the United Nations at the present time is the ongoing crisis in the Congo. Last January, Belgium decided that it would grant independence to its African colony along the Congo River. On June 30, the colony became independent under the name Democratic Republic of the Congo. Joseph Kasavubu was elected President and Patrice Lumumba was selected to be Prime Minister.¹ Moïse Tshombe, who had been elected president of the Katanga province in the southeastern Congo, declared his province to be an independent state on July 21.² This move was backed by the Belgian government, who moved in troops to protect Belgian citizens and mining interests. Tshombe appealed to the United Nations to send a peacekeeping force to Katanga, which was approved on August 9. The continuing unrest led President Kasavubu to remove Lumumba from office on September 5. Lumumba was later arrested on December 1, and is currently being held by Congolese authorities.

Your research on this topic should be fairly in-depth, as this is a major topic that the council will likely be discussing. You should examine the roots of the problem, especially the atrocities committed by the Belgians during their rule. Your research should also include the background of the leaders involved in the conflict, including Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, President Joseph Kasavubu, Colonel Joseph Mobutu, and Moïse Tshombe. It should also include the

¹ “Timeline: Democratic Republic of the Congo”. *BBC News*. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1072684.stm>. (December 21, 2009).

² “Historical Events for the Year 1960”. *Historyorb.com*. <http://www.historyorb.com/events/date/1960>. (December 21, 2009).

secession of Katanga and Kasai, and the reasons for these moves.

Some questions for you to consider are:

- 1) Which leader has a legitimate claim to control of the Congolese government?
- 2) Should the United Nations involve itself in internal disputes between leaders of a nation?
- 3) What role, if any, should Belgium have in resolving this crisis?
- 4) What role, if any, should the United Nations have in resolving this crisis?
- 5) Should the United Nations work with secessionist governments in the interest of peace and promoting the principle of self-determination or discourage such governments in the interest of stability and promoting the territorial integrity of member states?
- 6) What mandate should United Nations peacekeepers in the Congo have?
- 7) Congo has applied for membership to the United Nations. What conditions, if any, should be met before it is permitted to join?

In addition to the resources cited above, you may also wish to examine:

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1O48-Congocrisis.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cg.html>

[http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/32/IMG/NR015732.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/32/IMG/NR015732.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/32/IMG/NR015732.pdf?OpenElement)

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[http://daccess-dds-](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/35/IMG/NR015735.pdf?OpenElement)

[ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/35/IMG/NR015735.pdf?OpenElement](http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/35/IMG/NR015735.pdf?OpenElement)

The Soviet Union, the Secretary-General, and the UN

The events surrounding the ongoing crisis in the Congo have led the Soviet Union to openly criticize the leadership of the United Nations, specifically Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. This conflict is best articulated in the speech delivered by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev to the plenary session of the General Assembly on October 3 of this past year. In his speech, he very vocally attacked Secretary-General Hammarskjöld. I would encourage each of you to read the full text of his speech.³

The Soviet Union has also questioned the legitimacy of the United Nations itself. Khrushchev declared to the world that if the United Nations passed any resolutions which it believed to be incompatible with its interests, the Soviet Union would simply ignore them and would “uphold our interests outside [the United Nations], by relying on our own strength.”⁴ He has frequently

³ *United Nations General Assembly Official Records*. 1960. 15th session., 882 plenary meeting. <http://weblog.leidenuniv.nl/media/blogs/76039/1948/NL600003%5B1%5D.pdf>. (December 20, 2009)

⁴ Dallin, Alexander. “The Soviet View of the United Nations”. *International Organization*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Winter 1962), 33.

referred to the United Nations as a tool of the “colonialists,” an expression he uses often to refer to the Western Powers. As the new year begins, the Soviet Union has not let up its criticisms of the UN or of Secretary-General Hammarskjöld.

Some questions for you to consider are:

- 1) Does your state believe that the leadership of the United Nations is adequate?
- 2) Does your state support a change in the leadership of the United Nations?
- 3) Can the United Nations continue to function if one of its most powerful members denounces its legitimacy?
- 4) Should one member state acting unilaterally be able to force a change in the leadership of the organization?

In addition to Premier Khrushchev’s speech and the journal cited in the summary above, you may also wish to examine:

<http://invisiblecollege weblog.leidenuniv.nl/2007/08/07/hammarskjold-s-grave-and-legacy-part-i-c>
<http://www.un.org/sg/hammarskjold.shtml>
<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/dag/index.html>

The Cuban Question

The Cuban Revolution, which succeeded in establishing the first communist regime in the Western Hemisphere in 1959, has been a great concern to the United States. Tensions have increased between the two nations throughout 1960. In June and July, Cuba nationalized the major oil refineries owned by Texaco, Esso, and Shell. This prompted the US to cut off sugar imports from Cuba. In October, the United States imposed an economic embargo on Cuba, covering everything except food and medicine. Cuba responded by nationalizing all property owned by US interests.⁵ All of this has led to increasingly strained tensions between Cuba and the United States. With relations between the Soviet Union becoming increasingly close, any action taken against the Castro Regime has the potential to create a situation that could bring the United States and Soviet Union into direct conflict.

Some questions for you to consider are:

- 1) What is your government’s belief about the right of states to decide which form of government to utilize?
- 2) Should one leader be able to make the decisions about what form of government to utilize for an entire country?
- 3) What role, if any, should the United States and Soviet Union be allowed to play in convincing states which government to utilize?

⁵ Sierra, J.A. “Timetable History of Cuba After the Revolution”. *historyofcuba.com*.
<http://www.historyofcuba.com/history/time/timetbl4.htm>. (December 21, 2009).

In addition to the timetable cited below, you may also wish to examine:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cu.html>
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/157/33/IMG/NR015733.pdf?OpenElement>

The Status of West Berlin

The enclave of West Berlin deep within the German Democratic Republic has long been a point of serious contention between East and West. Despite the failure of its blockade of the city in 1948 that resulted in the Berlin Airlift, the Soviet Union and its East German ally remain committed to extricating the West from Berlin. In November 1958, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev issued an ultimatum to the West to remove their forces from Berlin within six months, after which time the Soviet Union would turn over control of all communications and transport corridors into and out of West Berlin to the East German government.⁶ The Western Allies stood firm and the threat was never carried out, but tensions remain high as both sides continue to increase troop deployments to the two Germanys.

Eastern Europe, and the German Democratic Republic in particular, is also experiencing a problem of population loss. Many East Germans have moved to the Federal Republic of Germany in recent years, and this exodus shows no signs of ending. The government of the German Democratic Republic now finds itself facing labor shortages as more and more of the younger generation flee the country. Attempts by the Soviet and East German governments to limit this migration have been unsuccessful.

Some questions for you to consider are:

- 1) What, if anything, can the government of the Democratic Republic of Germany do to limit the emigration of its citizens?
- 2) If the principle of a state's sovereignty over its borders comes into conflict with the individual right of freedom of movement, which principle should be dominant?
- 3) What role, if any, should the United Nations play in mediating disputes between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic, and, by proxy, between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union?

Research

When doing research for this council, there are a couple of things to remember. First, while the internet can be a good resource, it can also contain false information. In particular, Wikipedia, while often useful as a jumping-off point for further research, is not an academic source and should not be considered reliable. Other websites may or may not contain good information. When evaluating these sites for credibility, you should look for citations to primary documents. It is also useful to look for an "About us" section on the web site, where you can judge whether the authors are reliable.

⁶ "Berlin Crisis". *GlobalSecurity.org*. <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/berlin.htm>. (December 21, 2009).

I would encourage each of you to review the 1961 and 1962 *World Almanac and Book of Facts* to find more detail on the important events of 1960 and 1961 (remember that published almanacs contain information from the preceding year). These can usually be found at public libraries. There are also day-by-day books available, which will give detailed information on the events of each day in a certain time frame.

Wherever possible, it is best to use primary source documents in your research. The United Nations website, www.un.org, is one of the best ways to get information. You should examine especially the resolutions passed by the Security Council, both in the years we are examining and all resolutions passed on the topics we will be examining.

I would also encourage the use of newspaper archives. *The New York Times*, *The Times* of London, *The New Republic*, and the various wire services (Associated Press, Reuters, etc.) usually have articles that can be accessed online.

Academic journals are also excellent sources of information. Since they are peer reviewed, they almost always contain reliable information. Some journals you may wish to consider are *International Affairs*, *International Organization*, *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *World Politics*, and any others that you can find. These journals can be accessed through online databases, and can also be found at most university libraries and some public libraries.

That's everything from me. Good luck in your researching, and I look forward to serving as your President in March.