

HISTORICAL CRISIS CABINET

Time for Opening Speech: 90 seconds.

By: Santiago Rodriguez

For the thirteenth version of TSMUN, the historical crisis cabinet will use the rotating delegation system used last year. Delegates will receive their delegation at the beginning of each debate session, as the delegations will be different for every topic. For topic 3, the Star Wars program, delegations will be part of the United States senate, representing American senators, institutions and scientists, with representatives of relevant countries such as China, the United Kingdom, and France. Delegates will have a 20 minute preparation time after receiving their delegations, where they will have to write a short opening speech and prepare their interventions. Furthermore, all traditional motions will be considered including those concerning the working papers, which will be performed for all topics. Debate will follow the directive system, which will allow delegates to perform a broad array of actions which provide dynamism to the debate. Directives are concrete actions, either public or secret, which can determine the outcome of historical events.

There are two types of directives:

-Public directives, which must be signed by 3 other delegations in order for them to be considered by the chair. These actions become public knowledge of the committee and will be read upon approval by the chair. The public directives will become facts and must be considered by the delegates on further debates. The following is a public directive written by the pro SDI block during debate concerning the implementation of the Star Wars program:

"POTUS Ronal Reagan, Robert McFarlane, Office of management and budget representative, Representative of the people's republic of china.

Following the principles of peaceful deterrence of nuclear threats, the Chinese government, in accordance with the office of management and budget, and under authorization of executive order by Ronal Reagan, the budget for scientific investigation for a the SDI has been doubled, seeking to achieve the necessary technological advances for its implementation"

-Secret directives, which do not have to be signed by any other delegation, involve strategic, secretive actions which provide

an advantage to the delegation who writes the directive. If the chair considers it pertinent, this information will be part of the crisis periodically emitted by the chair. The next is an example of a secret directive written by the delegation of the United Kingdom.

"United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

British secret service troops infiltrates Soviet battalions stationed in the Afghan border, as a result of the military move disclosed by the crisis"

Directives can be written at any time, and the chair will consider them in the order that they are delivered. Floor secretaries will be responsible of distributing the directives across the committee. The crisis that the chair releases will be based on the directives approved by the chair. If a directive is not approved, the delegation will be informed.

Topic 1: Implementation of the special regime on the inner German border. (1952)

The inner German border refers to the frontier between the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) and the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany). It is not to be understood as part of the

Berlin Wall, as the inner German border was established in 1949, while the Berlin Wall, which separated East and West Berlin was established later, from 1961 to 1989. Both the Berlin Wall and the Inner German border became a physical representations of the iron curtain, a term popularized by Winston Churchill after the Second World War. Following the resolution of the conflict, relationships between the soviet union and the western allies began to deteriorate. The Soviet Union sought to acquire buffer territory against Nazi Germany, achieved through the presence of pro-soviet states between the USSR and the west. During the Yalta and Postdam conferences, Joseph Stalin's intentions hampered relations between the USSR and the allies, as collective opposition to soviet influence over the buffer states sparked in the west.

Territorial repartition further accentuated western distrust. Territories belonging to Finland, Romania, Poland, the balkans, and of course, Germany, were assigned to the Soviet Union. Despite Stalin's promises regarding assured respect to the right of national self-determination, the west remained uneasy, given that increased soviet influence over different European states could represent a mayor threat if the US returned to its



isolationism policy employed previous to the Second World War. Seeking economical re stabilization of Europe, on 1947 the now Secretary of State George Marshal announced a program of US assistance to all European countries which would seek to receive it, including the Soviet Union and other Eastern European nations. Stalin prohibited any Soviet countries from accepting any sort of Marshal Plan aid, further deteriorating Soviet-western relations.

A complicated issue regarding territorial repartition was Germany itself. During the Postdam conference, the objectives of demilitarization, denazification, democratization and decentralization of the German occupied territories were defined. Besides defining territorial repartition using the inner German border and the zonal division of Berlin, the Postdam agreement further enforced a reduction of German industrial potential relegating economic activity to agricultural and light industrial production. Any sort of German military infrastructure, or industrial activities with military potential, was dismantled as a method to neutralize future warlike threats even if it was civilian property. Furthermore, the agreement stated that German populations present in former



Nazi occupied territories had to return to the newly delimited German territories.

Following the agreement, traffic between occupied territories was strictly regulated by the allies, seeking to regulate immigration and the possible escape of Nazi officials. However, western allies progressively reduced the intensity of these controls, in preparation to the implementation of the bizonie, trizonie and the posterior creation of a unified western Germany. On the contrary, soviet control increased, given that massive emigration towards the west proved a risk for the soviet occupied territories. The inner German border separated the country in two, marking the territorial separation of Western and Soviet occupied zones of former Nazi Germany. However Berlin was on the Soviet side of the inner border. Despite this, the city was divided between west and east, the western section becoming an enclave of allied influence within the eastern side of the inner German wall, hence, an enclave of the West within the Soviet side of the iron curtain. Western Berlin was further divided between the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, and the whole German territory was administrated under regulations of the Allied Control Council until 1949, as the



three western occupation zones were fused together into the Federal Republic of Germany. As a response, the Soviets implemented the German Democratic Republic, which was seen as an illegitimate government by the western allies, given that it was not democratically elected. The consolidation of the GDR under the ruling Socialist Unity Party of Germany (formed by Stalin's command, as a result of the merge between the Communist Party of Germany and the Social Democratic Party of Germany) marked a clear reunification of the German people symbolized by the union of the formerly opposing leftist parties.

After the implementation of the two separate governments, different approaches to German identity were followed. For the Federal Republic of Germany, citizenship rights applied equally to east and west Germany, therefore any East German who managed to cross the border was treated as a western German resident. On the other hand, East Germany portrayed the inner German Wall as a barrier and a safeguard from a pseudo fascist western government, which sought to dominate over East German territories.



NATO countries were portrayed as a threat to the peaceful German communist government, and they were often compared to the Third Reich in their expansionist desires. Despite Soviet propaganda, West German policies acted as an incentive for mass immigration, which directly affected the viability of East Germany as a nation. As a response, in 1952 the German Democratic Republic implemented a special regime on the inner border wall, fortifying the existing barriers and creating additional safety measures.

The creation of a protective strip and a restricted zone (where only those who held a special permit could live or work), plus the deforestation of the region close to the border, ensured that security personnel could spot any would-be crossers, and, if authorized, shoot them on sight. These measures led to the severing of more than 30 railway lines, more than 60 main and primary roads, and several secondary roads and tracks. Only three air corridors, three road corridors, two railway lines and two river connections (which have access to Berlin) were maintained as official crossing points. Despite this, the border within Berlin was strengthened, but people were still allowed to circulate within the city.

A mayor challenge regarding internal transportation within the Soviet territories arises, given that the principal railways which communicated east Berlin with other regions passed through West Berlin. To solve this issue, and to further isolate West Berlin, by 1961 the Berlin outer ring was built, eliminating any need for transportation of goods and people to pass through West Berlin.

Further militarization of the border continued by 1967, where all fortification where upgraded, significantly increasing the difficulty of border crossing. Barbed wire was replaced with metal barriers, anti personnel mines and ditches blocked movement, alarm systems were implemented, and wooden towers were replaced with concrete, prefabricated observation bunkers.

The upgrade of the border reduced the reported cases of escapees from 1000 per year during the 1960s to barely 120 per year during the 1970s. By the 1970s tensions between both government were reduced. Several treaties and agreements were made, and the implementation of official crossing points with less regulation began. However, reunification of both territories was off the table. It is

important to note that this was not always the case. During March 1962, Joseph Stalin emits a proposal of reunification of Germany, where "the rights of man and basic freedoms, including freedom of speech, press, religious persuasion, political conviction, and assembly" were guaranteed and respected.

This lead to a large scale communication between the western allies and the Soviet Union, however the agreement reached a stalemate when the west stated that a united Germany should be able to join the European Defense Community, therefore, regaining military potential. The Soviet Union opposed this, arguing the threat that Germany could pose, and recalling the events of World War Two. Up to date, historians still dispute if this was a genuine opportunity of reunification.

The cabinet is to be held the 27 of may 1952, the day after the German Democratic Republic implements the special regime on the demarcation line, responding to the massive exodus of civilians to the west. At the moment, strict border control has been implemented, construction of defense infrastructure of the border is in progress, and the relocation of communities is ongoing. Delegates should seek to debate over the

repercussions that this particular policy could have in the relations between east and west Germany, and how the international community should respond to a possible escalation of tension between both German governments. It is to be considered that Stalin's Note (the Soviet proposal for reunification) has already been rejected, however, new negotiations could arise in order to stop further escalation of tensions and avoid a possible conflict.

Guiding Questions:

1. Are the GDR and the FRG legitimate governments under international law?
2. Should reunification be pursued by your delegation? Why should or shouldn't the international community support it?
3. How could East Germany address the issue of migration, other than through the reinforcement of the inner German border?
4. How can total shutdown of border crossings be avoided?
5. To what extent is the re militarization of Germany a true, tangible threat for Europe?

Complementary Links:

<http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/index.cfm>

https://www.berlin.de/mauer/en/history/_construction-of-the-berlin-wall/border-regime/

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/austrian-history-yearbook/article/div-classtitlesteiningerolf-the-german-question-the-stalin-note-of-1952-and-the-problem-of-reunification-translated-by-hedgesjane-t-edited-by-ciocmark-new-york-columbia-university-press-1990-pp-xvii-186-3500div/6BFBFAE5D6BF930A8ADF8BC7A5D94DEF>

Topic 2: Gulf of Tonkin incident. (1964)

The gulf of Tonkin incident occurs in the context of the Vietnam war. The war, also referred as the Second Indochina War, or the Resistance War Against America, was a proxy war fought between communist-supported North Vietnam and western, anti communist-supported South Vietnam. The conflict dates back to the First Indochina War, considered as a colonial conflict between former French Indochina and the Vietnamese which sought independence. Prior to WW2, the

territories of Tonkin, Annam, Conchinchina, Cambodia, Laos, and the leased Chinese territory of Gungzhouwan were under French domain.

After the fall of France to the axis, the region went under unopposed Japanese occupation, until Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnamese communist revolutionary, revolted against the Japanese in 1941. By 1945, Vietnam declared its independence. However, after the Potsdam Conference of July 1945, the combined chiefs of staff (supreme military staff of the allies during ww2) were divided upon recognition of Minh's new government. The British, which were assigned to the southern territories of the region, did not recognize Ho Chi Minh's government, persuading the French to remain in the region. Chinese general Chiang Kai-shek, which was set responsible for the northern territories, accepted the Viet Minh government, leading to the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), which only ruled as a unified civil government for 20 days.

On 23 September 1945, French forces overthrew the local DRV government in the southern territories, declaring themselves as the authority in the Cochinchina, marking the beginning of the

First Indochina War. The conflict certainly foreshadowed what American involvement would face in Vietnam. Guerrilla warfare and the tropical terrain made French heavy weaponry useless, the effectiveness of carpet bombing techniques was diminished due to the lack of a strong air force, and above all, the military actions were extremely unpopular back in France, earning it the name of "la sale guerre" or the dirty war.

The French defeat at the battle of Dien Bien Phu proved decisive for the outcome of the conflict. By July 21, 1954, the French government and the Viet Minh made an agreement which gave control of northern Vietnam to the communist Viet Minh, while southern Vietnam remained under Emperor Bao Dai's rule, which would quickly be deposed, leading to the creation of the Republic of Vietnam. An independent, communist north Vietnam government was not attractive for the US, and was openly denounced during the International Geneva Conference of 1954. The separation between north and South Vietnam paved the way for the increased tensions that would lead to the Vietnam war.

US military advisors were already present in Vietnam since the times of the French



Indochina. By the early 1960s, army presence increased, responding to the establishment of the National Liberation Front, also known as the Viet Cong, on December 20, 1960. The establishment of the Viet Cong sought to promote insurgency in the Republic of Vietnam. Most of the original members of this insurgent group were southern Viet Minh sympathizers which resettled under the northern DRV government.

After receiving military training, they were sent back to the south seeking to promote communist ideals, advocating against American influence in the region, and perform guerrilla warfare against the southern government. All diplomatic efforts to reduce Viet Cong presence in the south were exhausted on the 19th of April, when Canadian diplomat J. Blair Seaborn was selected to communicate an ultimatum to the north Vietnamese, demanding them to call off the guerrilla forces appointed in the south. Despite the ultimatum, the Viet Cong continued operating. Their most notable military action, the Tet Offensive, a massive military assault on several south Vietnamese urban centers, which included a direct attack on the US embassy located in Saigon, brought the attention of the international community

and international media to the conflict in Vietnam, and largely boosted the reputation of the subversive group. As the conflict continued, the Viet Cong's relevance was progressively reduced while the North Vietnamese regular army performed most of the significant military operations, using a more traditional combat style.

The Gulf of Tonkin incident pre-dates the Tet offensive, and occurs after the establishment of the Viet Cong and the increased American presence in Vietnam, marking further escalation of military personnel and influence of the US in the conflict. On the 2nd of August 1964, United States President Lyndon B. Johnson claimed that aircraft carrier USS *Turner Joy* and destroyer USS *Maddox* were attacked by North Vietnamese Navy torpedo ships while performing DESOTO operations off the coast of Vietnam. DESOTO operations refer to intelligence operations performed by navy patrols in hostile waters. The use of these patrols by the US began as a response to Communist China's redefinition of maritime boundaries, significantly increasing their territorial claims. These claims inhibited navigation over what previously were international waters, and, as the American Seventh Fleet (the fleet



assigned to that location at the moment) navigated through the area, China issued diplomatic warnings. Because of China's response, the US implemented these intelligence operations with the objectives of, firstly, maintaining the presence of the seventh fleet in international waters of the region, secondly, serving as a defying measure towards communism expansion, and thirdly, as a interception of intelligence mechanism, which would later prove vital for American support of South Vietnam.

It is key to remember that DESOTO operations were part of a much larger scale, top secret plan promoted by the US department of defense known as operation 34A against the North Vietnamese. However, not all intelligence was filtered by the Americans. On January 20 1964, The Central Committee of the Communist Party of North Vietnam adopted Resolution 9, a secret resolution which declared a direct war against the South Vietnamese Army. It was stated that said offensive should take place before the United States could introduce American troops in the conflict. Following the implementation of this resolution, guerrilla activities in the south increased.

The incident resulted in zero American casualties, with both vessels remaining fully operational after the attack. Despite this, the attack resulted in a significant shift in American policy in regards to US participation in the region (following the Gulf of Tonkin resolution). The incident sparked massive controversy as it was seen as a provocative maneuver designed by the US in order to obtain a justification for direct involvement in Vietnam's conflict. An alleged second incident occurred two days later, based on claims made by the US National Security Agency, however upon declassification of historical files belonging to this organism demonstrated that the alleged attack on the 4th of August never took place, and that the evidence that proved this attack (radar images of USS Maddox) were indeed false. Years later, former United States Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara confirmed that the confrontation between US vessels and Vietnamese torpedo ships took place, however that the alleged second attack never took place. Despite this, it was believed at the time that both attacks had occurred. Based on the aggressions, the US congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, which allowed president Johnson to provide assistance to any Southeast Asian nation who could be





considered threatened or jeopardized by communist influence. This became the legal justification for the deployment of US conventional forces and marked the commencement of open warfare against communist Vietnam. However, the presence of American troops was portrayed as military advisors during the first instances of the conflict, despite their direct involvement in air and ground operations in company of the South Vietnamese Army.

The cabinet is to be held on the 3rd of August 1964, following the Vietnamese attack on USS Maddox and USS Turner Joy, prior to the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. All those present in the cabinet will have full knowledge of the attack, as the aggression will be disclosed at the beginning of the session. Delegates should seek to outline the actions to be taken based on this aggression, further considering the validity (or the lack of it) of American presence in the gulf region. Re writing history is not mandatory, however delegates should attempt to steer away from military conflict. It is fundamental to understand that DESOTO operations were part of a secret American scheme, therefore their scope and reach is unknown.

Guiding Questions:

1. Is the presence of American vessels legal based on international law?
2. Is the Viet Minh a legitimate government? Is it's southern counterpart legitimate as well?
3. Should communism expansion in Vietnam be stopped? What is your delegation's stance regarding the spread of this ideology?
4. How should the international community react against a guerrilla group which directly attacks the sovereignty of a nation, independently of its ideology?

Complementary Links:

<https://www.usni.org/navalhistory/Articles99/NHandrade.htm>

<http://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/c.php?g=288337&p=1922866>

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/gulf-of-tonkin>

Topic 3: The Star Wars Program (Strategic Defense Initiative) (1983)

Following the discovery of atomic power and its potential military usage, the geopolitical panorama shifted completely. After the use of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the world discovered a weapon like no other, a weapon capable of wiping out entire cities with a single blast. The arrival of nuclear energy marked the 20th century, and acted as the prime stimulant for Soviet and American competition. Massive research on atomic technology, and most of all, addition to the stockpiles of nuclear weaponry, marked the beginning of what would be known as the nuclear arms race between the United Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, with their respective allies.

Just after the Second World War, the US was thought to be the sole super power with access to nuclear technology. At the time, Uranium was thought to be the only available nuclear material. However, discoveries of uranium supplies in Eastern Europe, along with intelligence obtained through espionage during and after World War Two, allowed the Soviet Union to test their first nuclear bomb on August 29,

1949. Several nuclear tests both from the US and the USSR followed, acting as a power exposition, challenging one another to demonstrate military superiority.

However, a mayor development in nuclear warfare occurred during the 1950s, with the development and implementation of the first intercontinental ballistic missiles. Prior to the implementation of ICBMs as means of delivering nuclear explosives, the only mean through which super powers could deploy nuclear weapons was through bomber planes or through on site detonation. This represented a safeguard for the international community, as there were limited ways in which the USSR or the US could attack each other, given the range limitations of the existing technology. ICBMs changed the complete panorama. The fact that the Soviets were able to place the Sputnik satellite into orbit on 1957 demonstrated that they had the potential to reach any target, given that their propulsion methods allowed for objects to leave earths atmosphere. The US reacted by launching the Explorer 1, marking the beginning of the space race.

By the 1950s, both super powers had attained nuclear arsenals that were more

than enough to completely destroy their counterpart, even if they were attacked first. Through the use of nuclear submarines, second strikes could take place, even if all of the continental launch sites were destroyed by an initial strike. The magnitude of the arsenals lead to what is known as the Mutually Assured Destruction policy (MAD), as no matter who attacked first, both nations would be completely destroyed. Therefore, US and Soviet nuclear arsenals became a mean of deterrence and coercion, rather than an actual military weapon which could be used. The risk that these weapons represented was enough to restrain from their usage. During the Korean War, general Douglas MacArthur advocated for the use of nuclear weapons, however The Truman and Eisenhower administration forbade said actions.

Furthermore, it was unclear if the ICBMs could actually work, as by 1960 none had effectively been tested. The Kennedy administration refrained from testing ICBMs with live warheads, however test did took place on smaller, second response Polaris missiles. By this year, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, and the People's Republic of China had already developed a considerable nuclear

arsenal, however after the ideological split between the Chinese government and the Soviet Union, soviet support towards the Chinese nuclear program halted. Because of this, China became equally likely to use its nuclear arsenal on the Soviet Union or on the US.

Cooperation in the west was also hampered in different occasions. When the US passes the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, it forbade international cooperation of nuclear projects. This lead to British resentment and intensification on nuclear investigation, however an amendment to the act made in 1958 allowed international cooperation once again, leading to cooperation between the British and the US. However, by the 1970s the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties greatly limited the amount of nuclear arsenal that the US and the USSR possessed. Anti Ballistic Missile sites were limited to two per country, and the amount of inter continental ballistic missiles was frozen. However, the technology of existing missiles was constantly improved by both sides, which lead to continuous international tensions. Following Jimmy Carter's presidency, Ronald Reagan sought to regain the edge on the arms race, not only



through new weaponry production, but also through anti-weapons systems.

The Strategic Defense Initiative, later on dubbed by the public as “The Star wars Project”, was a project proposed by United States president Ronald Reagan on March 23, 1983. The purpose of the SDI was to create an Anti-Ballistic Missile system (ABM) set to intercept and neutralize nuclear missiles launched by enemy nations, particularly the Soviet Union. The program was set to combine a number of ground set units and orbital deployment platforms, which together would result in an overall protection from a nuclear offensive through the use of developing laser technology.

This defense-centered strategy opposed the previous Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) approach which guided geopolitical interactions during most of the Cold War. Advocates for MAD opposed the project, arguing that it could enhance the chances of an actual confrontation by prompting the enemy to attack. Meanwhile the project was also criticized for its extremely high budget, the required technological advances which had yet not been made, and the fact that it contravened the ABM agreement made in the Strategic Arms

Limitation Talks (SALT). Even though the project continued under the hands of president Bill Clinton (1993), it had been modified and its name changed, ultimately all of the previously named reasons led to this project’s failure.

The initiative lead to division within the American government, as the realization and implementation of said defense system would greatly alter American foreign policy and its relations with the Soviet Union. The main points defended by those within the American government who supported the initiative involved the fact that the system acted as a defensive measure instead of a direct, military deterrent offensive measure. Furthermore the SDI acted as a protective system which ensured, in theory, the safety of the American population without necessarily violating existing treaties, and finally, the "shield" would neutralize the soviet military machine, ensuring American prevalence after the Cold War.

On the other hand, those who opposed the initiative argued that the lack of technology made the project unfeasible, and investing on research would represent extremely elevated costs, and it was unlikely that the required technology



was made available in the short term. However the main deterrent to the initiative was the possible response of the Soviet Union, as they could feel threatened and perform a preemptive attack on the US.

Guiding Questions:

1. To what point is feasible to implement the defensive mechanism?
2. How could the Soviet Union react? Would this lead to a military response?
3. Is scientific opposition to the project a real barrier to its implementation?
4. Could the US appeal to other countries in order to fund research and implementation of this project?

Complementary Links:

<https://books.google.com.co/books?id=a5vAs3d1TmkC&printsec=frontcover&hl=es#v=onepage&q&f=false>

http://www.balancedpolitics.org/missile_defense.htm

<https://fas.org/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20010210223952/http://www.salon.com/news/news960607.html>

<http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/uu38ne/uu38ne0c.htm>