



Committee: Geneva Council

Chair: Emma van Vliet & Chima Nnadi

Issue: February 8th, 1962

Introduction

The committee

The council is a fictional one, it will be presented as a meeting between all nations involved with the official goal being a peaceful solution to the conflict at hand. The debate will give them the chance to use diplomacy to end the conflict and the opportunity to change history in their favour. The issue given to the delegates will be left intentionally open to interpretation, so that they can come up with creative additions to the resolution. In a regular committee, delegates would base their arguments on previous resolutions and actions from the United Nations, the delegates of the Geneva council will have to rely on preceding, real-life, conferences and actions by countries.

The delegates need to take into account that the Geneva Council is set on February 8, 1962, which means that some important events did not happen yet, such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, but other (e.g. the Bay of Pigs) have happened. Delegates need to be somewhat creative in thinking of their countries' point of view, as some countries were not involved in the war yet. It is expected that the delegates do research on their country's stance during the Cold War and the events leading up to the Cuban crisis.

List of represented countries

- Afghanistan
- Albania
- Belgium
- Canada
- China
- Cuba
- Federal Republic of Germany
- France
- German Democratic Republic
- Iran, Islamic Republic of
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Korea, Democratic People's Republic of
- Korea, Republic of
- Mexico
- Panama
- Philippines
- Spain
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- United States

Presidents and deputies

Dear delegates,

My name is Chima Nnadi, I am 18 years old and I'll be the deputy president of the Geneva Council of FAMUN 2019. I am currently in my last year of high school and plan on studying at the University of Leiden next year. I love to travel, both in and outside of the Netherlands. That is one of the many reasons why I have been attending MUN conferences the last few years. I love meeting new people and making new friends and therefore cannot wait to meet all of you at FAMUN.

Yours faithfully,
Chima Nnadi.



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Definitions of key terms

Arms race

A competition between nations to have the most powerful armaments.

Ballistic missile

A ballistic missile follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver one or more warheads on a predetermined target. These weapons are only guided during relatively brief periods of flight, most of their trajectory is unpowered, being governed by gravity and air resistance if in the atmosphere.

Blockade

The isolating, closing off, or surrounding of a place, as a port, harbor, or city, by hostile ships or troops to prevent entrance or exit.

Communism

A theory or system of social organization in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.

Containment

The action or policy of preventing the expansion of a hostile country or influence.

Quarantine

Isolation to prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Space race

The competition between nations regarding achievements in the field of space exploration.

Treaty

A formally concluded and ratified agreement between states.

Timeline

February 4th – 11th 1945: Yalta conference. Meeting between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin to decide what would happen at the end of the war. Topics discussed included: Partitioning of Germany, fate of Poland, The United Nations, German reparations

May 8th 1945: Victory in Europe day.

July 17th – August 2nd 1945: Potsdam conference. Formally divided Germany and Austria into four zones. It was also agreed that the German capital Berlin would be divided into four zones. The Russian Polish border was determined and Korea was to be divided into Soviet and American zones.

August 6th 1945: Bombing of Hiroshima.

August 8th 1945: Bombing of Nagasaki.

August 14th 1945: Victory over Japan day.

September 2nd 1945: Vietnam Independence. Ho Chi Minh proclaimed Vietnam an independent republic.

March 5th 1946: Churchill's Iron Curtain speech.

March 12th 1947: Truman Doctrine. Truman promised to help any country facing Communist takeover.

June 5th 1947: Marshall plan. A programme of economic aid offered by the United States to any European country. The aid was only given to Western European Countries.

September 1947: Cominform. The USSR set up the Communist Information Bureau which was the Information Bureau of the Communist and Workers' Parties responsible for the creation of the Eastern bloc.

June 1948: Formation of West Germany.

June 24th 1948 - May 1949: Berlin Blockade. Russia's response to the merger of the French, USA and UK partitions of Berlin was to cut all road and rail links to that sector. This meant that those living in Western Berlin had no access to food supplies and faced starvation. Food was brought to Western Berliners by US and UK airplanes, an exercise known as the Berlin Airlift.

April 4th 1949: NATO formed.

June 25th 1950 - July 27th 1953: Korean War. North Korea remained affiliated with Russia while South Korea was affiliated with the USA.

March 5th 1953: Death of Stalin

Summer 1954: Geneva Accords. This set of documents ended the French war with the Vietminh and divided Vietnam into North and South states. The communist leader of North Vietnam was Ho Chi Minh while the US friendly south was led by Ngo Dinh Diem.

May 14th 1955: Warsaw Pact formed

October 23rd 1956: Hungarian Revolution. This began as a Hungarian protest against Communist rule in Budapest.

October 30th 1956: Suez Crisis. Following military bombardment by Israeli forces, a joint British and French force invaded Egypt to regain control of the Suez Canal which had been nationalised by the Egyptian leader Nasser.

November 1st 1957 - April 12th 1961: Space Race.

April 17th 1961: Bay of Pigs Invasion. A force of Cuban exiles, trained by the CIA, aided by the US government attempted to invade Cuba and overthrow the Communist government of Fidel Castro. The attempt failed.

August 13th 1961: Berlin Wall. Berlin wall built and borders sealed between East and West Germany.¹

¹ <https://www.historyonthenet.com/the-cold-war-timeline-2>

Issue explanation

The United States and the Soviet Union have been locked in a dangerous competition for global dominance since the end of World War II. With its roots in the ideological incompatibility of the U.S. and the Soviet political, economic, and social systems, combined with the desire of each to spread its own, the Cold War was a period of incredible tension between the former allies. The U.S., witnessing the Soviets impose communist systems on Eastern Europe after World War II, perceived the Soviets to be expansionist and feared the spread of communism throughout the globe. In an effort to block perceived Soviet aggression, President Harry S. Truman introduced the policy of containment in 1947. This first only applied to Europe, but gradually spread to encompass the rest of the world as well. The ideological competition also had a military component: the U.S. and Soviet Union were engaged in a risky arms race.

The containment strategy also provided the rationale for an unprecedented arms buildup in the United States. In 1950, a National Security Council Report known as NSC-68 had echoed Truman's recommendation that the country use military force to "contain" communist expansionism anywhere it seemed to be occurring.

In particular, American officials encouraged the development of atomic weapons like the ones that had ended World War II. Thus began a deadly "arms race." In 1949, the Soviets tested an atom bomb of their own. In response, President Truman announced that the United States would build an even more destructive atomic weapon: the hydrogen bomb, or "superbomb." Stalin followed suit.

The ever-present threat of nuclear annihilation had a great impact on American domestic life as well. People built bomb shelters in their backyards. They practiced attack drills in schools and other public places.

US President Eisenhower approved a secret plan, "A Program of Covert Action Against the Castro Regime", codified as JMARC, to overthrow the Castro regime. Essentially, the CIA trained Cuban exiles who invaded Cuba in 1961 but were stopped by Castro's army. By which time John F. Kennedy had assumed the presidency in the US. The plan failed miserably but succeeded in increasing tensions between Cuba and the US, and ultimately between the USSR and the US.²

² http://library.thinkquest.org/11046/days/bay_of_pigs.html

Majorly involved parties

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Following the surrender of Nazi Germany at the end of World War II, the uncomfortable wartime alliance between the Soviet Union and the United States and Great Britain began to crumble.

The Soviet Union by 1948 had installed communist-leaning governments in Eastern European countries that the USSR had liberated from Nazi control during the war. The Americans and British feared the spread of communism into Western Europe and worldwide. In 1949, the U.S., Canada and its European allies formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The alliance between countries of the Western bloc was a political show of force against the USSR and its allies.

In response to NATO, the Soviet Union in 1955 consolidated power among Eastern bloc countries under a rival alliance called the Warsaw Pact, setting off the Cold War.³

United States

The U.S. policy of containment is aimed at stopping the spread of communism by giving aid to countries that were in danger of falling under communist rule. Part of the strategy of containment is predicated on the Domino Theory, which asserted that if one country falls under communism the surrounding countries would follow in a domino effect. Therefore, the continued spread of communism is a significant threat to U.S. interests.

The United States is particularly worried about additional countries in Latin America and the Caribbean falling under communist rule. If the spread of communism is not stopped, the United States could be surrounded by communist countries – countries that will be much more likely to ally with the Soviet Union than the U.S. and thus significantly weaken American security in the Western hemisphere. Eventually, the American system itself could be threatened.⁴

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

The NATO is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, which sought to create a counterweight to Soviet armies stationed in central and eastern Europe after World War II. Its original members were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Joining the original signatories were Greece and Turkey (1952) and West Germany (1955).⁵

The heart of NATO is expressed in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, in which the signatory members agree that *“an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the*

³ https://www.history.com/topics/russia/history-of-the-soviet-union#section_4

⁴ <https://www.carthage.edu/model-united-nations/topics/cuban-missile-crisis/>

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/North-Atlantic-Treaty-Organization>

other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”

Warsaw Pact

Warsaw Pact, formally Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance, treaty establishing a mutual-defense organization composed originally of the Soviet Union and Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. The treaty provided for a unified military command and for the maintenance of Soviet military units on the territories of the other participating states.

The immediate occasion for the Warsaw Pact was the Paris agreement among the Western powers admitting West Germany to the NATO. The Warsaw Pact was, however, the first step in a more systematic plan to strengthen the Soviet hold over its satellites, a program undertaken by the Soviet leaders Nikita Khrushchev and Nikolay Bulganin after their assumption of power early in 1955. The treaty also served as a lever to enhance the bargaining position of the Soviet Union in international diplomacy, an inference that may be drawn by the concluding article of the treaty, which stipulated that the Warsaw agreement would lapse when a general East-West collective-security pact should come into force.

Previous attempts to resolve conflict

President Harry S. Truman attempted to cease or delay the spread of communism by implementing the containment policy, aiding any country threatened by communist subjugation.

The role of the UN

The Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, Jamaica, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea all joined the UN after February 8th, 1962. Next to that, had the USSR decided to boycott the UN, due to Taiwan being a permanent member of the SC, instead of China. Therefore, is the UN in this committee partially fictional.

Of course, it is important for delegates to carefully research their individual country and what it wants to achieve, and has available in terms of wartime spending, manpower, and military equipment, and the general economic, social and demographic situation in the country, all in February 1962.

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