

DISEC

BACKGROUND GUIDE

SMIS MUN ' 24



DISARMAMENT &
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE
(DISEC)

ENGAGE . EMPOWER . EVOLVE

Agenda : Emergency Special Session (ESS)
The Suez Crisis
Freeze Date: November 1st, 1956



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates!

We are very pleased to welcome you to the simulation of the UNGA: ESS at SMIS MUN 2024. It is our honour to serve as your Executive Board for the duration of the conference. This Background Guide is designed to provide you with an insight into the case at hand. We hope it serves as a catalyst for further research and is not the sole source of information. Remember, a thorough understanding of the problem is the first step to solving it.

Do understand that this Background Guide is in no way exhaustive and is only meant to provide you with enough background information to establish a platform for beginning the research. Delegates are highly recommended to do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the Guide. The guide cannot be used as proof during the committee proceedings under any circumstances.

We understand that MUN conferences can be an overwhelming experience for first-timers but it must be noted that our aspirations from the delegates are not how experienced or articulate they are. Rather, we want to see how one manages the balance to respect disparities and differences of opinion and work around this while extending their foreign policy to present comprehensive solutions without compromising on their self-interests and initiate consensus building.



New ideas are by their very nature disruptive, but far less disruptive than a world set against the backdrop of stereotypes and regional instability due to which reform is essential in policy making and conflict resolution.

At any point during your research, do not hesitate to contact the Executive Board Members for clarifications or in case you need help in any other aspect.

We look forward to a fruitful discussion and an enriching experience with all of you.

Best regards,

Sharan Veluri, Chairperson

Sriram Udhayakumar, Vice-Chairperson Aahna Bharthi, Rapporteur

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Rules of Procedure

- a. Roll call, Motions
- b. Types of debate
- c. Right to Reply
- d. Documentation / DRs

2. Introduction to and Mandate of the Committee

- a. About the Agenda
- b. Introduction to the Agenda
- c. Historical Context



3. Timeline of Events

a. Timeline

b. Account of the invasion

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rules of Procedure refers to the process and the basic set of rules followed in a MUN committee to ensure structured flow of debate and to maintain order. For purposes of a United Nations committee the “UNA-USA” Rules of Procedure will be followed.

The Executive Board will have to adhere to the Rules of Procedure so that the debate can move in an organised manner; however, slight modifications might be made to facilitate better debate.

Roll Call

Each and every committee session commences with the Executive Board taking a roll call. The Roll Call is similar to attendance. When a particular delegate’s country is called out they can either respond with “Present” or with “Present and voting”. The difference between these two voting stances will be further explained at the end of the ROP.

Motions

Motions are the tool for delegates to change the happenings of the committee and generally require a vote. Motions can be raised to move into different formats of debate. Generally a motion requires more than half majority to pass. Motions have a specific verbatim in which they should be raised, which will be discussed in committee.



Types of Debate

In a MUN, there are two classifications of debate: **Formal Debate** and **Informal Debate**.

Under **Formal Debate** comes “GSL” and under **Informal debate** comes “**Moderated Caucus**” and “**Unmoderated caucus**”.

Formal Debate

General Speakers List (GSL)

Once done with the roll call the committee immediately proceeds to establish the General Speakers List. Once a motion to establish the General Speakers List is passed, the Executive Board will be looking for speakers to deliver speeches in the GSL. All the delegates wishing to speak can then raise their placards and get recognized by the Executive Board. The General Speakers List is inexhaustible and continues to go on throughout the conference.

Speeches delivered as part of the GSL are very generic and basic in nature. They are basically the opening statements of a country on the topic and hence generally provide a small insight as to the thoughts of the said country on the topic.

The GSL speeches are typically 90 seconds long, if a delegate finishes speaking before this time elapses, then they will have to “yield” their time.

POINTS

Points are the tools for delegates to ask about any doubts or questions regarding the committee and its proceedings.

There are 4 types of points:

1. **Point of Personal Privilege:** This point can be used when a delegate is experiencing any personal discomfort. If a delegate needs to step out of committee, feels the temperature to be too cold or cannot hear the speaker, then they can raise a point of personal privilege.
2. **Point of Order:** This point can be used to point out any procedural error the Executive Board may have committed.



3. **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** Point of Parliamentary Inquiry can be raised by a delegate when they have doubt regarding the proceedings of committee

4. **Point of Information:** Point of Information can be raised by a delegate when they are wishing to question the speaker. Points of Information can only be raised if the EB recognizes and asks for delegates to ask questions.

Yields

When a delegate has extra time left after finishing their GSL speech, they will have to yield their time.

There are 4 types of Yields:

1. **Yield to Executive Board:** The extra time is given to EB (Executive Board) and it is up to the discretion of the EB how it is used.
2. **Yield to Points of Information:** The extra time is directed to questions. Other delegates can question the speaker about their speech.
3. **Yield to Another Delegate:** The extra time is yielded to another delegate, who can use the time to speak.
4. **Yield to Comments:** The extra time is yielded to other delegates so that they can provide comments on the speaker's speech.

Informal Debate

Moderated Caucus

Delegates may raise a motion to temporarily suspend formal debate (move away from the GSL), and enter into a moderated caucus so they can discuss (in the form of speeches) a specific sub-topic under the agenda. A motion to enter a moderated caucus must include a topic, total duration, and individual speaker time. A delegate may not yield their remaining time when in a moderated caucus.



Moderated Caucus speeches are generally very specific as they talk about a subtopic, most of the problem identification and solution discussions comes from the moderated caucus.

Unmoderated Caucus

Delegates may raise a motion to temporarily suspend formal debate (move away from the GSL), and enter into an unmoderated caucus.

In an Unmoderated Caucus, delegates are not moderated by the Executive Board and may move freely around the committee hall to discuss the flow or direction of committee and work together to draft resolutions.

Right to Reply

If a delegate believes that they have been gravely insulted on a personal basis they may raise a right to reply. First a written right to reply must be submitted to the EB mentioning the statement which caused the offence. If the Executive Board will inform the secretariat of the happenings, which will be followed by each delegate being given 60 seconds to explain their argument, and a final vote will be taken to judge the matter.

Draft Resolution

Towards the end of the conference the culmination of debate and deliberation is brought into an official document called the Draft Resolution. As part of the Draft Resolution, delegates identify the problems regarding the particular agenda in the form of "Preambulatory Clauses". They discuss solutions and steps towards these problems in the form of "Operative clauses".

After the submission of the Draft to the EB, the EB will then table the Draft to discussion. A thorough discussion and scrutinization of the Draft will take place.



Following this the committee will vote on the different drafts submitted by various “blocs”. If the Draft passes the vote then (for the purposes of a MUN), it is said that the Draft Resolution is a legally binding document.

Remember a Draft only passes if it gets more than half the majority (in most cases), hence it is also very important to lobby support for your resolution (and bloc).

The final Draft Resolution is the official document which will sum up the entire efforts of the committee.

Blocs

In general, countries with similar stances and similar ideologies about the particular agenda work together to move the committee in their desired direction. They also end up writing a Draft Resolution together.

Role of Voting Stance

While voting on the final document (Draft Resolution):

- If a delegate gives their voting stance as “Present”, then they have 3 options: Abstain, Yes, No.
- If a delegate gives their voting stance as “Present and Voting” then they have only 2 options: Yes or No.

Preambulatory clauses

Preambulatory clauses can be considered as an introduction to the DR (Draft Resolution) where it recognizes all the problems to the given agenda and also recognizes already existing measures to combat the problem. It basically gives context to set up for the actual solutions.

Operative Clauses

Operative Clauses are clauses that call for specific action or propose solutions to the agenda at hand. They are the main substance of a resolution.



Sponsors to the Draft Resolution

Sponsors are the delegates who have contributed to the Draft Resolution significantly. They are the principal authors of the resolution and agree with the whole contents of the Resolution.

Signatories to the Draft Resolution

Signatories are delegates who may or may not agree with the substance present in a document, but still wish to see it debated and discussed in committee.

Further Specifics of making and formatting a Draft Resolution will be discussed in committee.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The UN states about the Emergency Special Session in the following words:

"Resolves that if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measures, including in the case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security. If not in session at the time, the General Assembly may meet in emergency special session within twenty-four hours of the request therefore.



Such an emergency special session shall be called if requested by the Security Council on the vote of any seven members, or by a majority of the Members of the United Nations".

The Emergency Special Session is only convened when the Security Council is unable to come to a consensus on an important and urgent matter. The recommendations of an ESS have heavy impact and although they may not be binding the resolutions definitely play a major role towards de-escalating conflicts and taking substantial actions. It takes $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to pass an ESS resolution; however, in this committee, we will consider a simple majority sufficient to pass a resolution.

ABOUT THE AGENDA

Introduction to the Agenda

The man-made Suez Canal was inaugurated on November 17th, 1869. It drastically reduced the maritime travel between Europe and Asia, it provided a direct naval route linking the Mediterranean Sea (Port Said) and Red Sea (Suez City). It cut off more than 5000 nautical miles in the voyage from London to Mumbai which originally forced ships to pass through a long and treacherous journey via the Cape of Good Hope. This substantial reduction in distance made the Suez Canal a critical passage for global trade, significantly reducing travel time and costs for shipping between two major continents.

The Suez Canal was constructed under the design of French diplomat and engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps, who in 1854 secured a concession from the Egyptian ruler Said Pasha to build and operate the canal. At its founding, the company's shares were predominantly owned by French investors (52%) and the Egyptian government (44%), with the remaining shares held by other private investors. However, Egypt's financial difficulties in the 1870s led to Egypt selling its stake in the company to the British government.



This sale gave Britain significant influence over the canal, which was of immense strategic importance for maintaining its colonial empire, particularly the route to India. From this point, the canal was effectively controlled by British and French interests. Despite Egypt gaining formal independence from Britain in 1922, the canal remained under the control of the Suez Canal Company, still dominated by these European powers.

Historical Background

Egypt was always of particular interest to colonial powers such as Britain and France due to its strategic proximity to the Orient. Egypt was the first Arabic-speaking country to experience overlapping colonial encroachments by European powers.

Initially, Egypt became an autonomous state within the Ottoman Empire under the rule of Muhammad Ali Pasha (1805-1848). At the height of his rule, he controlled Egypt, Sudan, Hejaz, the Levant, Crete and parts of Greece. In 1838, he prepared for war against the Ottomans, despite calls against it from foreign powers such as Russia.

Following a decisive victory at the Battle of Nezib in 1839, and the defection of the Ottoman Navy, Pasha won additional territorial concessions as well as political autonomy for himself and his family. After some scuffles, the Convention of London was signed on 27 November 1840. The Convention included renouncing his claims over Crete, downsizing the navy, and reducing his standing army to 18,000 men. In return, Pasha and his descendants would enjoy hereditary rule over Egypt and Sudan.

High military spending under Pasha caused repeated budget deficits, and in 1844, the debt stood at 80 million francs. The Egyptian treasury would constantly stay in a precarious position until later consolations were made with regard to the Suez Canal.



After Pasha's death in 1848, his grandson Abbas took over the reins of power. Britain won, from Abbas, a concession to build a railway from Alexandria to Cairo (primarily for furthering trade with India), and the rail link was completed by 1856. Two years later, it was extended to Suez. In 1854, Abbas died in a violent manner, following which Said Pasha took over the region.

While there were earlier some brief proposals, the scope for building a full Suez Canal connecting the Mediterranean Sea to Gulf of Suez and the Red Sea only began in 1854, when Said granted the French a concession for a canal across the isthmus of Suez. However, work stalled (beginning in 1859), and only picked up under Said's successor Ismail. In November 1869 the Suez Canal was opened to shipping by the empress Eugénie, the wife of Napoleon III of France.

A massive fiscal crisis in 1875 forced Ismail to sell off Egypt's shares of the Suez Canal Company to Britain in 1875. After a rebellion in 1879, Britain military occupied Egypt in 1882 and established a 'veiled protectorate' over Ottoman-Egypt until the First World War. Egypt declared independence in 1922, although Britain did not withdraw all its troops, especially from the Suez Canal Base.

The newly formed Kingdom of 1922 was in the form of a constitutional monarchy. The constitution, based on that of Belgium and promulgated in April 1923, defined the king's executive powers and established a bicameral legislature (with universal male suffrage). However, a political struggle was continually waged among three contestants—the king, the Wafd (the leading political party), and the British. This struggle continued until the Second World War. While Egypt (primarily under control of the Wafd after the 1942 election) supported the British, public opinion was largely shifting towards nationalism. The Wafd declined and soon there was a demand for the complete evacuation of British troops from Egypt and the ending of British control in Sudan.

In 1944, Egypt was a leading member in the formed Arab League which opposed the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine. Egypt suffered a massive, unexpected defeat in the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, and this led to further disillusionment in the eyes of the public.



While the Wafd won the general election in 1950, they failed to reach an agreement with the British. Following massive anti-British demonstrations, guerilla warfare began by locals in the Suez Canal zone. In response, the British burnt Cairo in 1952.

Soon after this, there was a coup led by the 'Free Officers' with Gamal Abdel Nasser toppling the monarchy and assuming control. In 1953, Egypt became a republic, with political parties abolished. Nasser consolidated his power by deposing internal rivals and through violent confrontations with the Muslim Brotherhood.

In 1954, the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement was signed that secured the phased evacuation of British troops from the Suez base, the terms of which agreed to withdrawal of all troops within 20 months, and for Britain to hold the right to return for seven years.

In September 1955, a massive arms deal between Egypt and Czechoslovakia (a satellite state of the USSR was announced), further increasing tensions at a time when the USA and USSR were engaged in a Cold War. Soon after this, the British and French revoked their commitment to help fund the Aswan Dam. In response, in July 1956, Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal Company and assumed complete control over the Suez Canal.

Subsequently, the passage of Israeli ships through the Canal was stopped, in blatant violation of Article I of the 1888 Constantinople Convention. Egypt further threatened to choke Europe's oil supply, two-thirds of which had to come through the canal. Egypt also blocked Israel's access to the Gulf of Aqaba from Sharm el-Sheikh which was Israel's only link to the sea.



Timeline of Events leading up to the Crisis

FREEZE DATE: NOVEMBER 1ST, 1956

1922, Feb 28th: Egypt formally given independence from colonial British rule.

1936, Aug 26th: Anglo-Egyptian treaty of 1936 was signed. The treaty provided for the continued British military presence in the Suez Canal Zone, which was considered strategically vital for British imperial interests. It stipulated that British forces would withdraw from other parts of Egypt but would be allowed to maintain control over the Suez Canal Zone for 20 years, until 1956. The treaty also allowed for British intervention in Egypt in the event of an armed attack or significant threat to British interests. However, it did not fully satisfy Egyptian nationalists who sought complete independence from British influence.

1953, June 18th: A revolution was orchestrated by the Free Officers Movement, a group of nationalist military officers led by General Muhammad Naguib and Colonel Gamal Abdel Nasser. The revolution led to the abdication of King Farouk I, the monarchy was officially abolished on June 18, 1953, when Egypt was declared a republic. Although General Naguib initially became the first President of Egypt, Nasser soon emerged as the dominant figure in the new government.

1955, September 21st: The Czech-Egyptian Arms Deal is announced. Egypt agrees to purchase large quantities of Soviet military equipment through Czechoslovakia, marking a shift in Egyptian foreign policy and increasing tensions with Western powers.

1956, July 19th: The United States and Britain officially withdraw their offers to finance the Aswan High Dam project, citing concerns over Egypt's neutrality in the Cold War.



1956, July 26th: Nasser announces the nationalisation of the Suez Canal during a speech in Alexandria. This act sparks international outrage, particularly in Britain and France. Soon, Israeli ships are prevented access even for transporting 'non-strategic' goods.

1956, August 16-23: The London Conference is held, where 22 nations discuss the Suez Crisis. Egypt refuses to compromise on its control of the canal.

1956, August 26: The Suez Canal Users' Association (SCUA) is proposed by the U.S. to ensure the international use of the canal, but Egypt rejects this as well.

1956, September 9-10: The second London Conference is held, where the U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles proposes an international control plan for the Suez Canal, which is again rejected by Egypt. September 29, 1956: Nasser formally rejects any international control over the Suez Canal, solidifying Egypt's stance.

1956, October 29: Israel invades the Sinai Peninsula, advancing rapidly towards the Suez Canal, triggering the military phase of the Suez Crisis.

1956, October 30: Britain and France issue an ultimatum to Egypt and Israel, demanding a ceasefire and withdrawal of forces from the vicinity of the Suez Canal. Nasser refuses the ultimatum.

1956, October 31: Britain and France begin bombing Egyptian positions near the Suez Canal in response to Egypt's rejection of the ultimatum.

1956, November 1: Israeli forces continue their advance through the Sinai Peninsula, pushing towards the canal. The invasion officially begins.

Account of the Invasion

The 1st Armored Brigade and 7th Armored Brigade of the Israeli army are advancing across the Sinai Desert, focusing on capturing key passes and airfields.



The 202nd Paratroop Brigade engaged in operations around the Mitla Pass and advancing towards Sharm el-Sheikh. Milta Pass was captured by Israeli forces, facilitating further advances into the Sinai Peninsula. Gaza Strip and Sharm el-Sheikh, both have been secured, with Sharm el-Sheikh controlling access to the Gulf of Aqaba. The Israeli forces continue to consolidate their positions. Israeli forces are in control of most key positions in the Sinai Peninsula.

Multiple French and British naval reinforcements of ships including HMS Eagle (aircraft carrier), HMS Bulwark (carrier) and cruiser Georges Leygues are stationed in the Mediterranean, prepared for amphibious operations.

British and French aircraft started off by conducting reconnaissance and preliminary strikes against Egyptian positions. But, in no time these air operations intensified, and bombardments were directed at Egyptian defensive positions along the canal.

By adhering to these guidelines, delegates contribute to a conference that embodies SMISMUN's values of respect, inclusivity, academic rigor, and global understanding.

Only through collective commitment can we achieve the enriching experience that SMISMUN aims to provide.

Please refer to the Code of Conduct on the SMISMUN website (<https://smismun.in>) for the conference for further information on the consequences of breaching the above mentioned rules for decorum.
