

CHAPTER II.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATE MEMBERS

Bangladesh	Jamaica	Singapore
China	Mali	Tunisia
Colombia	Mauritius	Ukraine
France	Norway	United Kingdom
Ireland	Russian Federation	United States

Representatives to the Security Council should note that the agenda provided is only provisional. The Security Council may discuss any international peace and security issue brought before it. For this reason, Representatives must have a broad base of knowledge on current events in the international community. Also, the overviews provided below are only current through the publication of this handbook. **Many of the topics listed below will change significantly before the Conference, and Representatives should be familiar with the up-to-date situations.** Periodicals are one of the best recommended sources available for day to day updates. These include among others: *New York Times*, *UN Chronicle*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Economist* and *Keesing's Record of World Events*. Also, the UN Foundation's on line daily newsletter, the *UN Wire*, is an excellent resource for timely information. Whenever possible, AMUN recommends that Representatives familiarize themselves with the most recent reports published by the Secretary General on each situation, along with other UN documents. These can be found on the UN homepage under the Security Council documents section www.un.org/documents/scinfo.htm. Please note that the bibliographies for these topics focus primarily on UN sources, with some news sources provided for background on important aspects of the various situations.

Initial background research is provided below for each region, with two or three topics receiving a brief analysis. Security Council representatives are neither limited to the main topics discussed nor to any of the topics listed. Should world events move in a different direction from the topics provided in this handbook, the Security Council is welcome to discuss any peace and security matter which it desires.

Please note that resolutions should be written on the sub topics of each regional area: i.e., resolutions would not be written about "Issues in Africa," but rather about "The Situation in Sierra Leone" or similar sub topics within the region.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

ISSUES IN AFRICA

The Situation in Sierra Leone:

The current situation in Sierra Leone involves the UN's attempting to maintain a fragile, and sometimes nonexistent, peace in a country torn by war since 1961. In that year, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) launched a war near the border with Liberia to overthrow the government. Support by the Liberian government in various forms for RUF efforts further complicates the situation. Current problems involve maintaining a fragile series of cease fires, allowing UN peace keepers to work unmolested in the country, and limiting the illicit trade of diamonds by the RUF often through Liberia which has financed the war efforts.

In 1996 Sierra Leone's army, with the support of the ECOMOG the Military Observer Group to the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS,

originally defended the government against the RUF, but in 1997 the army overthrew the civilian government and took power. While RUF attacks continued, the UN, ECOWAS and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) negotiated a settlement which resulted in elections in February 1997. The army relinquished power at that time to elected President Alhaji Dr. Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. Strife continued, however, largely because the RUF did not participate in the elections. This was soon followed by another military coup d'etat in May 1997, this time led by joint army and RUF forces. Security Council actions in Sierra Leone began in October 1997, with the imposition of an oil and arms embargo and the authorization for ECOMOG to use troops in the area. Following several peace efforts by ECOWAS and others, in February 1998 ECOMOG launched a military offensive which overthrew the junta, expelled it from Freetown, and on 17 March 1998 returned President Kabbah to office. At this time the Security Council established the UN Observer Mission in



Sierra Leone UNOMSIL, beginning in June . UNOMSIL, under the protection of ECOMOG forces, was tasked to disarm combatants and document ongoing atrocities and abuses against civilians. The key to recent events began in July , with the signing of the Lome Agreement between the government and rebel forces. This agreement formally ended the hostilities and formed a government of national unity. This included eight cabinet positions controlled by the rebel leader, Foday Sankoh. Another key to the agreement, which was both very controversial and necessary for the peace to succeed, was the provision of complete amnesty to Sankoh for war crimes committed as part of the previous hostilities. Problematically, while RUF leadership at that time was supportive of the peace agreement, many RUF fighters remained uninformed in the field and continued accusations of RUF atrocities against the people of the country were common.

Further developments came on October , when the Security Council terminated UNOMSIL and established UNAMSIL. UNAMSIL's mandate is to cooperate with the government and the other parties in implementing the Lome Peace Agreement and assist in the implementation of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration plan. On February , the Security Council revised this mandate and expanded its size to a maximum of , military personnel. This force size was nearly doubled in April to , members, with its mandate extended through September.

One of the largest problems facing the UN is the implementation of this peace keeping force. The force has never reached its full capacity, and a number of very public departures by troop contributing countries India in September and Jordan in October left the operation woefully under staffed. The United Kingdom stepped up its operations in Sierra Leone to help stem the gap, and in April, , Pakistan offered an additional , troops, but more troops are still needed. Many countries fear the repercussions of sending forces into a situation which is still far from settled, and in which the combatants have not all agreed to cease provocations.

Rebel atrocities continued across the country throughout and the early months of . One of the low points occurred when rebels took UN peace keepers hostage in May . Almost of these troops were held by the RUF until July, at which time a rescue operation, led by the Indian contingent and supported by Nigerian and Ghanaian forces, was initiated by UN peace keeping forces.

A key element in the Sierra Leone situation is the export of diamonds by rebel forces, often through Liberia, with funds financing ongoing military operations. Council discussions of these "diamond wars" culminated in an embargo on all rough cut diamonds originating in Sierra Leone, with the exception of those accompanied by a government issued "certificate of origin." This was followed

in May by sanctions against Liberia for its part in trading the diamonds and supporting the RUF.

Negotiations on Sierra Leone continue, with increasing numbers of peace keepers now deploying into zones formerly occupied by rebel troops. More international forces, as well as additional funding and other support, are still needed if the operation is to be an eventual success.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How does the current situation in Sierra Leone reflect on your government's willingness to support, approve, fund or participate in future UN peace keeping efforts?
- Is the international community capable of successfully embargoing diamonds and similar materials in other countries when they are an element in internal warfare?
- Should UN peace keepers be more actively involved in rescue operations like the one staged in Sierra Leone? How should mandates with respect to the use of force be changed to keep up with similar situations?

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S/ / , March , Third SG Report on Sierra Leone

S/ / , January , Second SG Report on Sierra Leone

S/ / , June , Sixth SG Report on Sierra Leone

S/Res/ on the situation in Sierra Leone

S/Res/ on the situation in Liberia

S/Res/ on the situation in Sierra Leone

S/Res/ on the situation in Sierra Leone

S/Res/ on the situation in Sierra Leone

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Additional Web Resource:

www.un.org/Depts/dpko/unamsil/body_unamsil.htm

The Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ongoing conflict continues between the government and rebel groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo . While there have been some increased hopes for peace in the first months of , a final resolution of this conflict is far from realized. In July , the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement was signed by five regional States. In response to this, the Security Council set up the United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo MONUC in November , incorporating UN personnel authorized in earlier resolutions. In February , MONUC's size and mandate were further expanded to over military personnel. Based on the Secretary General's call for an increased force to ensure that the cease fire holds, a mission made up of Security Council members visited the DRC in both May and in May . This mission reported that the Lusaka agreement was broadly supported by all parties in the DRC. The people desired peace, democratic institutions, the withdrawal of outside forces, and also wanted the rebel movements to lay down their arms.

Problems remain, however, in both the work of MONUC and in the presence of rebel and external forces. MONUC's work has been largely unfulfilled in much of the country, as the UN forces have met significant resistance from rebel groups and have been unable to deploy in many areas. Some positive news came in June, however, as rebel troops withdrew from several major urban areas, with a few remaining peacefully to govern part of Kisangani. Continued rebel activity in many rural areas, along with the presence of external troops from neighboring Uganda and Rwanda, has kept the situation contentious. One of the largest current problems involves the alleged pillaging and illicit trade of resources by rebel and foreign groups operating within the DRC.

Reports of human rights violations are also still a grave concern in the eastern part of the DRC, including the systematic rape of women and girls, mass killings, and the destruction of property.

The situation was complicated in early , with the death of DRC President Laurent Kabila. Joseph Kabila, his son and successor, has successfully taken over as president, but some uncertainty still remains about the internal stability of the Congolese government.

Contention also remains about whether phase II of MONUC, allowing for greater troop deployments, is reasonable at this time. Visits by both the Security Council representatives and the Secretary General's liaisons show



the continuing great need for peace keepers, but with continuing conflict any additional deployments could still be problematic. Also, the ongoing crisis in Sierra Leone has both distracted the world community from the DRC, and has caused a climate in the Security Council which may now rethink additional commitments.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How can the international community incense the various international parties now active in the DRC to cease operations and return to internationally recognized borders?
- Given current conditions in the DRC, is this manifestation of MONUC likely to succeed once it is in place? Are changes to the mandate or composition of the forces needed to enhance the chances of success?

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Additional Web Resources:

The "IRIN Weekly Roundup of Main Events in the Great Lakes Region" is an excellent source for that area. Provide by ReliefWeb, this can be found at www.reliefweb.int
www.un.org/Depts/dpko/monuc/monuc_body.htm

The HIV/AIDS Crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa

The HIV/AIDS crisis has negatively impacted much of the world, but nowhere more so than sub Saharan Africa. While this is traditionally thought of as a health problem, since early the Security Council and other segments of the world community have been addressing the significant security concerns which are part of the HIV/AIDS crisis. In January , the Security Council, led by the United States, proclaimed the "month of Africa" and focused significant concern on the HIV/AIDS crisis. In security terms, this was seen as an important issue to address in



conflict areas, where the disease is known to spread much more quickly as precautions to prevent it are rarely taken. This spread occurs among combatants, innocent civilians caught in the area, and among national and international forces attempting to pacify an area.

This action by the Security Council opened a floodgate of discussion and action by the UN on the security implications of HIV/AIDS. In July 2001, the Council passed S/Res/1373, the first resolution to ever cover the impact of HIV/AIDS on peace keeping operations and security issues. Since that time, almost every Council resolution dealing with peace keeping has included a preambular clause on HIV/AIDS, “welcoming and encouraging efforts by the UN to sensitize peacekeeping personnel in the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in all its peacekeeping operations.” see S/Res/1373, as a recent example

HIV/AIDS threatens political stability by causing socioeconomic crises within a nation as internal health and social services are overwhelmed by the dying and the orphans left in its wake. Secretary General Annan has noted that these crises have effects akin to those of war.

The Council has also worked with other UN bodies, including ECOSOC and the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS UNAIDS, to discuss actions and solutions to this problem. Many parts of the UN system have come together on the AIDS pandemic, and the Security Council has taken a leadership position on the security implications of this issue.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective on this issue include:

- How can the UN better increase its ability to solve security problems by focusing on HIV/AIDS?
- What specific steps should be taken to limit the peace and security threat of HIV/AIDS?

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ISSUES IN ASIA

The Situation in Afghanistan

The year 2001 has seen the de facto Taliban government of Afghanistan seeking increased international legitimacy, but finding support in very few places. While United Front UF forces posed very little real threat to the Taliban throughout 2000 and 2001, the United Nations and most governments with the notable exception of neighboring Pakistan continue to recognize the exiled Afghani government and refuse to deal with the Taliban. The Russian Federation and United States have found common ground in leading UN actions aimed at controlling Taliban influence and limiting their effectiveness. Concerns center primarily on the Taliban’s exporting terrorist activities and training terrorists, as well as providing a safe haven for Osama Bin Laden. Also, there is concern from many of Afghanistan’s neighbors that the Taliban’s brand of extreme fundamentalism might spread to other countries.

The Taliban undertook a campaign in September 2001 to gain the Afghan seat at the UN, which has been denied to them since they first took power in the civil war. They were not only unsuccessful in this quest, but by December the Russian Federation and the US, over the objections of several Islamic countries, successfully moved the Security Council to increase sanctions against the Taliban. Current sanctions include an arms embargo, closure of offices outside Afghanistan, a ban on selling fuel used by the militia, air travel restrictions and restrictions on travel visas for Taliban officials.

These sanctions so far do not appear to have had the desired effect. While Taliban leaders still enjoy the lifestyle they had before the sanctions, the poorest segments of Afghan society are suffering from the sanctions. Additionally, the sanctions provoked significant backlash against UN officials and relief workers. The UN was forced to close its offices in Afghanistan when sanctions were increased in December 2001, and again in January, following threats against the safety of those workers by the Taliban. These were only slowly reopened when the Taliban government agreed to guarantee the safety of relief workers almost a week later.

The Secretary General’s Special Envoy to the region has expressed concern over the lack of progress toward peace in the country, and credits this to the absence of political will on the part of all warring factions in



Afghanistan. He also expressed disappointment with the cooperation of countries in the “six plus two” group of countries in the region; since Afghanistan is landlocked, ammunition and weapons must be traveling through other countries to reach the warring parties, who continue to remain well supplied. The “six plus two” group consists of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan all neighbors of Afghanistan plus the Russian Federation and the United States. The Secretary General’s office has repeatedly stressed the responsibility of these parties to assist in finding a common approach to peace in the conflict. In April , the Russian Federation went so far as to suggest that sanctions may be appropriate against Pakistan for its complicity in allowing trade goods including arms and supplies to reach the Taliban.

One of the key issues in recent months is the near famine condition prevalent in much of Afghanistan. This, along with significantly increasing refugee problems among both returning and new refugees, threats of a polio outbreak, urban poverty, continued narcotics trafficking and difficulties in clearing land mines have all contributed to the poor humanitarian situation in the country. Reports of human rights problems have also abounded. These have included the results of war, in which men, women and children have been subjected to summary executions in some cases and have been relegated to the status of virtual hostages in their own land. Human rights problems have been particularly strong concerns for women and children. Women’s educational opportunities have been largely eliminated under the Taliban, and gross violations of women’s rights have been reported.

The Council has frequently noted a deep concern over the human rights problems, particularly against women and girls. This has even been a problem when relief workers are within Afghanistan, as the stringent laws are applied regardless of nationality and women have a difficult time joining relief efforts. It also noted the continuing diplomatic difficulties between the Taliban and Iran, revolving around the abduction and killing of Iranian diplomats in Afghanistan. Additionally, the use of Afghan territory for the sheltering and training of terrorists was strongly condemned. This resolution further imposed an air embargo on Afghanistan, and froze all of the Taliban assets held in foreign accounts.

The possibility of elections has also been raised, but has yielded no significant results. While the Taliban does not rule out the possibility of future elections, it seems more interested in two other “alternatives” to end the conflict, those being the surrender of the opposition or military victory. Overall, no solutions to the ongoing conflict, instability and human rights violations appear forthcoming.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective on this issue include:

- How can the Taliban and opposition forces be encouraged to negotiate on the dispute?

- How can this conflict best be contained within Afghanistan, to prevent spillover into neighboring countries?
- How can the refugees and others displaced due to the conflict best be cared for while violence continues? How can the Taliban be encouraged to recognize internationally specified human rights and limit abuses?
- How can international efforts to relieve the worst cases of suffering within Afghanistan be better implemented?

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The Situation in East Timor

After a period of civil unrest that threatened to expand into other parts of the region, the initial conflict in East Timor was successfully resolved through UN auspices. This included significant support from Australia in volunteering to lead the peace keeping mission which would ensure stability in East Timor. The United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor UNTAET was created by the Security Council in S/Res/ . UNTAET is endowed with the administrative responsibility for East Timor by means of legislative, executive and judicial authority. UNTAET assumed full administration of East Timor in March .

More specifically, UNTAET’s mandate is: to provide security and maintain law and order throughout the territory of East Timor; to establish an effective administration; to assist in the development of civil and social services; to ensure the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance, rehabilitation and development assistance; to support capacity building for self government; and to assist in the establishment of conditions for sustainable development.

The current situation in East Timor is still transitional and very unpredictable. Issues now revolve around the status and eventual return of East Timorese refugees, the disposition of militias and their support from Indonesia proper, continuing attacks by militia members against UN personnel, and an independence vote tentatively scheduled for late . An additional issue may be the instability

which East Timor is engendering in other parts of Indonesia.

The refugee situation is still a central issue in the area. Starting in September , over , East Timorese were internally displaced or turned into refugees by the crisis. This included approximately , displaced in country, with the remaining , displaced to neighboring West Timor. Of these, most of the internally displaced have returned to their homes. While many have returned from West Timor, estimates in March , place approximately , people still in refugee camps in West Timor. UN efforts are concentrating primarily on caring for and repatriating these current refugees, although some efforts are also underway to assist in resettlement after people return to their homes. Problematically, militia groups continue to plague the refugee camps. While the militias are relatively small in numbers, they have attacked numerous refugees, and also killed three UN humanitarian aid workers as recently as September .

The overall militia situation continues to be a complicated one. While the Indonesian government has publicly disconnected itself from the militias, it appears that elements of the military may still support these groups. UN estimates put the number of militia members in the low hundreds, with one to two thousand additional informal supporters. Even so, the presence of these militia members, who can easily blend into society when not active, is problematic. Harassment of humanitarian aid workers and peace keepers is also a significant concern, but new rules of engagement were recently passed to allow peace keepers to shoot first when confronted with armed civilians. The current goal of the militias appears to be an attempt to reestablish a presence in East Timor, with the intent of challenging civil authorities following East Timor’s independence.

The vote on East Timorese independence, currently scheduled for late but likely to be postponed into , is also a key issue for which the UN is preparing. Allowing for a free and fair vote, as well as assisting in creating governing structures which will be sustainable after the UN departs, are the key issues. Repatriation of refugees is also seen as highly desirable before a vote takes place.

Additionally, the impact of the East Timor situation has gone beyond just that region. Early in the crisis, it was suggested that the most dangerous element of East Timor for Indonesia might be the “demonstration effect,” with other Indonesian regions following East Timor’s lead and breaking off from the central government. This does appear to be happening at present, with a major separatist movement in the northern Sumatra province of Aceh as the prime example. The potential for continuing disintegration in other parts of Indonesia is of definite concern to the international community, with the potential that violence will spill over even after the East Timor situation is settled.

A further complication to the entire situation is the uncertain nature of the Indonesian government. The



peaceful removal of President Wahid by parliament and succession by Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of the country's founding president Sukarno, leaves an air of uncertainty over the situation.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How can the UN better assist East Timor in its transitional phase?
- What is your government's position on the future of the UN's East Timor operation?
- Should the UN play a role in disarming the militias? What can the international community do realistically to prevent future violence?
- What role should the international community play in the possible spreading of violence, based in self determination movements, in other parts of Indonesia?

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S/Res/ on the situation in East Timor

S/Res/ on the situation in East Timor

Additional Web Resource:

www.un.org/peace/etimor/etimor.htm

ISSUES IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Situation in Kosovo

Regional and national elections, along with increasing violence by ethnic Albanian groups and the concurrent need to protect other minorities were the key issues facing the UN in Kosovo in late and the first half of . Perhaps the most important event for the region occurred in October with the election of Vojislav Kostunica to replace Slobodan Milosevic as president of Yugoslavia. With this single election, the international community's perspective on all facets of the Yugoslav situation was radically altered, culminating in Yugoslavia's re admission as a UN member state in November. While this was generally seen as a positive move for the ongoing situation in Kosovo, limiting the potential for future conflict from Serbian forces, it may also prove to extend the crisis, since most States now see Kosovar independence as a less than likely option.

UN operations in Kosovo are focused around an international civilian administration, the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo UNMIK , created on June by S/Res/ . UNMIK consists of four main branches, a UN led interim civil administration, a humanitarian affairs component led by UNHCR, an EU led reconstruction effort, and efforts to rebuild institutions in Kosovo, led by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE . While the UN has put significant effort into Kosovo over the past two years, with efforts primarily focused on rebuilding the region, many of the problems which started the conflict still remain.



Local legislative elections have been delayed several times since 1995, with current elections scheduled for November 1995. A number of issues have held up elections, but ethnic violence and the position of the Serbian minority in Kosovo continue to be exacerbating problems.

Chief among the current concerns the protection of Serbs remaining in Kosovo and renewed ethnic violence by Kosovar Albanians. Albanian forces have attacked numerous Serbs within Kosovo, have attacked UN officials and burned a UN police station, and have used Kosovo as a base for attacks in the neighboring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM. The Secretary General has strongly urged all ethnic communities and parties in Kosovo to demonstrate restraint and tolerance and to fully cooperate with the international community in efforts to restore the region. The SG has clearly stated the aim of UN operation in Kosovo as the creation of a "secure, multi ethnic, prosperous and democratically governed society for all Kosovars, regardless of ethnicity." Problematically, there are consistent and ongoing staff shortages for both civil administration and police, which have constrained UN operations.

The Security Council remains actively involved in the situation, including a mission of Council representatives to Kosovo in June 1995. Discussions involve both monitoring the progress of efforts led by the Secretary General, and taking measures to deal with the continuing threats of violence between various parties as the refugees are repatriated and the region is rebuilt.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How can the international community best facilitate ongoing actions to rebuild Kosovo, including increasing needed personnel and assisting in the upcoming elections?
- What additional steps are necessary to ensure fair legislative elections in Kosovo?
- What steps are needed to ensure the safety of the remaining Serbian population of Kosovo?

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www.un.org/kosovo/

www.un.org/Depts/dhl/da/kosovo/koso_sc .htm

The Situation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Since the collapse of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, many observers have viewed the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia FYROM as a critical flashpoint in the Balkans. The international community gave high priority to preventing the spread of ethnic conflict to FYROM, since it was feared that war there could quickly involve some or all of FYROM's neighboring countries and lead to a broader Balkan war. In 1995, the Security Council voted to send a small military contingent to FYROM to prevent the violence in the rest of the region from spilling over into the new nation. The United Nations Preventive Deployment Force UNPREDEP was the first instance ever of UN forces' being sent on a preventative deployment. By all measures, the operation was a success; FYROM was spared the violence that engulfed much of the region. However, in early 1996, China vetoed a further extension of UNPREDEP's mandate, in apparent retaliation for FYROM's recognition of Taiwan, and this veto led to the removal of the UN forces.

At the same time, NATO was deploying its forces to the area around the Yugoslav province of Kosovo in response to the escalating conflict there. By June 1998, NATO air strikes had led the government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to ask for a cease fire under NATO conditions. In response, the Security Council passed Resolution 1199 authorizing NATO forces to deploy to Kosovo to establish an environment conducive to finding a long term solution to the conflict. Some NATO forces were deployed to FYROM, both before and after S/Res/1199, in support of the main operation.

The conflict between Kosovo's Serb and Albanian populations had an impact on the relationship of the Slav and Albanian communities in FYROM, but inter ethnic relations never sank as low as those in Kosovo. In fact, Albanian parties were part of the FYROM government throughout the 1990s. However, relations have historically been tense between the Slav majority and ethnic Albanian minority, and the groups have never been integrated. Albanians resent their status as second class citizens, and believe their language should be made an official language of FYROM. Many in FYROM fear that these demands for Albanian autonomy are simply a pretext for the eventual separation of the Albanian areas.

The conflict in neighboring Kosovo in 1998 exacerbated inter ethnic tensions in FYROM. About 1 million Kosovar Albanian refugees flooded into FYROM during the height of the crisis. FYROM authorities were at times reluctant to accept Kosovar Albanian refugees and pressed for many thousands of them to be evacuated to

third countries. The Kosovo Liberation Army KLA maintained a presence in FYROM during the conflict. FYROM authorities frequently intercepted and seized weapons deliveries en route to Kosovo.

In early 1998, a group calling themselves the "National Liberation Army" UCK in Albanian appeared on the scene, claiming responsibility for a number of the attacks. As the violence escalated, the FYROM government moved to respond. Active diplomacy by the international community led the government to tread lightly in trying to reassert control. While this diplomacy is credited with keeping the level of the conflict in check, it drew resentment from many within FYROM. Many Slavs felt the foreign interference was preventing them from dealing decisively with internal rebellion; many Albanians felt betrayed by the same nations which they had seen as saviors months before.

The violence continued through the summer, with neither side able to gain a decisive advantage. After concerted diplomatic pressure, a cease fire in July led to a peace agreement in early August. The agreement calls for the deployment of NATO troops in FYROM to separate the forces and disarm the rebels. As of this writing, NATO forces have not yet been deployed.

Questions to consider from the perspective of your government on this issue include:

- Should the international mission to FYROM be under NATO or UN auspices?
- Does your government believe that foreign diplomacy made the situation in FYROM better or worse?
- Does your government feel this situation sets any precedents for how the international community should address conflicts like this in the future?
- What measures, if any, should the international community now take to prevent the conflict from rekindling and spreading?
- What would be the results of the withdrawal of the international community?

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ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Situation between Iraq and Kuwait

The latter months of and early brought a number of changes to the Security Council’s handling of the Iraqi situation. While disarmament, monitoring and verification issues continue to be a concern, the Council now appears to be moving toward allowing nations to normalize trading relations with Iraq. A broad realization, even among the United Kingdom and the United States, has set in that the current sanctions are ineffective, and is harming the Iraqi people while not seriously affecting the government. The sanctions have become subject to multiple violations, by both neighboring States and several major powers.

While the UK and US did engage in a prolonged bombing attack against Iraq in February , this was followed by discussions of “recasting” the sanctions. A UK and US resolution to modify the sanctions failed to gain support in May. Following this, in June Iraq again refused to comply with a Security Council resolution extending the oil for food programme, thus attempting to show its defiance to international regulation. As of the time of this writing, oil is again flowing from Iraq with limited restrictions; all money received goes into the oil for food accounts, thus limiting Iraq’s ability to purchase weapons, which would be contrary to the remaining sanctions.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate. Infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world, and almost half of the population has very little access to clean water or many other necessities. The Red Cross has also noted that the Iraqi health care system is very run down, and UNDP has reported that major rehabilitation will be needed in the Iraqi power supply system before power can be fully restored.

The current stalemate in the Security Council includes the UK and US position of keeping sanctions on weapons and a possible renewed inspection regime, while lifting all other sanctions. The Russian Federation and China, on the other hand, favor only very limited restrictions on Iraq,

arguing that the Iraqi people have suffered enough and that the country should be allowed to rebuild. France and several other European nations are in the middle of this stalemate, with significant interests in Iraqi trade driving the positions of some countries.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective on this issue include:

- What actions can be taken to break the current stalemate in the Council? Which position does your government favor to overcome the impasse?
- Should sanctions be lifted as Iraq continues to comply with the demands of the Security Council?
- What concessions, if any, should be made to Iraq in order to restore the disarmament and monitoring mission? Is this a desirable outcome for your government?

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The Situation in the Middle East:

The UN monitored Israeli pullout from Lebanon in June , along with ongoing talks between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority brought a brief sense of renewed hope to the region. Violence continued, however, and has intensified since the February election of Prime Minister Sharon in Israel. Both sides continue to engage in violent acts, whether through direct confrontations, or in increased bombings and other alleged terrorist incidents. The Security Council attempted to take action in March , with a resolution which would have created an international observer force to protect Palestinian civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. This resolution, which was opposed by Israel, was vetoed by the United States, with four other European nations abstaining. While the Middle East is a frequent topic of discussion, little concrete action has been taken by the Council.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective on this issue include:

- What role can the international community play in supporting a peaceful resolutions to the problems in the Middle East?

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