

AMERICAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AT AMUN REPRESENTATIVE HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION	3
I. THE UNITED NATIONS	
• Origins of the United Nations, Purpose of the United Nations, How the United Nations Seeks to Achieve Its Purpose, Structure of the United Nations.....	4
• Bloc Politics	5
II. THE SECURITY COUNCIL	7
• Issues in Africa.....	7
• Issues in Asia.....	11
• Issues in Europe.....	12
• Issues in the Middle East.....	13
• Other Issues	16
III. THE HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL - 1967	17
• The Situation in Southern Rhodesia	18
• The Question of Palestine.....	19
• The Situation in the Republic of the Congo, The Situation in Vietnam.....	20
• Other Issues	21
IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	23
• The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)	
• General and Complete Disarmament: Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction	23
• Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction	24
• The Second Committee (Economic and Financial)	
• Globalization and Interdependence: Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010	26
• Strengthening International Economic Cooperation for Development Through Partnership	27
• The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural)	
• Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children: Protection of Children Affected by Armed Conflict.....	29
• International Drug Control.....	31
• The Sixth Committee (Legal)	
• Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.....	32
• International Convention Against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings.....	33
V. THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS	36
• The Rights of Refugees.....	36
• The Right to Development.....	39
VI. THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	42
• Coordination, Programme and Other Questions: Malaria and Diarrhoeal Diseases, in Particular Cholera.....	42
• Social and Human Rights Questions: Social Development	43
• High-Level Segment: The Role of the United Nations System in Supporting the Efforts of African Countries to Achieve Sustainable Development	45
• Operational Activities of the United Nations for International Development Cooperation: Economic and Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries.....	46
• Report of the Commission on Human Rights.....	48
VII. THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE	49
• <i>Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda</i> : Dispute Over the Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo.....	49
• <i>Liechtenstein v. Germany</i> : Dispute Over the Reparation of Property Stemming from World War II.....	50
• <i>Spain v. Canada</i> : Fisheries Jurisdiction Case	51



2002 AMUN INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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President of the General Assembly

Stacy Short

Vice President of the General Assembly

Sarah Morse

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Editor-in-Chief:

Adam Wolfe

Editors:

Matthew Corso

Brian Endless

Background Writers:

Gregory Elias Adams

Marian Adly

Greg Amend

Jaclyn Burger

Don Carey

Matthew Corso

Brijeet Dhaliwal

Christina Drennon

Shannon Dunn

Brian Endless

Jason Fulp

Adam Goldstein

Timothy Grailer

Kathryn Guadreau

Allison Hassig

Lisa Hendrickson

Mitzi Heniff

Tim Hoppe

Kevin Ingram

Ryan Kennedy

Chandra Linton

Steve Majors

Lacy Parrish

Neil Ripley

Nadia Stoyanova

Teresa Woodard

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE WRITE OR CALL:

American Model United Nations International

5005 West Winona

Chicago, Illinois 60630

Phone: (773) 777-AMUN

Fax: (773) 777-1963

E-mail: mail@amun.org

Web: www.amun.org

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ISSUES AT AMUN 2002

INTRODUCTION

The *Issues at AMUN Handbook* has been published to assist Representatives in their preparations for the American Model United Nations Conference. When utilized to complement the research students do on the nation they represent and the topics of discussion, this handbook provides Representatives with all the substantive information they will require to function effectively at the simulation. Its sister handbook, *AMUN Rules and Procedures*, provides an overview of the committee/council rules and conference logistics with which Representatives need to familiarize themselves for the simulation.

The following pages contain brief overviews of the topics to be discussed in the Committees and Councils at the 2002 Conference. These are intended as a guideline and basis for Representatives' further research of the issues involved. In keeping with this, each overview includes a bibliography to guide Representatives on appropriate sources of additional information.

The overviews give a brief background into each topic and state some areas of current United Nations and international activity on the topic. In many cases, the overviews will frame the topic in terms of a few, limited parts of a highly complex issue. For example, the general issue of "the Environment" may have dozens of sub-issues -- in such a case, the overview may provide direction for Representatives to concentrate their research on "Ozone Depletion" and "Limiting the Destruction of the Rain Forests," only two of the many smaller issues. This format allows Representatives to go into greater detail in their preparations, without the need to research all aspects of the multifaceted main issue.

Chapter I - The United Nations is provided as essential background to give all Representatives a common ground about the history of the UN. This section begins with the origins of the UN and covers some important points about the organization. Finally, focus is given to problems confronting the UN today.

AMUN's philosophy in providing these topic overviews is to give Representatives *direction* in their research, but to leave the work up to them. **These overviews are not intended to be the sole source of Representatives' research on the topics prior to the conference.**

USE OF THE INTERNET

Note that many of works cited in this *Issues at AMUN Handbook* are resources located on the World Wide Web. Full texts of many of AMUN's periodical sources are available to AMUN participants on-line. Feel free to visit AMUN's homepage at www.amun.org for a full list of recommended research links.

Three on-line sources of particular note are the United Nations homepage (www.un.org), *UN Wire* (www.unwire.org), a daily briefing on UN issues provided by the United Nations Foundation, and the *New York Times* on-line (www.nyt.com). These sources are heavily referenced throughout the issues briefings in this handbook. Additionally, the on-line copy of this handbook, also available from AMUN's homepage, contains direct links to all available documents cited in the *Issues* bibliographies.

For a more thorough discussion of on-line research sources, see "Utilizing the Internet" on page 14 of the *AMUN Rules and Procedures Handbook*.

