

CHAPTER II.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATE MEMBERS

Algeria	China	Romania
Angola	France	Russian Federation
Benin	Germany	Spain
Brazil	Pakistan	United Kingdom
Chile	Philippines	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*, *London Times*, *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 report(s) 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/Docs/sc/). 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 one or two 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 draft 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 Côte d'Ivoire

In recent years, West Africa has been plagued by instability and war. There are currently United Nations peacekeeping missions deployed to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire. All are active areas of concern for the United Nations, with Côte d'Ivoire being the most unstable.

In September of 2002, an uprising in Côte d'Ivoire left the country divided. The rebellion began as a military coup, but it expanded to encompass complaints by the predominantly Muslim population of the north that they were victims of discrimination. Governmental forces have controlled the southern portion of the country since the uprising, while rebel factions have controlled the northern portion. Initially, a peacekeeping force consisting of mostly French and West African troops was deployed to create a buffer zone between the two; the force has since been augmented by a UN peace keeping force.

The French quickly brokered a peace deal between the warring parties, which called for a unity government that included the rebels, new elections in 2005, and disarmament by both sides. This agreement has never been fully implemented and has encountered significant roadblocks. First, rebel forces have refused to begin disarming until after the elections scheduled for 2005 have taken place. Also, in March an opposition rally in the capital of Abidjan ended in violence, leaving an unknown number of innocent victims. The Agence France-Presse has published parts of a leaked UN report on the incident, alleging that there were at least 120 victims at the demonstration. The government has condemned the report, and claims that only 37 peo-

ple died at the demonstration. More recently, in May President Gbagbo fired three prominent rebel ministers from the unity government that had been established. The rebels responded by announcing that they no longer recognized the authority of the President, and many of the rebels as well as the international community now look to Prime Minister Diarra to find a way to reconcile the two sides.

The Situation in Liberia

The situation in Liberia seems to be more hopeful. The UN envoy declared on June 3 that the peace process was "firmly on track and irreversible." He announced that the deployment of UNMIL (the UN Mission in Liberia) to the area had stabilized the country and that disarmament programs were proceeding smoothly. However, the disarmament program has not had much success in collecting heavy weapons from the former combatants. In addition, only 82 of the fighters in the program have identified themselves as foreign combatants. This issue is especially important because of complex ties between the governments of the region and rebel groups in neighboring countries. For instance, the government of Charles Taylor supported the RUF rebels during the civil war in Sierra Leone, and many of those fighters returned to Liberia to fight for Mr. Taylor following the end of the war in 2001. The rebel groups in Liberia that overthrew Mr. Taylor are also known to have received support from Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire during their campaign to oust President Taylor. The multinational nature of this conflict, and of the other areas of concern in the region, present the UN with special difficulties in restoring peace to the region.



The Situation in Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, the peace process is on track and nearly complete. The National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration completed its work on February 5, 2004 after disarming some 72,490 fighters in the country. UNAMSIL (the UN Mission in Sierra Leone) has had its mandate extended to keep UN peacekeepers in the country until June of 2005, but it will slowly reduce in size from 10,000 soldiers to approximately 3,400 UN personnel. UNAMSIL was originally scheduled to be disbanded in December of 2004, but West African leaders requested the extension due to fears that instability in Liberia could spread to Sierra Leone, especially if UNMIL encounters difficulties in demobilizing fighters in Liberia. Also, the Special Court for Sierra Leone has started prosecuting war criminals. These prosecutions may eventually include former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who has been indicted by the court but who has received sanctuary from the Nigerian government.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on these issues include:

- How can the international community encourage both sides in Côte d'Ivoire to disarm and cooperate in a unity government?
- What does the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire mean for the surrounding region?
- What are the motivating factors behind the conflict? How can the peacekeeping force address these factors most effectively?
- In light of other peacekeeping commitments to French speaking countries, can the UN sustain this peacekeeping force, and can the currently deployed force achieve its mandate?
- What steps does the UN need to take to continue to support the peace processes in Liberia and Sierra Leone?

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- S/2004/428 – Report pursuant to S/RES/1521(2003) regarding Liberia
- S/2004/272 – Report pursuant to S/RES/1478(2003) regarding Liberia
- S/2004/229 – Second progress report on the UN mission in Liberia
- S/2004/228 – Twenty-first report on the UN Mission in Sierra Leone
- S/2004/200 – Report on ways to combat subregional and cross-border problems in West Africa
- S/2004/3 and S/2004/3/Add 1 and S/2004/3/Add 2 – Report on the UN mission in Côte d'Ivoire
- S/2003/1201 – Twentieth report on the UN mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)
- S/Res/1547 (2004)
- S/Res/1537 (2004)
- S/Res/1532 (2004)
- S/Res/1528 (2004)
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- S/Res/1497 (2003)
- S/Res/1492 (2003)
- S/Res/1467 (2003)
- S/Res/1446 (2002)
- S/Res/1346 (2001)

Additional Web Resources:

- UNOCI (peacekeeping mission in the Côte d'Ivoire) – www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/unoci/index.html
- UNMIL (peacekeeping mission in Liberia) – www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/unmil/index.html
- UNAMSIL (peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone) – www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/unamsil/index.html

The Situation in Sudan

In Sudan, a peace accord has been largely agreed upon by both sides of the 21 year long civil war that has ravaged the southern part of that country, although a comprehensive accord has yet to be signed. However, in the Darfur region of western Sudan, a new humanitarian crisis looms. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) has warned that between 300,000 and 1,000,000 people have died or will die in Darfur, and that interference by the government of Sudan has prevented the flow of



emergency supplies to the region. The international community has accused the Sudanese government of sponsoring militias in the region which have terrorized the people of the Darfur region as part of a civil war within the country. The Security Council has only made cursory efforts to act on the issue, but the UN Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs has called the Darfur region the “biggest humanitarian crisis in the world today.”

Exacerbating the humanitarian crisis are two factors, the fact that the UN has yet to receive much of the international aid pledged to help the Darfur region, and the recent balking of the government of Sudan to disarm the Arab Janjawid militias. Of the \$349 million in aid pledged to the Darfur region, only \$158 million has been received. This deficit of \$191 million is threatening to increase the humanitarian disaster that is already taking place.

On 30 July 2004, the Security Council passed Resolution 1556 calling for the government of Sudan to disarm the militias who are currently actively killing and raping in the Darfur region within 30 days. Sudan’s response to Resolution 1556 was to condemn it, stating that it would implement the previous timeline of 90 days agreed to on 3 July 2004. While this is occurring, the United Kingdom has put its 12th Mechanised Infantry Brigade on standby in case they are needed to deal with the Darfur emergency.

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

- How can countries which have pledged money to the crisis in Darfur be convinced to release those funds as soon as possible? Is additional aid available from any source?
- Given the lessons of the humanitarian crises in Africa in the early and mid 1990s, what can the Security Council do to head off or stop an escalating crisis in the Sudan?
- What steps are feasible if the Sudanese government refuses to accept international forces?

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Other Issues in Africa

A number of other peace and security issues face countries on the African continent. In particular, the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)

has recently encountered serious difficulties in executing its mission. Rebel forces in the eastern part of the DRC seized the city of Bukavu, looting the town and killing many civilians. The rebels have pledged to withdraw from the city, but the situation is still confused. In response to the capture of Bukavu, riots broke out in the capital of Kinshasa. The rioters blamed the UN for not protecting the city, and some claimed the UN was in league with the rebels. UN forces have periodically encountered hostile forces while executing their mission, although the resistance does not seem to be organized or even specifically targeting UN forces.

ISSUES IN ASIA

The Situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

The standoff over the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s nuclear program continues almost two years after the United States first accused the DPRK of having a nuclear program. The negotiating positions of the DPRK and United States remain far apart, with the United States insisting on a verifiable disarmament of the nuclear program before any other issues are discussed, while the DPRK wants energy and food aid in exchange for any dismantling.

Several incidents have changed the nature of the negotiations in the past few months. First, Dr. Abdul Khan of Pakistan has made several disturbing revelations about his involvement in the nuclear black market. Among other things, he claims to have assisted the DPRK in creating a uranium enrichment program, and to have given the DPRK a list of all the equipment they would need to implement this program. The DPRK has denied that it has any such uranium enrichment program, although the United States claims that the DPRK admitted to such a program in private negotiations during 2002. Also, Dr. Khan claims to have seen three working nuclear weapons during a visit to the DPRK in 1999. In addition, US intelligence agencies are considering significantly revising their estimates of the size of the nuclear arsenal of the DPRK. The United States had previously estimated that the DPRK had enough plutonium for two nuclear weapons, but the reprocessing of fuel rods following the breakdown of negotiations over the last two years has given the DPRK enough plutonium to increase its arsenal to as many as eight weapons, according to internal intelligence reports and a number of private sector estimates. Talks are scheduled to resume in Beijing in mid- May, following a visit by Kim Jung Il to Beijing in April.

Also in April, a massive explosion struck the rail center at Ryongchon in the DPRK. Ryongchon is an important link on the rail line from Beijing to Pyongyang, and the explosion may have damaged its ability to transport food aid and other assistance from China. The extent of the damage is largely unknown, due to the secretive nature of the DPRK government; however, the government has allowed some aid from the international community to reach the victims.

While the Security Council has not been actively involved in the situation in the DPRK, this is nonetheless a topic of underlying concern for many Council members.

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

- What role, if any, should the United Nations play in resolving the crisis on the Korean Peninsula?

- How can the United Nations best assist the North Koreans with their humanitarian needs?

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The Situation in Afghanistan

The year 2004 promises to be important for the future of Afghanistan as two important initiatives of the post-Taliban era hang in the balance. First, the United Nations and the government of Afghanistan aim to hold twice delayed presidential elections in October of this year, and parliamentary elections at some point in 2005. The government postponed the vote from a planned June date when UN officials expressed concerns that security issues would prevent voter registration ahead of the election. The UN believes that as many as 10.5 million eligible voters need to be registered; so far, approximately 8 million voters have been registered. The UN has been conducting a major initiative to increase voter registration. However, it has faced resistance from insurgents in the country, who have targeted election workers in an effort to disrupt the election. Many have criticized the registration efforts as focusing on urban areas, and others have noted that women make up only 41% of the registered voters. UN officials have blamed security concerns for the lack of progress, and US, UN, and Afghan officials are working on ways to protect election workers in areas still sympathetic to the Taliban. One solution has been to send Provincial Reconstruction Teams into unstable areas, but NATO members have been slow to contribute the necessary troops to expand the presence of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) outside of Kabul. As of June 7, the UN has expanded voter registration into all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, but there are concerns that UN personnel are still vulnerable to the insurgents. These concerns were heightened by the murder of five aid workers with Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders). The attack was particularly surprising because it occurred in the Badghis province, which had been considered one of the safest areas of the country.

Another significant initiative is the planned disarmament of up to 40% of the factional militia left in the country following the war in 2001. The Afghan government, backed by the UN, had hoped to accomplish this goal by June 30, 2004 but they have found many of the militia commanders uncooperative. Even many major figures in the Afghan government, including General Atta Mohammad, who commands an army corps in Mazar-e-Sharif, and Ismail Khan, who is the governor of Herat, have stalled on disarming their militias. The UN has re-launched the disarmament program after a pilot program stalled last October. The Afghan government has announced that it expects the program to proceed without further delays and it believes the program will be accepted by all parties.

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

- How can the UN encourage the disarmament of militias in Afghanistan?
- What can be done to ensure free and fair elections in Afghanistan?
- What steps are necessary to ensure the security of UN personnel and other aid workers from violence?

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Additional Web Resources:

www.unama-afg.org/ -- United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
www.afnorth.nato.int/ISAF/ -- International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Situation in Iraq

The situation in Iraq represents one of the most difficult challenges for the UN to date. The UN has a tragic history in Iraq. On 19 August 2003, a bomb destroyed the UN headquarters in Iraq, killing envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello. This attack prompted the UN to withdraw all of its international personnel from Iraq, and the continued security problems have remained a serious obstacle to progress. Seven months later, a similar attack resulted in the deaths of 202 people in Madrid, Spain. This tragedy also led to the election of a new government in Spain, who has fulfilled their promise to withdraw Spanish troops by June 30. Although Spanish troops represent only a small fraction of the overall international presence in Iraq, the withdrawal of Spanish support for the operation has left the US with fewer allies in Iraq and a greater feeling of isolation. The Spanish withdrawal prompted Honduras to follow suit, but other coalition partners have maintained their troop commitments.

In addition to security issues, the political transfer of power to Iraq occurred in secret on 30 June 2004, transferring sovereignty to a transitional Iraqi government from the Coalition Provisional Authority. This government was recently unveiled following negotiations between Lakdar Brahimi, the UN special envoy to Iraq, the US, and the Iraqi governing council. Both Brahimi and Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani have given lukewarm endorsements of the new government, with Brahimi reportedly privately expressing his reservations about the new prime minister's reported ties to the American CIA. Many of the ministers in the government are Western-educated or former exiles who are seen as being sympathetic to US policy in the country, but others, including the new president, have been more outspoken on US policies. In addition, a new resolution is under discussion in the Security Council as the international community weighs in with its opinion on what will make the new Iraqi government credible. Lastly, security problems still loom large in Iraq, especially after the 17 May assassination of Ezzedine Salim, then the head of the Iraqi Governing Council. The announcement of the new Iraqi transitional government was met with violence, as a number of bombings greeted the newly appointed government.

In addition to attacks against the military presence in Iraq, a new threat has emerged; the calculated kidnapping of foreign workers. Groups such as the "Holders of the Black Banner" have materialized to kidnap workers and threaten to behead them if their nation does not remove their presence in Iraq. Thus far, this tactic has had moderate success; with a company from Jordan announcing it is suspending operations in Iraq and pulling all of its employees from the country following a kidnapping of two of its employees. Also, the government of the Philippines removed their 51 troops from Iraq several weeks early when a Filipino hostage was captured and threatened with beheading. The

hostage was subsequently released, but this action caused significant turmoil among the countries with troops and workers still in Iraq. As this trend increases, the burden on the military forces that still have a presence in Iraq becomes more difficult. This region of the world will be particularly unstable and unpredictable in the months to come.

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

- How can the Security Council assist in the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty?
- What can be done to protect UN personnel in unstable environments?
- What should a transitional Iraqi government look like?
- What additional roles can the UN play in restoring order and legitimate governmental power to Iraq?

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- S/2003/656 – Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission for the period 22 March – 15 June 2003
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The Situation in Middle East

The insurgency in the West Bank and Gaza Strip continues, with most of the significant events taking place in the Gaza Strip. Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon had proposed a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, after receiving support from US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Bush also assured Sharon that the United States would not support any Palestinian right of return, and that Israel would be able to keep some land in the West Bank captured during the 1967 war with Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. However, although the idea of unilateral withdrawal has gained support among the Israeli population, the plan failed to win support from a majority of Likud party members, the political party of Prime Minister Sharon. Sharon then forced a cabinet vote on a modified version of the plan, winning its passage after sacking two ministers who opposed the plan. However, the final draft contained contradictory language, leaving the ultimate effect of the plan in doubt.

In addition, the International Court of Justice recently considered the legality of the security barrier under construction in the West Bank. The Court ruled that the security barrier was in violation of international law and should be removed immediately. The Palestinians object to what they consider a de-facto land grab while the Israelis insist the barrier is necessary to prevent terrorist attacks. The General Assembly met in emergency session following this ICJ ruling, and passed a resolution calling the wall “illegal” and demanding that Israel comply with the ICJ ruling by a vote of 150 in favour and 6 opposed.

The Israelis have also launched an offensive targeting the

leadership of the Palestinian group Hamas to prevent Hamas from claiming a victory following any Israeli pullout. The Israeli have killed two successive leaders of Hamas, founder Ahmed Yassin and his replacement Abdel Aziz Rantisi. Most recently, intense fighting has raged in the Gaza Strip following Israeli efforts to find and destroy tunnels used to smuggle arms from Egypt. Eleven Israeli soldiers were killed when two APCs used to carry explosives were hit by RPG fire, and dozens of Palestinians have died in firefights raging in the Gaza Strip. Political infighting among Palestinian factions in control of the Palestinian Authority also continues to complicate the situation.

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

- How can the UN assist the peace process?
- What actions can the UN take to build trust between the two parties?

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- S/2003/947-A/58/416 -- Report on the question of Palestine
- Press Release, GA/10248, 20 July 2004
- S/Res/1544 (2004)
- S/Res/1515 (2003)

