



CHAPTER TWO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Members of the Security Council:

Austria	Gabon	Turkey
Bosnia- Herzegovina	Japan	Uganda
Brazil	Lebanon	United States of America
China	Mexico	United Kingdom
France	Nigeria	
	Russian Federation	

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: *The New York Times*, *UN Chronicle*, *The London Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Economist* and *Keesing's Record of World Events*.

Also, the UN Foundation's online 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.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION

The Palestinian Question remains one of the most discussed topics in the Security Council since Israel declared its independence in 1948. The problem of Palestinian refugees has existed since 1948, following Israel's defeat of neighboring states Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. The resulting Palestinian refugee crisis caused the General Assembly, in Resolution 194, to lay out a course for those driven from their homes and wishing to live in peace to return. In the 1949 Armistice, what remained of the state of Palestine was occupied by Egypt (the Gaza Strip), and Transjordan (the West Bank). These territories were seized by Israel in a 1967 preemptive attack against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Within six days Israel had seized the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. This prompted the Security Council to pass Resolution 242, calling for Israeli withdrawal from the territories it occupied. Israel maintained control of all occupied territories, and Syria and Egypt attacked jointly in 1973 in what became known as the Yom Kippur War, prompting Resolution 338, which affirmed Resolution 242 and called for peace talks. Israel withdrew from the Sinai after a 1979 peace treaty with Egypt. However, in 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon in order to destroy Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) forces there. While this drove the PLO from Lebanon, it also caused the formation of Hezbollah. In 1987 Jordan ceded its rights to the West Bank to the PLO, which recognized Israel, and began negotiations for peace. The Palestinian Authority replaced the PLO in 1994 in governing the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the signing of the Oslo Accords.

After the breakdown of the peace process and the beginning of the Second Intifada in 2000, work towards peace in the Middle East has been a difficult process. The most recent progress occurred in 2003 with the Quartet, composed of the United States, Russia, the Euro-

pean Union and the United Nations, backing what is known as the Road Map. The Road Map suggests a permanent two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Palestinian refugee problem. Israel rejected some portions of the Road Map, while the Palestinian Authority pledged its support.

The situation in Gaza has been tense since the administration of a blockade started in 2007 as Hamas gained control of the Gaza strip after an internal Palestinian conflict. The blockade has cut food, medicine and fuel supplies to critical levels and keeps certain materials such as concrete and steel out of Gaza over concerns that Hamas would use them for military purposes. The ensuing economic crisis in Gaza from such restrictions has led to an increase in smuggling using tunnels beneath the Egyptian border. Both Egypt and Israel have attempted to stop this with Egypt constructing an underground wall and Israel regularly bombing suspected tunnel exits along the border. In May 2010, Gazans began cutting through the underground wall to continue smuggling items needed. The UN has estimated that nearly 80% of all imports to Gaza come through the tunnels.

Rocket attacks from within Gaza led to conflict from 27 December 2008 to 18 January 2009. This conflict led to the deaths of 1,010 Palestinians and damage to 1,008 buildings in Gaza. This conflict led to an investigation by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) which issued a 575 page report and found both Israeli forces and Palestinian militants guilty of committing war crimes and breaching humanitarian. The report found the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) directly targeted and arbitrarily killed Palestinian civilians and directly targeted industrial and water installations while using Palestinians civilians as human shields. It also found Palestinian militants affiliated with Hamas to be guilty of deliberately targeting civilian populations. Additionally several UN facilities were struck. Sporadic

rocket fire from Hamas positions in Gaza and Israeli airstrikes in response continue to this day.

Efforts at restarting the peace process and moving toward a two state solution, originally envisioned in General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947, have reached a stumbling block due to Hamas control of Gaza and the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has stated that expansion of Israeli settlements is illegal and acts against international law. The Secretary-General has also called for a lift of the blockade on Gaza. The Palestinian president has warned that Hamas has been smuggling large amounts of weapons into the West Bank just ahead of the peace talks resuming there. Israeli officials have voiced concerns about Hamas toppling the Abbas' government in the West Bank. The question of how to establish and maintain a lasting peace in Israel, Palestine, and neighboring states remains.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective include the following:

- What steps can be taken to persuade Israel, Palestine, and surrounding nations to adhere to the Road Map? Is the Road Map still a viable solution?
- Is a two-state solution a viable way to resolve conflict and bring about the changes envisioned in Resolution 242 and subsequent documents?
- How can the Palestinian refugee problem be solved? What should be done about illegal Israeli settlements in occupied territories? How can the humanitarian crisis in Gaza be solved?
- What can be done to ensure mutual security for Israel and Palestine?

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THE SITUATION IN SUDAN

In 2003, a rebellion broke out in the Darfur region of Sudan, separate from the civil war that was already engulfing the country. Even though the north-south civil war ended in 2005 with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), conflict remained in Darfur. Rebels called the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) attacked government and military facilities throughout Darfur, which led to retaliation of local militias known as the Janjaweed. The Janjaweed are backed by the Sudanese government and have often worked in conjunction with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The conflict in Darfur has resulted in the deaths of over 300,000 people and the displacement of over three million more. While several Member States and NGOs have declared the events in Darfur to be genocide, the United Nations has not declared the fighting to be genocide.

Resolution 1769 (2007) established the United Nations-African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). The UNAMID was created to assist the African Union force already in place (AMIS) and to respect the sovereign wishes of the government of Sudan by placing a peacekeeping force primarily composed of African peacekeepers in the region. The UN assumed full authority in January 2008. UNAMID's mission in Darfur is to monitor the humanitarian and security situations and the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. Violence continued between the SAF and the Sudan People's Liberation Army, preventing the return of refugees from Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia in late March 2009. At least 300,000 people are estimated to have died and 2.7 million more have been driven from their homes in the fighting. In December 2009, civil society and armed movements agreed to re-start consultations in January 2010 to be followed by direct talks between the Government and movements on January 24, 2010 in Qatar. However those talks were frozen when the Justice and Equity Movement (JEM), the largest rebel group in Darfur said it would suspend talks after an attack on its positions near the Sudan/Chad border.

While Darfur has been an ongoing issue, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) has been stepping up patrols in Southern Sudan to help defuse tensions and reduce reprisal attacks and deadly ethnic clashes. UNMIS has also been preparing for the arrival of humanitarian assessment teams. At least 2 million people were killed and 4 million others uprooted over the 20 years of fighting between the southern separatists and the national Government in the north until the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. UNMIS was set up to help parties implement the accord, including providing for a referendum on independence for the south next year. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon announced in early 2010 that there have been many recent developments that are positives towards implementing the peace agreement, such as passing legislation governing next year's referendum as well as registering over 16 million voters. However, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon also noted that a return to conflict is a very real possibility and that it would take the combined efforts and support of the international and regional communities. The Secretary-General did make it clear that the UN was taking no position on next year's referendum. While many Member States encourage the referendum, questions regarding its accuracy and transparency have been highlighted after the results of the first presidential election in 24 years, which have been called into question by several Member States and independent groups.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective include the following:

- Are there ways to make UNAMID more successful in Darfur?
- What can the UN do to further the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement?
- Why has the violence in Darfur continued to escalate despite the Darfur Peace Agreement? How might these factors be overcome?
- How might neighbor state involvement further complicate the security situation in Darfur?
- What is your government's position on the referendum in southern Sudan? Is this valuable in seeking a solution to the conflict?

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THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Since the end of the Second Congo War, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) remains a country in conflict. Rich in natural resources, the Democratic Republic of Congo remains divided by several militant groups vying for control of the country's vast mineral wealth. Ethnic violence also continues from the wake of the Rwandan genocide when militant groups, both Hutu and Tutsi, crossed into the eastern portions of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Other militant groups arose in response to these incursions. These groups along with the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) came into conflict in 2008. Following a conflict on

August 28th 2008 large-scale hostilities broke out in the eastern part of the DRC between Congrès National pour la Défense du Peuple (CNDP) and FARDC. FARDC, Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), Coalition of Congolese Patriotic Resistance (PARECO) and various Mai-Mai groups fighting the CNDP led to the displacement of 250,000 people between August and November 2008. Fighting continued until a ceasefire was negotiated by UN special envoy, former Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo, in November 2008. Following the arrest of CNDP leader Laurent Nkunda in January 2009, the remaining CNDP, under the command of Bosco Ntaganda, reached an agreement with FARDC integrating them into the Democratic Republic of Congo's armed forces although integration met with limited success.

Although much of the fighting in the Ituri region has ended, eastern and northern portions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo still remain in conflict. After the launch of a joint operation between (FARDC) and the Rwandan armed forces, to hunt down the FDLR, violence increased in the form of reprisal killings against suspected collaborators. Nearly 160,000 people were newly displaced by the joint Rwandan-Congolese offensive and FDLR counter offensive between January and March 2009. The FDLR forged an alliance with the Mai Mai in the mineral rich region of Opienge. FARDC once again went on the offensive against FDLR troops claiming 600 killed or captured between January and March 2010 with UN peacekeepers backing the mission. Additionally FARDC, Ugandan and semi-autonomous South Sudanese armed forces formed a task force in order to attack Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) bases in the Garamba National park, after Joesph Kony, leader of the LRA, failed to appear to sign a peace deal with the Ugandan government to end its rebellion. The most brutal of retaliatory attacks by the LRA seems to have taken place in December 2009 with LRA forces killing at least 321 and abducting 250 including 80 children.

Militant groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo have been accused of terrorizing civilian populations through brutal killings, forced labor, rape, and conscription of child soldiers. Throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) force is strained despite its size (approximately 22,000 personnel). This force, active since February 2000, is tasked with attempting to protect civilians from militant groups and undisciplined elements of FARDC largely in eastern portions of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Strained by lack of donor states for peacekeeping forces and equipment, the country's poor infrastructure and size, the situation is further complicated by the exploitation of the Democratic Republic of Congo's mineral resources in the form of gold, tin, copper, cobalt, coltan, and wolframite smuggled through neighboring states to industrialized nations across the world. This mineral exploitation is fueled by ongoing support from neighboring countries, notably including Rwanda and Uganda.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is requesting a troop draw down and withdrawal of peacekeepers from western portions of the nation as well as a complete withdrawal by mid-2011. Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes ended a recent tour of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in May 2010 and has stressed the vital need for UN peacekeepers to remain beyond the August 2011 deadline. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon agreed, stating that the 11-year-old force has helped restore some stability to a war-ravaged country. On 4 May

2010, the UN refugee agency was able to reach 35,000 refugees after five weeks of government operations against ethnic militias. The UN and its partners have requested over 820 million dollars for humanitarian actions, about 27% of which was received.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective include the following:

- Should support continue for FARDC missions?
- Would this problem be exacerbated by withdrawal of UN peacekeepers?
- What can be done to alleviate the humanitarian crisis especially with regard to women and children?
- How can the aspect of conflict minerals and their role in fueling this crisis best be addressed?

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THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA

Following the 1991 collapse of Mohamed Siad Barre's government, the United Nations sent a force of 35,000 troops in Operation Restore Hope. The mission made initial progress until 1994 when American and European troops began to withdraw from the force. The United Nations Mission to Somalia (UNISOM II) ended in 1995 with the withdrawal of the rest of the troops. Between 1995 and 2000, the situation deteriorated with the capital of Mogadishu divided between rival warlords. By 2000, the situation began to look promising as Abdikassim Salat Hassan was elected transitional president by various clan leaders in Djibouti. In 2002, the transitional government signed a cease-fire with 21 clan-based factions at talks sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In 2004, the Transitional Federal Government emerged from a two year peace process led by IGAD and the government of Kenya.

However, by 2006, the apparent political progress began to erode. Militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) took control of Mogadishu and southern Somalia. The Security Council in S/RES/1725 (2006) authorized IGAD and the African Union (AU) to send a peacekeeping force to help prop up the transitional government. Prior to the deployment of the African Union Mission in So-

malia (AMISOM), Ethiopian forces helped engage the UIC militias, driving them out of Mogadishu. The UIC and affiliated anti-government groups continued to fight with the government and Ethiopian forces throughout early 2008. This resulted in high civilian casualties, often due to the use of mortar and field gun attacks in highly populated areas by Ethiopian forces. In light of these developments, the African Union Peace and the Security Council requested the transition of peacekeeping from AMISOM to United Nations forces as noted in S/RES/1801.

Since January 2009, attacks have continued with al-Shabab taking control of Somalia's seat of government, Baidoa, in February 2009. The violence escalated with the Islamist insurgents killing 11 Burundi soldiers in Mogadishu who were part of the African Union peacekeeping force there. These attacks, coupled with pirates increasingly using Somalia as a safe haven to carry out attacks on ships in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean, have made the security situation in Somalia worse, especially since the government has little ability to enforce law and no navy to help combat the piracy. This has led to several countries sending warships to the area to help protect merchant traffic and pursue pirate vessels. Security Council members have called for tougher laws on piracy as a result of the Somali piracy problem. With Islamist insurgents seizing the town of Xarardheere in early May, the effects on piracy are uncertain. Islamists claim they have stopped the piracy there and will enforce Shariah law, however there is concern that the Islamist groups, some with links to Al Qaeda, will continue using piracy to gain access to funds to support their battle with the Transitional Federal Government forces.

In late December 2009, the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Eritrea for supporting insurgents trying to topple the nascent government. The Council expressed concern over Eritrea's rejection of the Djibouti Agreement to ease tensions in Somalia. However, fighting continues to engulf Somalia. By late January 2010, over 63,000 people have been displaced from their homes by ongoing fighting. In Mogadishu, nearly 20,000 people have been uprooted from their homes since the beginning of the year by renewed clashes between forces of the Transitional Federal Government and opposition groups. Within the first week of March 2010, over 900 Somalis were registered in neighboring Kenya as refugees from the violence.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective include the following:

- Why has the Somali civil war persisted for so long despite significant international attention?
- What can the UN do to keep Member States like Eritrea from inciting violence?
- Are there ways the international community can assist to combat the violence and lack of a federal government?

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THE SITUATION IN IRAN

Although allegations of an Iranian nuclear program have existed for decades, those rumors gained new credibility following the exposure of two nuclear facilities at Natanz and Arak in August 2002 by a group of dissidents known as the National Council of Resistance of Iran. The exposure of these facilities brought into question the intention of the Iranian nuclear program and drew an immediate investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This prompted suspension of Iran’s uranium enrichment activities and Iranian agreement to modified Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Agreements in 2003 and 2004 respectively. However Iran announced its intention to resume all research and development activities again in January 2006. In April 2006, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that Iran had “joined the nuclear countries of the world,” and that Iran had no intention of giving up its right to enrich uranium as part of negotiations over its nuclear program. Following multiple UN Security Council resolutions and resumption of uranium enrichment at both the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) and Fuel Enrichment Plant (FEP) at Natanz, Iran unilaterally withdrew from the provisions of modified Code 3.1 in March 2007.

Not deterred by this, the Security Council agreed in early June 2006 on a set of proposals for Iran, containing both incentives and disincentives with the goal of deterring Iranian uranium enrichment. Iran rejected the proposals, calling them “insulting and humiliating.” Following the rejection of the proposals, the Security Council issued five resolutions between July 2006 and September 2008 banning arms exports, freezing assets, and restricting the travel of individuals, groups, and companies associated with the nuclear program. Later an effort by Russia, France and the United States offering to send a large portion of Iran’s nuclear fuel abroad for further processing in 2009 was initially refused by Iran and later accepted after the proposal was withdrawn following the exposure of the Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP). Shortly after the initial rejection, it was revealed to the IAEA by Iran and several member nations that Iran was constructing a fuel enrichment plant in a tunnel complex on a Revolutionary Guard base in Fordow near the city of Qom. The construction of the FFEP started in 2006 when Iran was bound under modified Code 3.1 to reveal the plans for construction of such a facility as construction began. This revelation added another concern over a possible military

component to Iran’s nuclear program. Other issues that have been repeatedly called into question by the IAEA are: high-explosives; detonator and long range missile testing; documents revealing re-entry vehicle work; uranium metal milling; green-salt experiments; continued uranium enrichment; as well as a lack of cooperation regarding transparency efforts in allowing access to companies producing components for nuclear research and development; refusal of access to heavy water facilities; and uranium processing and mining facilities.

Iran claims these issues have arisen from forged documents and that these are “politically motivated” and “baseless” accusations. Iran continues to call all Security Council resolutions concerning the Iranian nuclear program “illegal,” claiming it is not bound by modified Code 3.1 and that its actions do not violate the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Iran continually reminds the IAEA of its compliance and findings in Board of Governors’ reports that Iran has not diverted any nuclear material from those sites the IAEA is allowed to access. Following the replacement of Mohamed ElBaradei by Yukiya Amano as Director General of the IAEA, allusions to the western bias of the new director general have been drawn by several Iranian officials.

The issue of intense distrust remains on both sides of the negotiating table. Western diplomats continue to call into question the validity of Iran’s proposal to domestically supply fuel for its nuclear program as well as the design of its research reactor under construction at Arak. They also question if the Arak reactor is to be a replacement for the Tehran Research Reactor and why the Iranian government proceeded to enrich uranium to 20% against IAEA recommendations and without IAEA safeguards as reported in GOV/2010/10. There have been repeated statements by the Iranians about building as many as ten new enrichment facilities. While ten new facilities is widely dismissed as propaganda, Ali Akbar Salehi, head of Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization was recently quoted as saying two new plants would be “built inside mountains,” and that, “God willing, we may start the construction of two new enrichment sites” in the new year.

President Ahmadinejad attended the global gathering on disarmament in New York where countries are urged to exchange ideas on how to cut the world’s stockpile of nuclear weapons. More than 100 senior officials from NPT party states are expected to attend the nearly month-long event. Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon is hoping the forum will build on recent disarmament measures, including the Russian-United States agreement in April 2010 on slashing nuclear arsenals. The Secretary General has urged President Ahmadinejad to restore the trust in the peaceful nature of Iran’s nuclear program and to resume talks with China, France, Russia, Germany, United Kingdom, and the United States. Speaking at the forum on 3 May 2010, President Ahmadinejad stated that “the nuclear bomb is a fire against humanity rather than a weapon for defense.” He also noted that some states use double standards by trying to force the rest of the world into compliance, but allowing the Zionist regime to stockpile weapons. As of 12 May 2010, Israel has declined to sign the NPT and has kept its vague policy neither acknowledging or denying it possesses nuclear weapons.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective include the following:

- How does the presence of the Iranian nuclear program affect the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?

- What are appropriate actions for the international community to take with regard to Iran's nuclear program?

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THE SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK)

The Korean War ended by truce, not by peace treaty, in 1953. Since that time a demilitarized zone has been in effect between the two countries. In June 2000, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea signed an accord to ease military tensions and to promote economic cooperation. Cooperation has been slow, especially after an early research effort by the DPRK using uranium caused problems in 2002. At the time, the DPRK said it was only using plutonium to try to build atomic bombs. This led to the Six Party Talks in 2003, which included the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the United States. The Six Party Talks managed to offer the DPRK formal economic assistance in return for taking steps to end its nuclear weapons development.

In July 2006, the Security Council passed Resolution 1695 condemning the DPRK for launching ballistic missiles, and encouraging them to return to the Six Party Talks without preconditions. In October 2006, the DPRK conducted a nuclear test against Security Council resolutions. The Security Council passed Resolution 1718, condemn-

ing the test and demanding that the DPRK return to the Six Party Talks and retract its announcement of withdrawal from the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT); which the DPRK eventually did.

In response to a missile launch on April 5, 2009, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement condemning the launch as directly in contravention to Resolution 1718, demanding that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea comply with Resolution 1718 by abstaining from further launches, and urging a resumption of the Six Party Talks. While the DPRK claimed this was a "successful" satellite launch, most of the international community saw this as a thinly veiled test launch of a Taepodong-2 missile. Relations between the DPRK and the rest of the world deteriorated as DPRK announced on April 14, 2009, that it was pulling out of the Six Party Talks and the NPT and resuming its nuclear program. Furthermore the DPRK stated that it would consider any pressure or sanctions applied in response to its launch a "declaration of war."

On May 25, 2009, the DPRK carried out its second underground nuclear test sparking international concern and leading the Republic of Korea to join a United States led initiative to combat the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction. On May 27, 2009 the DPRK declared the truce that ended the Korean War void. The Security Council on June 12, 2009 unanimously approved Resolution 1874 condemning the nuclear test and further missile launches, demanding the return of the DPRK to the NPT and IAEA Safeguards Agreement, and strengthening the sanctions imposed under Resolution 1718. Reacting to the Security Council Resolution, DPRK announced it would begin uranium enrichment and "weaponizing" its plutonium stockpiles. Resolution 1874 also recommend that United Nations Member States inspect cargo vessels and airplanes suspected of carrying arms in or out of the DPRK be stopped and searched. The Council has called on Member States to report back to it within 45 days to discuss implementation of the resolution. The DPRK has warned that it will be considered an act of war if any of their ships are detained.

Things were mainly calm through the remainder of 2009, but on March 26, 2010, tensions were likely to rise again with the sinking of a Republic of Korea ship, Cho An. The ship was sunk in Yellow Sea killing 46 of 104 crew members on board after a torpedo detonated near the ship. The contested waters between North and South Korea see occasional naval clashes, but this was the largest loss of life in a single incident since the 1953 truce. Although South Korean and US intelligence sources have come to the same conclusion that the DPRK was responsible for the sinking of the vessel, no formal accusation has been leveled against DPRK. DPRK has denied responsibility for the sinking of the Cho An. Leading up to the March 26 events, the North had given every signal, amid its usual bellicose rhetoric and accusations, that it was seeking to re-enter negotiations with other world powers in the lead up to a formal resumption of the six-party talks between the Koreas, China, Japan, the United States and Russia. In a recent visit to China by Kim Jong-Il reiterated DPRK's willingness to provide favorable conditions for the resumption of Six-Party talks. South Korean officials however have urged companies to halt trade with the North. DPRK has previously attempted to raise tensions or create a "crisis" to make itself seem unpredictable and dangerous and to draw attention to the inherently unstable security arrangement on the peninsula, thereby gaining leverage for itself in the talks.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective include the following:

- Why have the Six Party Talks continued to fail to get the DPRK to end its nuclear weapons development? What actions can the UN take to facilitate a nuclear free Korean peninsula?
- What are ways that the UN can help minimize conflict from this latest incident?
- What further steps can be taken to persuade North Korea to return to the Six Party Talks and work to end its nuclear weapons program? Does your government feel offering incentives to DPRK is an appropriate response to bring the DPRK back to the Six Party Talks?

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