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The following are brief synopses of the main international situations facing the Security Council on 26 February 1990. The prominent events of late 1989 are discussed, as well as some questions which may face the Security Council in early 1990. This research is intended merely as a focal point for Representatives' continued exploration of the topics.

Some of the delegations which may be called before the HSC during the 1990 time frame include: Iraq, Iran, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Kuwait, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Angola, Namibia (SWAPO), Mozambique, Kampuchea, Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama.

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1989 was a transitional year for the Middle East. The Iran-Iraq war had just ended and the Palestinian Intifada against Israel was growing stronger. Superpower intervention in the region was becoming one-sided as the United States continued to protect Israeli interests while the Soviet Union shifted focus to its internal problems. The Security Council watched the entire Middle East very closely, but three conflicts came to the foreground: Israel-Palestinian relations, Lebanon, and Iran-Iraq.

THE SITUATION WITH THE ARAB/ISRAELI CONFLICT

After two years of the Palestinian Intifada, a violent Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation directed at Israeli soldiers and citizens, over 700 people were dead and thousands had been injured on both sides. Despite what appeared to be a softening in Prime Minister Shamir's position in negotiations on the Occupied Territories, the new Israeli coalition government, between the Likud and Labor parties, seemed to be moving away from negotiations.

In July 1989, Likud's Central Committee forced Shamir to agree to a list of promises in his efforts to end the hostilities. These included promises that he would not: negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO); surrender any of the Occupied Territories; or agree to a Palestinian state. Terrorism and violence in the region picked up as a result of this stiffening in the Israeli position. In November, the US offered a plan for peace talks which was accepted by both Egypt and Israel. The PLO accepted the plan contingent upon their direct representation at the talks. Israel rejected this condition and the stalemate has continued.

THE SITUATION IN LEBANON

As the Lebanese Civil War continues to unfold, sectarian violence in Lebanon has been worsening over the past five years, including recent clashes between Lebanese Armed Forces and the Lebanese Front. Since the war erupted in 1975, Lebanon's economy has been devastated, cities have been reduced to rubble, the population has suffered massive casualties and internal Lebanese factions have clashed violently for power. General Michel Aoun, president of a Christian-led government, asserted that his was the only legitimate government in Lebanon and that the Syrians, who maintained a military occupation of Lebanon and supported a rival administration, must be removed from Lebanese soil.

The fighting that had plagued Lebanon for so long returned to the battered country in April 1989 as Syria rebuffed General Aoun's attempt to prove the legitimacy of his government. In September 1989, the Arab League got both parties to agree to a ceasefire so that the surviving members of the 1972 Lebanese Parliament could work on a new constitutional government. Their proposal, called the Taif Agreement, was rejected by many of the actors, including General Aoun, who felt that the security arrangements were ambiguous and needed a timetable for withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 soldiers from Lebanon. Since General Aoun retained the loyalty of the Army, he was able to thwart the factions that were supportive of the government suggested by the Taif Agreement.

By the end of 1989, a stalemate existed between General Aoun and President Hrawi, who had been installed as a result of the Taif Agreement. On 19 February 1990 violence erupted again as United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon came under fire, resulting in the death of two Nepalese peace keepers with six more wounded.

THE SITUATION IN IRAN AND IRAQ

The Iran-Iraq war ended in 1988 when Security Council Resolution 598 was finally accepted by Iran and the ceasefire it called for was initiated. However, the tension and instability in the region continued. Ayatollah Khomeini died in June; in July Hashemi Rafsanjani succeeded him as President, unsettling the political situation in Iran. Iran and Iraq each accused the other of violating the ceasefire in numerous ways, including Iraq's flooding of an area of land occupied by a large majority of Shiites in Southern Iran. The peace talks continued but there was little success as both sides continued to politically spar with each other. This was demonstrated again in mid-December as Iraq announced the successful completion of tests on new missile technology.



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

- What role can the Security Council play in the Israeli/Palestinian peace process? How can Israel be encouraged to comply with the relevant UN resolutions dealing with the Occupied Territories? What can the UN do to discourage further violence in the area while the peace process continues?
- What actions can the Council take to assist a peaceful settlement of the internal and external disputes involving Lebanon? How can the cease-fire be bolstered and moved into a peace process?
- What role can the UN play in assuring that hostilities do not resume between Iran and Iraq? How can the UN move the peace process forward?

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THE SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

1990 opened with continuing hope for political change in South Africa. Newly appointed President de Klerk has promised further changes in apartheid laws, including abolishing the ban on anti-Apartheid political groups. De Klerk showed further good will toward peaceful negotiations and released political activist Nelson Mandela from prison. Doubt does remain, however, about how successful de Klerk can be. Though he has promised to continue with some important

reforms, his statements about the overall political solution to apartheid have been less encouraging, as they back up and perpetuate inequality in voting and governance.

UN efforts against Apartheid remain strong. Sanctions have dropped South Africa's economic power to that of one of the lowest in the world. In a special session in December 1989, the General Assembly passed the "Declaration on Apartheid and Its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa" as a new guide to dealing with Apartheid and the newly cooperative South African government. In addition, the Security Council continued to pressure South Africa on its role within South-Western Africa, in particular Namibia, calling for South Africa to disengage itself in the region. Although de Klerk announced an official end to South Africa's "Front-Line" policy, a political tactic aimed at destabilizing South Africa's neighbors in an effort to protect Apartheid policies, the effects of the policy are still far-reaching and continue to threaten progress in the region.

THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA

In 1989 Namibia proceeded toward holding elections and finalizing its independence. The UN deployed the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) to Namibia in April, 1989 to aid in the registration of voters, oversee the upcoming election and monitor the ceasefire between the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) and South African backed forces. Despite fighting in the late spring and summer of 1989, the election preparation proceeded as planned. Between 7 and 11 November, 96% of registered voters did vote; SWAPO won the majority of seats in the new Assembly. The South African supported Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) finishing with the second largest percentage of seats. On 9 February, 1990, the Constituent Assembly adopted a constitution, but the potential for violence still remains. South Africa's role in the process is still uncertain. Cooperation from the new de Klerk government would help to ease tensions and bring peace.

THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA

On 22 December 1988, South Africa, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the government of Angola and Cuba signed the Angola Namibia Accords at the UN in New York. These Accords were to be a framework for Cuban and South African troop withdrawal from the conflict and for an end to the civil war between the MPLA and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). UNITA was not party to the Accords, and fighting eventually ended the ceasefire. Despite diplomatic efforts from all sides, the war continued throughout the second half of 1989. A step toward another ceasefire came late in 1989, when South Africa honored its end of the agreement and withdrew troops from Namibia, effectively ending one front in the war. Hostilities persist between UNITA, MPLA and Cuban forces, and the potential for future violence continues to throw a shadow over the peace process. The United Nations is continuing its work through the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), which has been tasked with overseeing the withdrawal of Cuban forces from the area, as well as continuing to facilitate peace among the parties.



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

- What can be done to encourage the democratic process and bring an end to the Apartheid policies of South Africa?
- What can the Security Council do to assist in the stabilization of Namibia as it moves toward independence?
- With the apparent end of South Africa's destabilization policies and the continuing withdrawal of Cuban troops, what can be done to encourage the peace process in Angola?

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THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

The Cambodian situation is complicated due to the number of parties involved and their basic disputes over the future of the country. There are four main parties: the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK), which in April 1989 changed its name to the State of Cambodia (although this change has not yet been recognized by the UN); the Khmer Rouge, who are currently the representatives in the Kampuchean UN seat; the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia (FUNCINPEC), led by Prince Sinanouk; and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) led by former Prime Minister Son Sann. The latter three groups joined to form the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK). The PRK is supported by Viet Nam and the USSR. The CGDK is supported by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), China and the US, among others.

The key points of discussion include: the withdrawal of Viet Namese forces; a ceasefire; the beginnings of a blueprint for the territorial integrity of Cambodia; the repatriation of refugees; and, most importantly, the beginnings of discussions on government building in post-war Cambodia. Discussions began in 1989 among the Permanent Members and various parties to the dispute on the formation of a United Nations Transitional Authority on Cambodia (UNTAC), the purpose of which would be to assist the people of Kampuchea/Cambodia in a transition to a peaceful, democratic form of government. Strong disagreements on all sides, however, led to slow progress toward agreement. In September, Viet Nam completed its withdrawal of troops, but following increased CGDK military activity, more than 2,000 Viet Nameese troops were reintegrated into Cambodia in late 1989. Military activities continue from both sides. The situation in early 1990 is more hopeful than in the past, due mainly to the new willingness of all sides to come to the negotiation table. The year could see increased political action toward a lasting solution to the crisis.

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

- How can the Security Council best facilitate the political process and allow all parties a voice in future negotiations?
- How can the Council further encourage all parties to attend? Is the situation in Cambodia at such a point that UNTAC can be finalized and given an official mandate?
- What actions can the Council take to assist in a cessation of hostilities in Cambodia? How can a complete withdrawal of all foreign troops be best accomplished?

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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The situation in Central America has been promising over the past few years. The Guatemala City agreements, made between Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua in August 1987 have helped Central America move toward reform and peace. The process was abetted in January 1988 and again in February 1989, with two Joint Declarations made by the Presidents of these nations to continue to push forward and expand the peace and reform process. 1989 was a pivotal year for the region and international action. A key breakthrough in the US and Soviet positions on El Salvador and Nicaragua came in March when the US made good on promises to halt military aid to paramilitary groups and converted \$45 million in aid to the Contras into strictly humanitarian aid. Following this, in July, the Security Council voted to halt all outside military aid to the paramilitary groups in the region, and to pledge the support of the UN to the ongoing peace process.

THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA

The United Nations has held a very active role in Nicaragua over the past year. In early 1989, Nicaragua officially requested that the Secretary-General provide UN Observers for the elections (A/44/375). This was the first time that the UN would serve in this capacity in a sovereign country. The election observer force, ONUVEN (United Nations Observer Mission for the Verification of the Elections in Nicaragua), began its pre-election duties in August 1989, with additional participation from the Organization of American States (OAS). The months leading to the election were not without drama. Criticisms mounted over the behavior of both the Contras and the US in the lead up to the elections. There were reports of Contras threatening violence, as well as accusa-

tions that the U.S. was using overt political pressure on the Nicaraguan people. In November the Security Council approved a resolution sponsored by the United States for an additional observer group, ONUCA (United Nations Observer Group in Central America), to assist in the peace process. International verification was seen as the key to the peace process, and this observer force had a multi-part mission, including: ensuring the non-use of territory to support destabilization; confirming free and fair elections; and facilitating the voluntary demobilization, repatriation, and/or relocation of irregular forces. The elections were held on 25 February 1990, and were won by the candidate of the United Nicaraguan Opposition, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, with 54.77% of the vote. Initial accounts are that the election met ONUVEN's standards.

THE SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR

While El Salvador also participated in and benefited from the peace discussions which occurred in 1989, hope for peace was short-lived. Violence escalated with increased activity by left wing Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) toward the end of 1989. In November, a growing number of murders were reported, perpetrated both by the left wing and by the government. On 11 November, the FMLN launched a major attack in San Salvador, inflicting many casualties. In response, the government declared a state of siege, and began a counter-offensive with numerous air attacks on rebel-held areas. Currently, the political situation continues in this heightened state of military anxiety. The Secretary-General announced in January that he would act as an intermediary in the Salvadoran peace talks.

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

- What help can the UN and the Council give to the situation?
- How can the UN best exert influence on both Nicaragua and El Salvador to continue their efforts toward a more stable, democratic environment?
- What further efforts can the UN make to limit cross-border insurgency by para-military units in the region?
- How will the Council deal with its member's own actions in the region?

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