



SMH-MUN III

Saturday, March 21, 2015

NATO Background Guide

Revolution: Demanding Progress or Endorsing Chaos?

Topic 1: Handling Russian Aggression in Ukrainian territories

I. Introduction

The North American Treaty Organization has a goal to safeguard its members through military and political means. NATO promotes democratic values and encourages its members to cooperate to prevent conflict. NATO, though concentrated on peaceful solutions, may use force under Article 5 of the Washington treaty. Article 5 of the Washington treaty states that any military act inflicted by a member of NATO will be a reflection of the entire bodies' desire. Furthermore, if any nation would be to declare war on a member of NATO, then it would be considered an equal declaration of war to all the other members. Recent developments in Ukraine have led to tremendous unrest in that area of the world, and have quickly gained prominence in NATO. Though neither Ukraine nor Russia are in NATO, the developments in that area of the world have affected many of their members as well. Furthermore, if Russia continues to assert its dominance over the weaker Asian countries unchecked, dangerous consequences could occur throughout the world. Therefore, NATO, as a body, must decide how to approach this dangerous situation. Furthermore, the ex-Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, made the alarming decision to cut trade with the EU to gain closer relations with the Russian government. As Russia was illegally providing Ukraine with electricity and oil, Ukraine needed to keep strong ties to Russia, in order to function. Finally, this triggered differences within the country of Ukraine leading to bloody protests.

II. History of the Problem

a. Brief Timeline

November 21, 2013: Yanukovich cuts trade with EU.

December 1, 2013: 300,000 protesters storm the Kiev square and take over the City Hall.

January 16, 2014: Several anti-protest laws are passed.

February 22, 2014: Ukrainian politicians elect to remove Yanukovic.

February 26, 2014: Crimean militants supporting the new government begin clash with pro-Russian troops.

March 20, 2014: EU leaders refuse to allow Russia control over Crimea.

May 2, 2014: At least 10 militants die in full scale invasion of southern city in Odessa by pro-Russian troops.

June 7, 2014: Petro Poroshenko sworn into office as Ukrainian president.

June 27, 2014: Porshenko re-signs EU agreement.

July 17, 2014: Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 is shot down in the east of Ukraine, killing all 298 occupants, and leading to suspicion.

September 5, 2014: Poroshenko orders ceasefire with Russia.



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****Delegate Tip: Research more dates and statistics, as this is by no means a complete recounting of the event.**

b. Consequences and Events

Due to the fighting in the area, one civilian aircraft has already been shot down, and several others have nearly been. Therefore, a no-fly zone had to be established over certain parts of Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, other countries in the area are becoming increasingly worried about the potential resurgence of Russia as a supreme power in the area. Despite continual discouragement from Obama and other countries leaders, Putin refuses to convey his full intentions. However, Putin has been more cooperative in establishing methods of keeping the civilians safe. Also, Putin has made efforts to decrease military action in the area. As the USA has continually threatened Russia with sanctions, Russia has made an attempt to slow down proceedings in the Crimean Peninsula. If, however, the US was to enforce these sanctions, Russia could become irritated leading to a hostile situation. Furthermore, the US and Russia do not have the best track record of getting along.

****Delegate Tip: There are several potential consequences to these events; feel free to explore your own opinions.**

III. Past NATO Action

NATO has taken action on this topic already, by encouraging the Russian administration as well as the Ukrainian government to pursue a peaceful resolution to this delicate situation. However, NATO has yet to take true military action against either country.

****Note: This information is not the most recent; feel free to add more.**

IV. Possible Solutions

- a. One potential solution is to encourage Russia to withdraw troops peacefully from Ukraine, and not carry out any more military actions directly against the Ukrainian government. Furthermore encourage Russia to act as a mediator between Ukraine and the rebels.
- b. A more drastic, yet plausible solution would be to enforce sanctions on Russia if they refuse to withdraw troops, and encourage peace.
- c. A third possible solution would be for NATO to use their military force to ensure peace in the region and to discourage further unrest.



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V. Helpful Links

****Delegate Tip:** Though these sources are useful, delegates should use their own means of gaining information on the topic, and not simply using the ones provided below.

Ukraine/Russia:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2014/03/timeline-ukraine-political-crisis-201431143722854652.html>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/spell-out-the-consequences-for-russias-invasion-of-ukraine/2014/03/01/8ce1466a-a196-11e3-9ba6-800d1192do8b_story.html

NATO:

<http://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/index.html#basic>

Vladimir Putin:

<http://www.biography.com/people/vladimir-putin-9448807>

Barack Obama:

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/obama-ukraine-president-meet-white-house/>

Petro Porshenko:

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/oct/26/ukraine-petro-poroshenko-power-elections>