

PMUNC 2014

National Security Council 2050

Chair: T.J. Smith
Director:



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Chair's Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is T.J. Smith, and I am presumably going to be your chair at PMUNC 2014. If you have somehow stumbled upon this document for an unrelated reason, I shudder to imagine how. At any rate, I am a junior at Princeton University from Jacksonville (formerly Cowford), Florida concentrating in the German department with a focus on Media and Aesthetics, which I am happy to assure you is an entirely real concentration. More to the point, perhaps, I have been involved in Model United Nations since the fall of my freshman year when I joined the Princeton travel team and began staffing Princeton's own conferences. As a delegate, I've participated in CMUNNY, NCSC, UPMUNC, McMUN and ChoMUN, and I've served as both a director and chair at past PMUNCs and PicSIMs. I've learned a lot during my time with the International Relations Council, and I'm looking forward to applying what I've learned to make PMUNC 2014 a rewarding experience as we move into the future.

Speaking of the future, that's when our committee will be taking place. Delightful linguistic games aside, setting a committee 36 years in the future stood out to me as an intriguing proposition because of the unique opportunity it presents to consider questions of domestic and international policymaking at an intellectual distance that will, with any luck, allow for a deeper understanding of the factors that underlie such considerations. I have been made ready for the daunting task of predicting the future by a lifetime of enjoying speculative fiction of both dystopian and utopian varieties. My preparation has also been assisted by the personal, nocturnal consideration of the future that is the domain of all those who major in the humanities. I'm sure I will have had a great time working on the background guide for this committee, and I can't wait to see the ideas and solutions that we'll come up with together over the course of the conference.

Outside of Model UN, I'm involved with the Lobster Club as an improviser, spokesmodel and artistic director, WPRB Princeton as a DJ, Off the Record as a rapper, and the Princeton Shakespeare Company as an actor. I'm also a pretty rabid consumer of pop culture in most of its manifestations, and I've spent perhaps too much time talking about the intricacies of *American Horror Story* or the surprising quality *Hannibal* or the unparalleled genius of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. Please don't hesitate to contact me by email if you have any questions about the conference or what kind of preparation you should do before committee starts. Especially don't hesitate to contact me if you have read this and are not otherwise involved with the committee or conference. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with the rest of you at PMUNC.

Best,

T.J. Smith

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Introduction

The year is 2050 and the nation is in crisis. It is not a new thing for the nation to be in crisis, and indeed, the meaning of the label has depreciated over decades of its constant application, but its truth is undeniable. In fact, it would not be hyperbolic to say that the world is in crisis, although in some places the moment of crisis has passed, and decline has become inevitable, although it will still be some time before this is accepted. Threats arise from every area. The climate grows hostile and unpredictable, basic needs become difficult to satisfy, and the people are forced to adapt to technical development that only accelerates.

For those with wealth, technology can make what would once have seemed miraculous mundane, but the wealthy are few. Resources are scarce, the seas are dying, and the very foundations of human society are being shaken by a rapidly changing demographic, technological, and social landscape. The leadership of the United States government must navigate these trying times, making decisions that will radically affect the living conditions and even survival of its citizens. It will be difficult, but there is everything to gain, or lose.

Committee Format:

Although it takes place in the future, the committee simulates a body which exists in the present, and the way that it operates will not greatly diverge from its present day basis. Committees will play the role of high level advisers to the President of the United States on the matters of national security and foreign policy. The task of the committee will be to not only devise policy responses to any challenges the nation might face, but to coordinate these policy departments across the respective departments of the delegates.

Though the President is, of course, the most powerful figure on the council, consensus-based decisions arising from the council will almost always be heeded. The reasons for this are numerous and include the experience and qualifications of the advisers as well

as the goal of allowing the delegates of the committee to play an active role in determining the outcomes of various crises. In universe, this can also be explained by the impact of pervasive media technologies on the way that national elections are run, which will be addressed in greater detail in the background proper.

That being said, the majority of the committee will be run in a series of moderated caucuses discussing responses to crises that arise. Policy proposals will be submitted in writing to the chair as directives. These directives will be passed by a majority vote. In cases where there are many directives on the table, unmoderated caucuses will occur in order for directives to be streamlined and formalized.

Parliamentary procedure will be adhered to, but not to the extent that productive discussion becomes impeded by

procedural bickering. The particularities of the procedure followed in committee will remain open to adjustment throughout the duration of the conference at the discretion of the chair.

While much of the action taken by the body will be carried out through consensus and coordinated decisions, delegates will also be able to use the powers of their portfolio by submitting notes to crisis. These notes are an essential part of the experience of a crisis committee, and, as such, delegates are encouraged to be creative with their crisis notes, although the line between creativity and frivolity is remarkably thin and merits careful observation. As a final note, the future of Western business attire will be assumed to be largely static, although delegates are encouraged to incorporate whatever minor variations they imagine a policymaker in the year 2050 might adopt. For example, the

increased prevalence of solar radiation as a result of the unmitigated greenhouse effect could have the effect of rendering sunglasses an appropriate component of business dress. Conversely, the excess heat due to anthropogenic global warming could not be used to justify the adoption of a mesh halter top in place of a more conventional shirt. Delegates are advised, as always, to exercise reason.

Awards and Judgment:

In terms of awards, delegates will be judged holistically based on their overall performance during the course of the committee. Such factors as the amount of and quality of preparation for the committee, contributions to debate, the appropriate use of portfolio powers, and the ability to work constructively with other delegates will be considered. As a general rule, delegates are encouraged to focus on the quality of their participation in committee rather than the quantity of their contributions. While delegates should, of course, participate to the fullest of their ability, it is always better to make a concise, relevant comment that furthers the conversation at hand than to attempt to curry favor by constantly agreeing with the chair. Although humor is appreciated by the chair, and some degree of levity is to be

expected to increase the engagement of all involved, it is important to make sure that substantive discussion is never overwhelmed or waylaid by an excess of frivolity. Additionally, while debate may become heated, it is important that delegates treat their colleagues with respect at all times. Although awards will be given at the conclusion of committee, it is important to remember that primary atmosphere of committee should ideally be educational and entertaining rather than overtly competitive.

Comments on Divination:

Astute delegates will have at this point realized that unlike many Model UN-style simulations, this committee will simulate a body in the middle future, neither near enough to the present day that minimal imaginative effort is required to undertake the affair, nor far enough that the constructor of the simulation can give himself over to dramatic imaginative flourishes. The business of predicting the future is notoriously difficult, and this is even more so the case of predictions that aim at a time in which many of those in the audience can be expected to one day experience. Tempting as this venture is, it is by no means the business with which this committee will occupy itself. Rather, the crises presented will explore one possible future, one which lends itself to an interesting crisis simulation

but makes no claim to being the most probable outcome. While the scenario for 2050 has not been constructed with realism as its primary aim, complete fantasy has also been avoided. Certain problems from the present have been extrapolated and made to increase in gravity and others have been diminished in the interest of creating an environment that is both familiar to the average person of 2014 and removed enough to allow for intriguing policy challenges and solutions.

This background guide will not attempt to provide an exhaustive catalog of future history for the next 36 years, as that would result in a document too dry to attract the attention of even the most intrepid of readers. Instead, it will provide a general report on the conditions of the world in 2050, with more detailed examinations of issues that are likely to become crises for the

committee. Delegates will be able to use their portfolio powers during the conference to find out more information. This reflects the development of the episteme in 2050, as rapid advances in information technology have resulted in more and more externalization of information in sophisticated networks, with expertise being supplemented by the ability to formulate effective queries for these information databases.

All of this information, of course, places the delegate who wishes to conduct exhaustive research prior to the committee in a delicate position, as it may seem like there is little research that can be done. Although it is true that much of the committee will favor critical responses to rapidly developing situations, there is nonetheless several ways that the motivated delegate can prepare. First of all, the makeup of the National Security Council has not been

altered in the construction of the positions list. Except for any exceptions made known in the background guide, it can be assumed that the portfolios of delegates in 2050 will closely match the portfolios of their 2014 counterparts.

This means that delegates can greatly increase the effectiveness of their crisis notes as well as the way that they function in the committee by taking the time to attain a deeper understanding of the way that their position functions.

Beyond that, delegates can also research possible responses to probable crises by examining proposals that have been introduced already, bearing in mind that the development of technology and the worsening of the condition of the world in the next 36 years is likely to render solutions that would be dismissed today more and more appealing. Delegates who remain concerned about the realism of high level officials not possessing an

encyclopedic knowledge of world history are encouraged to look at any of a number of high level officials who can serve as apt examples of general ignorance.

At any rate, delegates whose worries remain unassuaged by this introductory commentary are encouraged to reach out to the chair in the weeks leading up to the conference if they cannot envision a way forward. This is of critical importance, of course, because the main task with which this committee will be grappling is the envisioning of a way forward. Without further ado, it is time to move on to the background proper.

Background Information:

As touched upon previously, the background will be formatted with the goal of providing a brief but telling glimpse at the status quo in the year 2050, electing for simple language describing the general status of the world rather than extensive chronicles of fabricated particulars. There will first be an overview of the various regions of the world, the problems they are facing, and their leverage on the stage of international politics, before a more focused exploration of the conditions within the United States. This will then be supplemented by an examination of possible sources of crisis.

The World in 2050

By 2050, in large part due to the combination of demographic and environmental factors, much of the

world will have undergone a surprising amount of change, resulting in numerous upsets in the international balance of power, as aging developed nations are forced to focus more and more on internal problems while at the same time becoming increasingly dependent on the assistance of younger countries to survive. At the same time, areas around the equator have become increasingly hostile to human life, ravaged by drought, heat and constantly evolving waves of disease. The current statuses of the major regions of the world are as follows.

Europe

Europe as a whole has been confronted with the problem of population ageing, which have put a strain on the social systems of the European states. This demographic pressure has resulted in the increased opening of European borders to

primarily Central and Southern Asian immigrants. While these policies have somewhat mitigated the potentially ruinous effect of the low birth rates of European nations, it has also had the unfortunate side effect of reigniting the storied European tradition of virulent nationalism. Incensed over the “loss of a European identity”, right wing nationalist movements have experienced a comeback, although these groups are put in the awkward position of not being able to make good on their promises of expelling foreigners because of the demographic pressures which led to the acceptance of these foreigners in the first place. The startling cognitive dissonance of the European states has resulted in a weakening of the European economy. Although the European Union has somehow managed to hold itself together, it no longer enjoys the economic standing it once did.

Russia

As with Europe, Russia has also had to deal with troubling demographic change. Due to high fatality rates and low birth rates, Russia has been forced to accept increasing numbers of mostly Muslim immigrants to keep its industries viable. This has of course led the Orthodox population of Russia to attempt to find ways to guarantee an Orthodox majority in the years to come. The most common proposals call for the annexation of areas with significant Slavic populations. Although Russian expansion has thus far been kept in check by the international community, the possibility of a sudden Russian invasion of its neighbors remains ever present.

Compounding the aggressive tendencies of the Russian government, Russia has benefited from the changing climate, as the development that has

been ruinous for tropical areas has actually rendered Russia more habitable. Although the Russians currently lack the population to take advantage of now usable land, this remains a factor to consider when dealing with Russian policy. In particular, the Russians remain staunchly opposed to many initiatives to combat climate change because of their benefits from the changing climate to this point.

The Middle East

Although the names of the principal actors have changed, the Middle East remains embroiled in conflict. However, the region has fallen somewhat out of the scope of interest of the United States in terms of foreign policy. The combined influence of a national interest in energy independence and an increasingly apathetic population has resulted in a shift of US attention to other regions of the world. Although the

United States has occasionally been provoked by shortsighted terrorist attacks against its own citizens, in the last decade the warring powers in the region have localized their crimes against humanity. While the United States remains at least nominally in support of the Israeli state, the meaningfulness of this alliance has attenuated with the diminishing of US interest in the natural resources of the region and the forgetting of the historical reasons for the alliance in the first place. Without the scrutiny of the rest of the world, the Middle East has reached a kind of unhappy status quo of constant war over space, and, more pressingly, the food and water necessary for survival. Of mild interest, the largely abandoned skyscrapers of Dubai (which suffered greatly from the move away from oil in the 2030s after an impressive showing for the World Expo in 2020)

have become something of an attraction for the wealthy, disaffected adventurers of the world.

East Asia

By 2050, China has become the world's largest economy, with the RMB playing an important role in the currency system of the world along with the dollar and euro. Although the labor force is decreasing as a result of the lasting impact of the one child policy, China's population remains sufficient to maintain its economic position. Rumors abound about the precise means by which the Chinese state has avoided the potential ruin of a massive elderly population, but for the sake of the continuation of the status quo these rumors remain uninvestigated by foreign powers. China's government remains nominally Communist in spite of intermittent reform movements over the last decades which have been quashed by a

combination of strict government regulation of technological media of communication as well as the general placating effect of constant access to state-controlled media made possible by the aforementioned prosperity of the economy. While the average Chinese citizen remains in conditions less than ideal, changes in the way that information systems are structured have made it much easier for the government to seal its people from the world in a largely isolated media economy.

The balance of power in East Asia was also significantly impacted by the re-unification of Korea in 2027 after the collapse of the North Korean regime following the infamous "Madness of Kim Jong-Un". Combining the impressive labor force and young population of the North with the technology and infrastructure of the

South resulted in the status of Korea as the secondary regional power. .

Concurrent with the ascension of Korea, the decline of Japan has also served as a startling reminder of the vicissitudes of fate. Beset by environmental disaster after disaster, much of Japan outside of carefully constructed “Safe Zones” has been rendered uninhabitable. Although the remaining bastions of the Japanese contribute significantly to popular culture and design, Japan can no longer lay claim to any extraordinary amount of political influence and depends on its alliances with Korea and the United States for subsistence.

South Asia

South Asia remains dominated by India, which after a period of crisis in the 2030s has stabilized as a major world power. All but the last vestiges of the caste system have been disposed of, and

India is currently a decentralized democracy dominated by large, middle-class coalitions. Having remarkably improved the infrastructure in its largest cities and embraced a kind of bourgeois multiculturalism, Indian society has enjoyed relative prosperity.

Lurking at the edges of this prosperity, however, the massive population of the subcontinent, which at almost 1.6 billion is the most populous region of the world, puts a constant strain on resources. Any significant disruption of supply lines would result in a catastrophic situation. Furthermore, tension remains present as a result of the dissatisfaction of Indian traditionalists, who bemoan the downfall of the caste system and the perceived “dilution” of Indian culture.

Africa

While much of the world is growing old, Africa remains youthful,

and much of Africa has exploited this advantaged to experience economic prosperity. The Sub-Saharan African Union, formalized in 2042 and consisting of the region of the continent to the south of Kenya is the most prosperous and is currently in the midst of what is commonly referred to as the New African Enlightenment.

In contrast, Western Africa, colloquially known as “the Plague Lands” remains under an international quarantine as a result of a constant series of deadly, fast evolving epidemics.

While the medical community of the world continues to send in aid workers and researchers, the supply of willing medical volunteers has diminished over the years and the region remains largely isolated from the rest of the world. The threat of these virulent diseases escaping the region is immense, and as a result the quarantine of West Africa is one of the

view issues the international community on which the international community is in agreement.

The remaining non-SSAU states are in constant battle for food and potable water in the blistering north. What technological advances have been made in the collection and purification of water have not yet been made accessible to many of the poorer African states because of the distinctly capitalist turn of the international community in the first half of the 21st century.

South America

While Brazil rounds out the top 5 economies of the world, its most crucial contributions in the last decades have been in the field of scientific research. Sparked by worries of losing the possible advances to human knowledge contained in the dying Amazonian rainforest, the population of Brazil, bolstered by an influx of scientists from

all over the world became a hub for the international scientific community in the 2020s and 2030s. Though the research in the rainforest has gradually declined, the scientific community has remained, and this, along with the lasting impact of the heroic escapades of the rainforest researchers on the youth of Brazil, has cemented the nation's place on the forefront of international research.

Outside of Brazil, the political make up of South and Central America remains largely unchanged in the last decades, although the advent of mass-produced recreational drugs by large pharmaceutical companies has put a stop to much of the drug trade that has long plagued the region.

North America

The United States' nearest neighbors have experienced almost opposite trajectories in the early 21st century. While climate change has

greatly improved living conditions and economic prospects in Canada, the same changes have only added to Mexico's problems. Combined with problems of government corruption and violent wars among the cartels for the last remnants of the once profitable drug trade, frequent droughts and unbearable heat have left Mexico in a state of chaos. This, in turn, has created a national security problem for the United States, which must be careful to ensure that the violence in Mexico does not spill over into the north. This effort has not wholly succeeded, as evidenced by the high crime rates along the US-Mexico border.

The United States in 2050

In a year in review post on the social media portal of a long defunct magazine, the invisibility of the stars from most regions of the United States was listed as 7th largest development of the 2040s. Lacking the sardonic wit or

referential nature that such a post requires in order to flourish, it faded into quiet obscurity. After all, astronomy had gone out of vogue long before 2049, and lamentations about the waning interest of Americans in the cosmos had been sufficiently exhausted on the occasion of the death of Neil DeGrasse Tyson in 2047. Nonetheless, the dimming of the heavens and the almost universal nonchalance towards this change is emblematic of a whole range of changes in the United States in 2050, and so it has been included as the beginning of the more US-specific portion of this review.

Society and Culture

Although undoubtedly transformed by the hyper-mediated information economy of the 21st century, much of US culture remains recognizable in 2050. The cultural mainstream could be best described by a

certain apathetic liberalism that has become entwined with a generally technophile attitude about the future. Satisfied with the progress made on issues like marriage equality and reproductive rights, the generation currently in charge of the government believes itself to have solved the major societal problems and is content to rest on its laurels.

That being said, there remains a huge divide between the rich and the poor in America, and although ever-popular technological interfaces have become cheap enough that the lives of the poor have improved over the decades, the difference between the technological potentials for the rich and the poor are startling. For example, the types of food available to the wealthy stand in stark contrast to the marginally nutritious fabrications served to those less well off.

Demographically, the United States has remained relatively young as a result of a healthy stream of immigrants, and with each generation the ubiquitous problem of racial and cultural prejudices becomes slightly less ubiquitous. In terms of education, the 4 year “undergraduate experience” has fallen out of fashion. Despite this, America’s prestige institutions remain prestigious, although there is a noticeable withering of the humanities and social sciences at the University, leading the disaffected philosophers of the time to air their theories on social media.

Although the Hollywood blockbuster has become something more desired in overseas markets than domestically, the cult of celebrity has if anything strengthened by 2050, with technology offering the eager customer seamless access to the minutiae of their idol’s lives. This kind of digital

voyeurism is one of the most prominent forms of American popular culture, although the avant-garde has become concerned with the reclamation of presence through experiential performances unmitigated by technology.

The wild days of the unrestricted Internet culture have come and gone, although the newly corporate form of the Internet remains as popular as ever in spite of perennial complaints. Although it is dominated by large corporate interests, the majority of Americans are perfectly content to mindlessly consume, eagerly moving from one market tested form of stimulation to another in search of constant, mind-numbing novelty to pass the time.

Politics

The two-party system has managed to stick around, although the platforms of the parties have realigned

somewhat. In place of hot-button social issues, the political spectacle of the day concerns mostly environmental and technological issues. Broadly the Democratic Party is aligned with a style of organic bio-engineering while the Republican Party espouses a more purely technical aesthetic for the future. It is no coincidence that the word “aesthetic” was invoked to describe the party platforms, because the pervasiveness of ethically questionable campaign financing practices have rendered the difference between the two primary political factions almost purely aesthetic. In this respect, not much can be said to have changed. Presidential elections have become more than ever about personal charisma and charm than competence, and as such it falls on the fairly stable class of civil servants to keep the country running smoothly.

The current array of fringe groups trying ineffectually to assert themselves in the national conversation can be sorted generally into three types: information anarchist groups which decry the regulation of the flow of data by the government and industry, usually luddite fundamentalist groups, which decry the modernization of society, and climate extremist groups which decry the gradual death of the planet earth. If technology has made the mainstream more cohesive, it has produced a radicalization of those on the fringe, and as such, these groups remain firmly on the radar of the government if not the people.

Internationally, the United States is not in any active military engagements, having allowed many of its holdings to wither away in the face of public disinterest and a move towards a more technical economy of energy than

one based on fossil fuels. It enjoys positive relationships with Brazil (and other South American countries) and Korea. While its alliances in Europe have not become completely obsolete, relations have cooled as America has become identified with a multiculturalism that is out of favor among the Europeans.

The Economy

As previously alluded to, the US economy is dominated more than ever by huge corporations. The economy has transformed in the degree to which it is driven by highly technical forms of work. Manual labor has been made costly by advanced machinery, and technology has also rendered many other professions superfluous, including many service jobs and jobs in the legal sector. If Americans are working less than ever before, the kinds of work they are doing remain soul-crushing enough to brew

quiet resentment, as the typical American spends a working day in a densely packed office administering to a more capable machine. Unemployment remains a concern as a result of the replacement of many human positions with technological surrogates. Organized labor has made a marginal comeback in preserving what jobs remain.

Major advancements in the synthesis of fuel and food have largely replaced the conventional energy and agricultural sectors. In particular, “natural” produce has become a luxury commodity, and it is not uncommon for upper middle class families to demonstrate their wealth by inviting over guests for “real food” parties. The pharmaceutical industry has also become even more prominent in people’s lives, with newly designed drugs designed to evoke a myriad of psychological states being taken by the majority of the nation

without stigma. Although marijuana has become legal in the United States, it is both more expensive and less effective than many of the pharmaceutical offerings, and as such has remained popular only with the nostalgic or those who enjoy affecting nostalgia.

In all the US economy is for the most part stable, but its great reliance on technology leaves open the potential for a major upset if the complicated technical systems which regulate the economy are somehow disrupted.

AREAS OF CONCERN

In the following section, possible sources of crisis will be briefly introduced to give delegates an idea of the types of situations they might deal with.

The Environment

One major risk to national security comes in the form of the

environment itself. After decades of ignoring the climate, the amount of greenhouse gases in the air has reached the point that violent unusual weather systems are arriving with frightening regularity. The National Security Council must be ready to deal with this issue in both reactively and proactively, examining both effective ways of dealing with this kind of disruption and considering the use of geo-engineering to mitigate the effects of the new climate. Delegates will have to deal with issues of the ethics of intentional counter-intervention for the sake of the planet.

Resource Scarcity

Related to the first problem, the changing environment has also resulted in a situation in which both food and water supplies are taxed. The acidification of the seas has rendered fishing inviable as a means of growing

food, and as such, bioengineered products are the only feasible source of food, but even these are taxed. While America itself has access to enough food to feed its people, resource scarcity could ignite war in other areas of the world, drawing the United States into an international conflict.

Information Security

Developments in technology have replaced the “normal” world of human interactions with a computer mediated world of data that is much more active. With so much of human life now located in external networks, the protection of these networks is a huge national security issue. More complex than this though, the decision to privatize many aspects of these systems as resulted in a situation in which the government stands aligned with major industries seemingly against the issues of the people. Thus, the threats to

national security in the area of information security come not only from foreign powers but from US citizens unhappy with the new role of the state in relation to the citizen. Delegates will have to confront fundamental questions about what it means to govern in the 21st century.

Status in the World

Although no longer the hegemonic force it was in the early years of the 21st century, America still maintains active relations with many other powers. While the safeguard of the international economy has made many discount the possibility of massive global conflict, the National Security Council will be expected to make difficult decisions regarding the extent to which the United States should intervene on the world stage to prevent the coming of a new superpower that relegates the

United States to a secondary role in the world.

Pandemic

As the grim case of West Africa makes clear, the threat of an epidemic is never far from the horizon. With a healthcare industry more interested in profit than the people that make up its customer base, the National Security Council must be ready to take action in the event of an outbreak of a deadly disease. Hard decisions about prioritization the role of the government in industry, and states of emergency would have to be made.

Long Term Survival

Finally, and perhaps most abstractly, the National Security Council must be prepared to deal with questions about the long term future of the United States. Making plans and taking actions to ensure the survival of humanity in the event of a global catastrophic scenario.

Delegates should consider what nationalism means at the end of history and whether a group of officials can make decisions for all of humankind, and also what these types of decisions would look like.

POSITIONS

As these positions are largely the same as their contemporary counterparts, the explanations here will be kept brief and focus only on areas where the portfolios may have changed in the last 36 years. Any questions can be directed to the chair.

Vice President of the United States

The Vice President plays a slightly more important role in policymaking in 2050 as a result of the less substantial nature of the presidential election.

The second-most important office holder in the nation, the Vice

President plays a vital role in the National Security Council.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State plays a vital role in advising about matters of foreign policy as well as enacting diplomatic strategy. In the year 2050, the Secretary of State must also play a role in negotiating with multinational corporations.

Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of Defense is an expert on military policy whose function remains largely unchanged in 2050. This position has become more focused on technological questions as a result of the changing military environment.

Secretary of Energy

The Secretary of Energy plays an important role in regulating the production of energy and the balance of energy concerns with broader issues of environmental sustainability.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The highest ranking military officer in the United States, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff serves as the principal military advisor to the Council and works in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense to coordinate the execution of military policy.

Director of National Intelligence

Tasked with overseeing the intelligence program of the United States, the Director of National Intelligence has become a crucial advisor in the dense informational economy of 2050.

Director of National Drug Control Policy

In 2050, the Director of National Drug Control Policy is more concerned with the huge pharmaceutical industry than the regulation of illegal substances.

National Security Advisor

The National Security Advisor is an important advisor on matters of national security. This position has not significantly changed in 2050.

White House Chief of Staff

The assistant to the President, the Chief of Staff in 2050 plays an important role managing the political aspects of the policy devised by the National Security Council.

Attorney General

The Attorney General is the main legal advisor to the national Security Council. Although the legal industry has become colonized by technological improvements, at the Attorney General remains an important advisor.

Secretary of the Treasury

The Secretary of the Treasury is an important economic advisor whose portfolio has not significantly change in the last decades.

Secretary of Homeland Security

The Secretary of Homeland Security advises on matters of homeland security and has not experienced significant development since 2014.

White House Counsel

The White House Counsel is a legal advisor concerned with the legality of the President and his administration. He works closely with the White House Chief of Staff in the political environment of 2050.

Assistant to the President for Economic Policy

The portfolio of the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy has not significantly changed in the 21st century. The Assistant advises on matters of Economic Policy.

Ambassador to the United Nations

The Ambassador to the United Nations serves as the chief advisor to the National Security Council on diplomatic issues.

**Director of the Office of
Management and Budget**

The Director of Office of Management and Budget plays an important role in evaluating the worthiness of various government agencies and programs.

POSITION PAPERS

Each delegate is required to submit a one to two page position paper by the pre-conference deadline. A works cited list should be submitted with each paper, and papers should be typed in a double-spaced, 12 pt. font with normal margins. In their position papers, delegates should address the following issues:

- 1) The role of the delegate's position as an advisor to the National Security Council.
- 2) The particular national security concerns that

intersect with the portfolio of the delegate.

- 3) The delegate's vision for the future of the nation, if possible in light of their position.

Notes on Research

This background guide was composed by liberally borrowing from various visions of the future floating in the ether contemporary discourse. Specific sources for predictions will be of little help to delegates, as no one vision of the future has been adhered to, so delegates are once again encouraged to reach out to the chair with any questions they have.