1. What is your past Model UN experience?

A: I attended the 2013 PMUNC, representing Israel in the FAO. I have also attended the 2014 JHUMUNC. During that conference I portrayed the view of Koji Murofushi in the Quad Sohei committee.

2. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?

A: I am interested in the Ukraine crisis in the way that it relates to the Cold War. I do not know much about the crisis, but many people I have talked to seem to think that the annexation of Crimea is the start of another Cold War, with Russia aggressively expanding its borders again. I am very interested in seeing how the U.S. reacts to this new aggression from Russia, and whether the U.S. adopts a conciliatory or threatening attitude toward Russia.

3. What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine’s relationship with both the West

and with Russia?

A: One of the major factors are the close proximity of both Russia and the EU to Ukraine. Both of these are powerful countries/organizations that could be potential allies or threats depending on whether Ukraine decides to ally its interests to the U.S. and western Europe or to Russia and its allies. Another major factor is the Cold War. Some people in Ukraine are wary of Russia, and worried that closer ties to Russia could lead to another Warsaw Pact or even getting absorbed into a new Soviet Union. On the other hand, there are many Russian speakers in Ukraine, who might remember when Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union, and consider themselves to be more Russian than not. While some people are wary of closer ties with Russia and what that could mean, others want Ukraine to become much closer and more involved with Russia.

4. The annexation of Crimea—justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

A: I think that it is a crime. Though some might compare it to what the U.S. has done in the Middle East, sending in soldiers to topple dictators or restore order, I do not believe that a comparison can be made. During all of those military operations, the U.S. never attempted to seize territory, whereas Russia has in Ukraine. Furthermore before going into Ukraine Russia did not announce its intentions, nor did it reasonably justify Russian military interference in Ukraine. There is no active threat to Russia from Ukraine or the events involving that country, and Russia has no justification for being in Ukraine and annexing Crimea.