Henry Smith

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**Crisis Committee Model UN**

1. This is my very first time participating in a Model UN.
2. The three most important issues relating to developing a final framework agreement are as follows. Firstly, the issue as to whether Hamas should be considered a legitimate government or a terrorist organization. Another important issue is the development of Israeli settlements and expansion into the West Bank. The final issue is that Palestinians have to recognize Israel’s right to exist before there can be any peace agreement.
3. The new united Hamas-Fatah government will have a negligible impact on future negotiations because the Israeli government believes that it is not legitimate and refuses to work with it because it says that Hamas is a terrorist organization. Also, the geographical separation between the West Bank and Gaza make governing a unified Palestinian state very unpractical.
4. The only realistic and viable option for a long-term peace agreement is a two-state solution, with the 1967 boarders. It would give land, settled by Israel, back to Palestine but it would also mean demolishing all the West Bank settlements. Both sides would be able to govern themselves as they please and Palestine could independently grow as a sovereign nation, recognized by the international community. However, Israel would have a more difficult time dealing with terrorist threats from within Palestine. It is also very possible that the new Palestinian government could become a threat to peace if radical Islamic groups such as Hamas win the majority of the representation.
5. Israel already balances being a “Jewish –State” and a secular democracy on a daily basis. Israel is a democratic country, which is based upon western and Jewish values. Despite the fact that Israeli calls itself a “Jewish state”, its laws guarantee equal rights to all minorities and religions. In fact, it is the most free and democratic country in the whole Middle East.