

71 years back in time - discussing one of the longest and deadliest human conflicts. A city which should be a symbol of secularism is caught in a religious conflict. The only way out is to deliberate and present to the people of the world –Resolution 181.

Historic United Nations Summit on the Status of Palestine

DiPSMUN2018

Chairperson: Karan Himatsingka
Vice Chairperson: Mayank Agarwal
Moderator: Ria Chaturvedi



CORE VALUES: INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM, RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY

Welcome Letter
DiPSMUN 2018

Dear Participants,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the sixth edition of DiPSMUN.

It is a very humbling moment to see DPS Bangalore South, host one of Bangalore's finest high school Model UN conference with 8 committees and hundreds of delegates in attendance in 2018. DiPSMUN will always hold a particularly sentimental place in my heart as I was on the first ever MUN delegation from DPS Bangalore in 2009 and since then have helped design and chair two previous editions of DiPSMUN. As I have interacted with most of the members of the current Secretariat and Organizing Committee, I can safely say that your coming conference will be one that you will remember.

"Only a Sith deals in absolutes" – Obi Wan Kenobi to Anakin Skywalker, on Mustafar, Star Wars Episode III, Revenge of the Sith.

This quote holds true today more so than ever, as we live in our social media driven echo chambers and thought bubbles, fed by algorithms in one of the most hyperpolarized societies ever. A Model UN Conference is the first step in breaking out. It is one of the best platforms to debate, deliberate, negotiate and come up with some truly innovative solutions to some of the world's biggest challenges and most importantly, see them from a perspective that you haven't yet. It is not just a debate where you show off your bragging rights and get profile pictures for until the next conference (but please make sure you do that!). In my experience Model UN is where you can pick up certain key skills such as negotiating, public speaking, analytical thinking and teamwork among a plethora of others that will give you a heads up to succeed in your professional and personal endeavors in the future.

DiPSMUN 2018, therefore, has been designed to help you, the delegate, find your own voice in the environment that you are most comfortable with. The committees simulated at this conference range from discussing the Mexican Drug War to the very formation of the states of Israel and/or Palestine in the British mandate of Palestine; from solving global inequality to abolishing slavery. When you sit in committee, ensure you intend to walk away with more than just a trophy or a certificate. Ensure you walk away with knowledge and experience, for those will last you longer than a certificate.

Always remember *"...that the circumstances of one's birth are irrelevant. It is what you do with the gift of life that determines who you are."* – Mewtwo, Mewtwo Strikes back

Sincerely yours,

Shouryadipta Sarkar

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Letter from the Chairperson

Namaste Delegates,

Welcome to the Historic Summit on the Status of Palestine at DiPSMUN 2018. At the very outset, I would like to thank Mayank Agarwal for compiling this background guide. I would also like to thank Shourya for his guidance and ideas for this committee.

This committee has just one mandate, and that is to decide the status of the disputed land and its people. We shall immediately begin discussing Draft Resolution 181 and it is your duty to ensure that your bloc(s) draft is the one that is adopted. War might break out and governments might fall, but this committee's only goal is to decide the future of the people of this land. But remember, that before being a delegate of this committee, you are a citizen of a country and carry the aspirations of millions of people. You are expected to keep their interests in mind and broker the best deal for your country's people. The interest of your country is of paramount importance to you and international peace and security comes a distant second. You must be savage in your dealings and ensure that no one can compromise your country. Though the United Nations is an institution for maintaining peace and security, the reality of the late 1940's is very different and you must cater to that. It might seem paradoxical to do these things together but that is the quality of a true diplomat.

This committee might seem or even be intimidating but the whole Executive Board is there for each and every one of you. All of us have been a first timer and all of us have made mistakes. The only important thing is to learn and not repeat them. Please feel free to approach any of us on the 3 days and even before it. You can email us any questions you might be having even if it is just about the food menu on day three. You can also message or call me on +91 9731019025, and your Vice Chair on +91 7022599752.

I hope you go through this background guide carefully and pay special attention to the functioning of this committee. Please note that this committee is not a conventional UN committee and certain changes have been made which have been elucidated at the end.

Good luck delegates and may the odds be ever in your favor. See you on the 4th of July!

Best,

Karan Himatsingka

Chairperson

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About Committee

A historic committee is simulated to give delegates a chance to revisit history, take the knowledge they have of the future, and change the course of history. It gives them an insight as to how actions taken 70 years ago can change world power dynamics and political environments. The Historic United Nations Summit on Status of Palestine is being simulated to give delegates a chance to alter the process of formation of the States of Israel and Palestine and prevent one of the most long-standing and bloody battles in this modern era.

The primary objective of the committee is to pass a resolution deciding the fate of the Palestinian Mandate. The actions and negotiations undertaken by the delegates will be released as updates in committee and these are to be taken into consideration while deciding upon the draft resolution 181 and voting on it, itself. Again, the sole purpose of this committee is to pass draft resolution 181 in its original form, or any edited version, through lobbying votes and any other means of persuasion deemed fit by delegates. Delegates are not expected to act upon updates released in committee or find solutions to situations developing during the course of committee, but are merely expected to recognize all acts taking place before deciding upon their vote, either for or against any of the draft resolutions.

Secondly, delegates are allowed to make use of secret directives which directly, or indirectly, affect the contents of the resolution itself or voting dynamics in committee. Anything which is considered outside the scope of this specific purpose of directives will not be entertained. It is at the discretion of the Executive Board to decide if a directive will pass, and if so, how it will play out in committee.

For the purposes of this committee, secret directives would refer to courses of action undertaken by delegates in response to an update (which must be within the above mentioned scope of directives for this committee) or deals brokered between portfolio members of this committee and other nations present (more details at the end).

The committee will start off with opening statements from each delegate for about 90 seconds on their stance on the issue at hand.

Introduction

Though the dispute between Israel and Palestine over conflicting claims of ancestral homeland seems to be territorial at face value, escalating tensions between the Zionists and the Arab community has proven otherwise. The sentiments of the Zionist movement and

Arab nationalism in the Middle East have created lasting ideological friction, calling into question the reconcilability of two cultures at odds. As the British Mandate over Palestine comes to an end, how will the Jewish people preserve their rightful state, and who can they turn to on the international stage to support them?

Historical Background

In the broad scheme of history, the question of Palestine is relatively recent. Its roots lie in two nationalist movements beginning from very different starting points in the nineteenth century: movements which were elevated by competing international interests in the region during the aftermath of the First World War, and only became a political reality after the Second World War.


The area in question, the Land of Canaan, or, the Land of Israel – is dually perceived to be the “Promise Land” for both followers of the Hebrew Bible and followers of the Quran.

Jewish nationalism grew in response to the rising anti-Semitism and pogroms of nineteenth-century Europe and Russia. A Jewish writers ambition to create a political homeland and safe-haven for the Jewish people provided the basis for the movement known as “Zionism”. A number of possible locations were considered, including Argentina, Cyprus, and East Africa, but ultimately the symbolic power of the biblical ‘promised land’ of Palestine won out and was adopted by the First Zionist Congress.

Similarly and simultaneously, discrimination against Arab peoples coming from Ottoman Turks instigated a nationalist movement centred on a territorial claim instead for Palestinian Arabs. A cultural nationalism termed the ‘Arab awakening’ was growing out of the Syria on account of dissatisfaction with the Turkish Ottomans.

In 1917, Great Britain had conquered the region of Palestine and issued the Balfour Declaration, a public statement which proclaimed support for the establishment of Palestine as a rightful home for the Jewish population under the belief that they were a key part of Allied victory over the Axis powers.

But the real catalyst for Arab nationalism came from Britain’s promised support for the ‘Arab nation’ as a means of undermining the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, in



its pledge to Sherif Hussein of Mecca that the holy sites of Islam remain under a ‘sovereign Muslim state’ and with the Adoption and ratification of the White Papers of 1939, Jewish immigration was restricted and the Arab case was strengthened.

For the last two decades Britain has maintained its position as the paramount power in the Middle East, but the attempt to reconcile conflicting promises made over the course of the Great War only sowed seeds of disillusionment among the Arab population of Palestine: seeds which grew into increasing tensions as unemployment among landless Arabs in Palestine rose during the 1930s, and the number of Jewish immigrants in Palestine expanded as a result of renewed persecution in Germany.

Committee History

Palestine had been governed by Great Britain since 1922. Since that time, Jewish immigration to the region had increased, and tensions between Arabs and Jews had grown. In April 1947, exhausted by World War II and increasingly intent upon withdrawing from the Middle East region, Britain referred the issue of Palestine to the UN. To investigate a suitable course of action, the UN formed the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), an inquiry committee made up of members from 11 countries. Ultimately, UNSCOP delivered two proposals: that of the majority, which recommended two separate states joined economically, and that of the minority, which supported the formation of a single binational state made up of autonomous Jewish and Palestinian areas. The Jewish community approved of the first of these proposals, while the Arabs opposed them both. A counterproposal—including a provision that only those Jews who had arrived before the Balfour Declaration (and their descendants) would be citizens of the state—did not win Jewish favour.

On the 23rd day of September 1947, the General Assembly assigned the question of partitioning of Palestine to its Ad Hoc Committee. Another sub-committee was to study the proposal of establishing a unitary State in Palestine in which the Democratic Constitution would guarantee the human rights and fundamental freedom of all its citizens without distinction as to race, language or religion.

Today, 25th November, the world will become acquainted for the first time with the final draft of the partition resolution: Resolution 181. For a draft resolution to become an official one, UN procedures required a two-third majority of its ad hoc committee.

Although the U.N. Charter is considered a “law-making treaty”, the United Nations itself is not an international legislature that can make laws or pass legislations. GA Resolution 181 cannot go to the Security Council for approval, therefore it must remain as a 'recommendation'. The reason why the General Assembly Resolution 181 can't go to the Security Council for consideration is because it implies that if it is to be approved by the Security Council, then it would require military force to implement it.

Main contents of the resolution–

- Palestine was thus divided into 3 parts: a Jewish part, an Arab part and an internationally administered zone to include the city of Jerusalem as a Corpus Separatum to be under the responsibility of the United Nations. After 10 years, a referendum would be held to seek the views of the city's residents. The Partition Plan for Palestine offered 55% of historical Palestine to a Jewish population constituting a mere third of the entire population (not more than 10% at the time of Balfour) where Jews owned about 7% of the land.
- UN draft 181 calls for the immediate creation of The Palestine Commission to oversee the implementation of the Partition Plan. It is to be composed of 5 member states: Bolivia, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Panama and The Philippines. The Commission is to be guided by recommendations of the General Assembly and instruction of the Security Council. If necessary, the Resolution asks the Security Council to take action under Articles 39 (determining there was a threat to the peace) and 41 (actions not using armed force, such as sanctions) to support the Commission in implementing the Plan. In request (c) it asks the Security Council to determine as a threat to the peace any attempt by force to resist or alter the implementation of the Plan. That would open the way for the UN to use force to implement the Plan.
- All residents of the States become citizens of the State in which they reside when it achieves its independence. Those who are part of the minority population of a State

may opt within one year after independence to change their citizenship to that of the other State. The individual States control immigration and residence within their State. There is free transit and visitation between the States (and Jerusalem).

- The Economic Union is controlled by a Joint Economic Board. Its decisions are binding on the States, and it can sanction a State that does not accept a decision, by withholding customs revenue. The Board has nine members. Three are appointed by each State, and three foreign members by the United Nations. For the first 10 years the Economic Union cannot be modified without the agreement of the General Assembly.
- The Process: The Mandate is to end, and all British forces withdrawn, by 1 August 1948, and independent Arab and Jewish states were to come into existence by 1 October 1948. The two states are established in a series of stages:
 - The Palestine Commission progressively takes over the administration of Palestine as Britain withdraws its armed forces. By 1 February 1948 a seaport suitable for substantial Jewish immigration should be evacuated.
 - The Commission delineates the frontiers of the two States in general accordance with the recommendation in the Plan.
 - The Commission selects a Provincial Council of Government for each state, with full authority in the areas under their control, but under the general direction of the Commission.
 - Before 1 April 1948 the Provisional Councils enter into an Undertaking to participate in the Economic Union. If they do not, the Commission enforces it.
 - The Commission progressively transfers full responsibility for the administration of the States to the Provisional Councils in the period between the termination of the Mandate and the establishment of the State's independence.
 - The Councils set up administrative organs of government, central and local.

- The Councils set up armed militias from residents of their State, under the operational control of their officers, with the Commission having general political and military control and choosing the High Command of the militias.
 - The Councils, by 1 October 1948, hold elections for a Constituent Assembly for their State. This draws up a democratic Constitution and chooses a Provisional Government to succeed the Provisional Council.
- The Plan specifies a number of clauses which must be included in the Constitution of each State, the first being the establishment of a parliament elected by universal suffrage on the basis of proportional representation. Others cover such matters as human rights and accepting the principles of the United Nations.
 - At some point before independence each State must make a Declaration to the U.N accepting a number of stipulations. Two of these, concerning religious sites and religious and minority rights go into the constitution. These cannot be changed without the agreement of the General Assembly. Others cover such matters as citizenship, and acceptance of international agreements and financial obligations previously accepted by Palestine. These are regarded as fundamental laws of the state.
 - After the end of the Mandate, effective sovereignty over Palestine will be vested in the Palestine Commission. This progressively transferred administrative authority to the Provisional Councils, which will operate under its supervision. After the Provisional Council and the Constituent Assembly have produced a Constitution, the Provisional Council will be replaced by the Provisional Government. It is at this point that the State will become independent.

Portfolio Briefs

Israeli Portfolios

1. Chaim Weizmann –

Chaim Weizmann was born in Motol, Russia in on November 27, 1874. He received his education in biochemistry in Switzerland and Germany. In 1905 he moved to England, and was elected to the General Zionist Council.

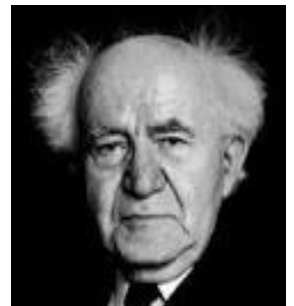


Weizmann's scientific assistance to the Allied forces in World War I brought him into close contact with British leaders, enabling him to play a key role in the issuing of the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917, in which Britain committed itself to the establishment of a Jewish home in Palestine.

In 1918, Weizmann was appointed head of the Zionist Commission sent to Palestine by the British government and in 1920 became the president of the World Zionist Organization (WZO). He headed the Jewish Agency which was established in 1929. In the 1930s, Weizmann laid the foundations of the Weizmann Institute, a driving force behind Israel's scientific research. Chaim Weizmann again served as President of the WZO from 1935–1946. During the years that led up to World War II, he invested much effort in establishing the Jewish Brigade. He also tried, unsuccessfully, to prevent the issuing in 1939 of the White Paper, which in effect halted Jewish immigration to Palestine. He is now speculated to be, if it so happens to be created, Independent Israel's first president.

2. David Ben-Gurion

Ben-Gurion was one of the leaders in Płóńsk of the “Lovers of Zion,” a movement that was disseminating among the oppressed Jews of Eastern Europe the idea of the return to their original homeland of Israel. He called for accelerated Jewish immigration to Palestine in the effort to create a Jewish nucleus that would serve as the foundation for the establishment of a Jewish state after the Balfour Declaration was signed.



In 1939 Britain changed its Middle East policy adopting a sympathetic attitude toward the Arabs. Ben-Gurion reacted by calling upon the Jewish community to rise against England, thus heralding the decade of “fighting Zionism.” At the end of World War II, Ben-Gurion led the Jewish community in its struggle against the British mandate. He is speculated to be, if it so happens to be created, independent Israel's first Prime Minister.

3. Rudolf Sonneborn–

Mr. Sonneborn was a native of Baltimore. In 1919, he was in Palestine with a mission to oversee the Jewish community on behalf of the World Zionist Organization. In 1920, Instead of trying to compete with the big fuel and gasoline companies, he led the business into such specialty products as white mineral oils, sulfonates and motor oils. During World War II, he began to make a name for himself as a fundraiser to assist Jewish refugees in Europe. Hugely successful as president of the L. Sonneborn Sons petroleum business, Rudolf Sonneborn was asked to arrange an Industrialist meeting by David Ben-Gurion. Their meeting was called the most important in the history of the founding of Israel. The Sonneborn Institute , which is speculated to have raised the millions to arm the budding Jewish forces within Palestine.



Arab Portfolios

1. Abdul Rahman Hassan–

Abdul Rahman Hassan Azzam, also known as Azzam Pasha, is an Egyptian diplomat and politician. He served as the first Secretary-General of the Arab League.

One of Azzam's first acts as Secretary-General was to condemn anti-Jewish rioting in Egypt of November 2. In 1947, Azzam warned the Egyptian government that owing to public pressure and strategic issues it would be difficult for Arab leaders to avoid intervention in the Palestine War, and that Egypt could find itself isolated if it did not act in concert with its neighbours.



2. Haj Amin al-Husseini –

Appointed Mufti of Jerusalem by the British in 1921, Haj Amin al-Husseini was the most prominent Arab figure in Palestine during the Mandatory period. Anti-British and anti-Jewish, the mufti was the key nationalist figure among Muslims in Palestine. Fearful that increased Jewish immigration to Palestine would damage Arab standing in the area, the mufti



engineered the bloody riots against Jewish settlement in 1929 and 1936. In 1922, he was also appointed to lead the Supreme Muslim Council, expanding his already significant powers. Known later as the Grand Mufti, al-Husseini was able to establish himself as the preeminent Arab power in Palestine. The mufti was dismissed from his position following the riots of 1936. No longer able to stay in Palestine, he continued his extremist activities from abroad.

3. King Abdullah I of Jordan –

Abdullah I became the first ruler (1946–51) of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On March 8, 1920, the Iraqi Congress, an organization of questionable legitimacy, proclaimed Abdullāh constitutional king of Iraq. But he declined the Iraqi throne, which was given to his brother. Abdullāh occupied Transjordan and threatened to attack Syria. He gradually negotiated the legal separation of Transjordan from Britain's Palestine mandate. Abdullāh aspired to create a united Arab kingdom encompassing Syria, Iraq, and Transjordan. During World War II, he actively sided with the United Kingdom, and his army, the Arab Legion—the most effective military force in the Arab world—took part in the British occupation of Syria and Iraq in 1941. In 1946 Transjordan became independent, and 'Abdullah was crowned in Amman. He is known to not completely trust other Arab nations in their quest for Palestine and is speculated to have dealings with Israel.



Bargaining Chips

This committee will be giving powers to delegates to negotiate with representatives of the Jewish and Arab people to secure the best deal for their country. It is a known allegation that votes were influenced using various types of favours during this time. Delegates will have the same opportunity and can negotiate deals using the below categories of trade-offs. It is to be noted that deals can also be made in categories other than the below mentioned. These deals will have to be realistic and feasible for the Executive Board to recognize them and to achieve the higher and holy purpose of horse trading.

1. Territorial Trade-offs

The first category is of territorial trade-offs. This includes but is not limited to rights of ways through waters and land, exclusive or limited access to trade routes, islands, waters bodies etc. Delegates are suggested to grant only a license to use these territories and not transfer ownership of them.

Example: The representative of the Jewish people can lease out land for Delegate X's country to establish a military base in exchange for a favourable vote on a motion or draft resolution.

2. Economic Trade-offs

The second category of economic trade-offs refers to grants, loans, access to technology, favourable trade policies etc. Delegates are suggested to keep in mind their country's economic position in the 1940's in mind before agreeing to any trade off. Economic policies have changed over the last 70 years and so have developmental goals. Operating within the confines of the timeline and freeze date is imperative.

Example: Delegate X can ask for access to a development grant in exchange for a favourable vote on a motion or draft resolution.

3. Political Trade-offs

The last, and most contentious type of trade-offs include political favours, influencing elections and pressuring political organizations to take your stand on an issue. This would further entail individuals, organisations or sovereign nations holding leverage over other nations, which don't necessarily have to be economic or military in nature, and inducing them to comply with your requests. Delegates are also allowed to make use of radical organisations present within the Palestinian Mandate to further their agendas both within the region and beyond it.

The above-mentioned trade-offs can be utilised by both the Jewish and Arab portfolio members exceeding which,

- a. The Jewish portfolios can offer one specialised trade-off:

Intelligence Sharing:

The Jews have been speculated to have extensive information networks planted not only across the holy land, but one which also traverse continents and exist despite governmental changes. Jewish portfolios are allowed to deal in information which must be approved by the Executive Board.

b. The Arab portfolios can offer one specialised trade-off:

Religious Favours:

By virtue of the Grand Mufti being represented in committee, delegates can request religious favours which include, but are not limited, to the issuance of fatwas (it is a ruling on Islamic law approved by a power of authority), sermons on specific issues, etc.

The examples mentioned above are only indicative and not in anyway exhaustive. Delegates are encouraged to think of trades outside these.

The only question this committee MUST answer

1. What shall be the status of the Holy Land?

Research Tips and Final Remarks

Please note that this background guide is just to help you understand this committee and what the Executive Board is looking forward to discussing. This is in no way exhaustive and delegates must go beyond what is mentioned here. Delegates must at least go through the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine report and Resolution 181 which was passed by the General Assembly on the 29th of November, 1947. The EB does recognize that a 100 page document might be overwhelming so for the purpose of this committee, one can skip the initial few pages and instead focus mainly on Chapter IV, V, VI, VII. You must have an idea of what they contain if not a complete in-depth understanding. You should also know the Balfour Declaration, 1917 and the White Paper, 1939. An understanding of the historical background of this conflict is essential too. Please note that even these pointers are not exhaustive and you should go beyond this.

You can refer to research papers on this and can look at background guides of other MUNs too. Please note that you can use these sources to understand the issue, but they shall not be accepted as valid sources of facts. Any document created post 25th November, 1947 shall also not be accepted. The best sources of information are UN reports, government reports and news articles. News articles shall be perused to check for any apparent biases before they are admitted. Government reports which are *prima facie* biased or fabricated will not be given sufficient weightage.

The EB reserves the right to admit certain documents in exceptional situations after providing an explanation for the same.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Delegates of The Historic United Nations Summit on the Status of Palestine are **NOT** required to submit a position paper.
2. The **freeze date** for this committee is **25th November 1947**. Any and all actions taken post that will be termed speculative and disregarded.
3. The committee email ID is hsp.dipsmun2018@gmail.com. All queries can be directed to the same. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, please send a reminder mail.

Please note that this guide is for reference only. Nothing mentioned in this guide or in any other publication by the EB can be used as proof or as a fact in committee.