



11-13 JULY 2014

LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
BACKGROUND GUIDE

I. POINTS TO BE NOTED

- The Fourth Summit of the League of Arab States at Delhi Public School Ghaziabad Model United Nations Conference 2014 is a *historic* simulation with the freeze date standing as 28th August 1967. Hence, all the facts, occurrences or events post this date will be considered non-existent.
- This background guide does not contain all the information on an agenda. It contains an introduction to the agenda to help participants in further research.
- Participants must note that to understand any agenda it is important to deeply explore its development in history and understand various political, social, legal, cultural, religious, economic and security aspects riding with it. The guide just touches upon some of these aspects and the delegates are required to explore as many tangible aspects as possible in detail while preparing for and deliberating during the simulation.
- The simulation will follow standard Model United Nations Rules of Procedure.
- Following is a suggested pattern for research (if required):
 - a. Understanding the Committee/Council being simulated – Its Mandate and the historical work done on the agenda.
 - b. Research on the allotted country. Understanding its polity, economy, culture, history, military policy and doctrines etc.
 - c. Comprehend the Foreign Policy of the allotted country. It includes understanding the ideology and principles adopted by the country on the agenda. It further includes studying past actions taken by the country on the agenda and other related issues –specifically analyzing their causes and consequences.
 - d. Read the background guide thoroughly.
 - e. Research further upon the agenda using the footnotes and links given in the guide and from other sources such as academic papers, institutional reports, national reports, news articles, blogs etc.

- f. Understand policies adopted by different blocs of countries (example: NATO etc.) and major countries involved in the agenda. Including their position, ideology and adopted past actions.
 - g. Characterize the agenda into sub-topics and prepare speeches and statements on them. It is the same as preparing topics for the moderated caucuses and their content.
 - h. Prepare a list of possible solutions and actions the League of Arab States can adopt on the issue as per your country's policies.
 - i. Assemble proof/evidence for any important piece of information you are going to use in committee.
- Keep your research up to date using various news sources.
 - It is a request to all the participants to put sincere efforts in preparation for the simulation; and work hard to make it a fruitful learning experience for all. For any further queries feel free to contact the Executive Board at – harshyadav1818@gmail.com

II. ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES

- The League of Arab States is a regional organization of Arab nations formed in Cairo on 22 March 1945 with six nations initially, namely Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (renamed Jordan in 1949), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria, signing the Pact of the League of Arab States.
- The Pact lays down the main goal of the league in its Article 2 as –
 “The purpose of the League is to draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate their political activities with the aim of realizing a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.

It also has among its purposes a close co-operation of the member States with due regard to the structure of each of these States and the conditions prevailing therein, in the following matters:

- (a) Economic and financial matters, including trade, customs, currency, agriculture and industry;
- (b) (communications, including railways, roads, aviation, navigation, and posts and telegraphs;
- (c) Cultural matters;
- (d) Matters connected with nationality, passports, visas, execution of judgments and extradition;
- (e) Social welfare matters;
- (f) Health matters”

- The annexure of the Pact on Palestine further declares –

“At the end of the last Great War, Palestine, together with the other Arab States, was separated from the Ottoman Empire. She became independent, not belonging to any other State.

The Treaty of Lausanne proclaimed that her fate should be decided by the parties concerned in Palestine.

Even though Palestine was not able to control her own destiny, it was on the basis of the recognition of her independence that the Covenant of the League of Nations determined a system of government for her.

Her existence and her independence among the nations can, therefore, no more be questioned *de jure* than the independence of any of the other Arab States...”

- The Fourth Summit being simulated is being conveyed due to special circumstances underlined in the LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

- All decisions of the Summit shall be passed by a majority (i.e. 50% + 1 of the total members present and who opting to vote) with each member nation having one vote. The decisions of the Summit taken by a unanimous vote (i.e. all members voting in favor of the particular decision discarding abstention) shall be legally binding on all member nations; those that are reached by a majority vote shall bind only those that accept them.

- http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/arableag.asp
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League
- http://www.lasportal.org/wps/portal/en/home_page
- <http://www.arableagueonline.org/>

III. LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Greetings!

The Arab world finds itself in challenging times. The June War has been a set back to us with Israel now occupying areas of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank including now East of the Holy City of Jerusalem, the Shebaa Farms and the Golan Heights. Many Arabs are now living under the Israeli occupation. Forces of the United Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic have suffered losses on military fronts apart from losing lands to Israel. Much deliberation is required on our military policies in order to consolidate the Arab unity. As per the recommendations of the conference of Arab Ministers of Finance, Economy and Oil, the Arab Oil Export Embargo which began on 6th June 1967 continues, the impact of which still needs to be assessed. Many nations which support Israel are still the target of the embargo with some Arab nations specifically targeting the United States and the United Kingdom. The cause for our Palestinian Arab brothers and establishment of the rightful State of Palestine also finds itself in a worsened situation. The consequences of the recent events have also changed the dynamics of relationships between the Arab world and the rest of the nations. It is important that we evaluate the effect on our relations and standing within the rest of the international community and find common ideas and goals for the betterment of our position. It is crucial that we resolve persisting differences within the Arab community and come to a united front to address the rapidly changing geo-political scenario when we meet on 29th of August 1967 for the Fourth Arab Summit in Khartoum, Sudan.

Regards

Harsh Vardhan Yadav

Secretary-General

League of Arab States

IV. NOTABLE HISTORICAL EVENTS

- The roots of the modern Arab–Israeli conflict lie in the rise of Zionism and Arab nationalism towards the end of the 19th century. Territory regarded by the Jewish people as their historical homeland is also regarded by the Pan-Arab movement as historically and presently belonging to the Palestinian Arabs. There are many religious aspects which can be attributed to the rise of this nationalism.
- During 1915–16, as World War I was underway, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon reportedly, secretly corresponded with Husayn ibn 'Ali, the patriarch of the Hashemite family and Ottoman governor of Mecca and Medina. McMahon convinced Husayn to lead an Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire (which spanned over the lands now known as Israel and Palestine), which was aligned with Germany against Britain and France in the war. McMahon promised that if the Arabs supported Britain in the war, the British government would support the establishment of an independent Arab state under Hashemite rule in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire, including Palestine. The Arab revolt, led by T. E. Lawrence and Husayn's son Faysal, was successful in defeating the Ottomans, and Britain took control over much of this area.
- In 1917 the lands were under British Control and it declared in its Balfour Declaration that it is favor of “establishment in Palestine of a national home for Jewish People” on the understanding “that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”. The Declaration was issued as a result of the belief of key members of the government, including Prime Minister David Lloyd George, that Jewish support was essential to winning the war; however, the declaration caused great disquiet in the Arab world.

- In 1922, after the war the area came under British rule as a mandate received from the League of Nations. Also known as the British Mandate of Palestine.
- At this point in time mass Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine occurred. Palestinian Arabs saw this rapid influx of Jewish immigrants as a threat to their homeland and their identity as a people. Demonstrations were held as early as 1920, protesting what the Arabs felt were unfair preferences for the Jewish immigrants set forth by the British mandate that governed Palestine at the time. This resentment led to outbreaks of violence later that year. Winston Churchill's 1922 White Paper tried to reassure the Arab population, denying that the creation of a Jewish state was the British intention of the Balfour Declaration.
- During the 1930's and 1940's, Jewish immigration peaked soon after the Nazis came to power in Germany, causing the Jewish population in British Palestine to double.
- In November 1945, the League of Arab States reestablished the Arab Higher Committee as the supreme executive body of Palestinian Arabs in the territory of the British Mandate of Palestine. The committee was immediately recognized by the then six Arab League countries and the Mandate government recognized the new Committee two months later.
- On 2 December 1945, the Council of League of Arab States formally declared a boycott of any Jewish owned business operating in Mandatory Palestine: "Jewish products and manufactured [goods] in Palestine shall be [considered] undesirable in the Arab countries; to permit them to enter the Arab countries would lead to the realization of the Zionist political objectives.
- Faced with escalating violence on the ground, the British Government decided, in February 1947, to bring the question of Palestine before the United Nations. During the First Special Session of the UN General Assembly, which began on 28th April 1947, Arab countries including – Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Syria – tried unsuccessfully to include in the agenda an item that would

address “the termination of the Mandate over the Palestine and the declaration of its independence”. The Jewish Agency for Palestine presented the Jewish case, while the Arab Higher Committee spoke for the Palestinian Arabs.

- On May 15, 1947, the General Assembly appointed a committee, the UNSCOP (United Nations Special Committee on Palestine), composed of representatives from eleven states. To make the committee more neutral, none of the “Great Powers” were represented. After five weeks of in-country study, the Committee reported to the General Assembly on September 3, 1947. The Report contained a majority and a minority plan. The majority proposed a *Plan of Partition with Economic Union*. The minority proposed *The Independent State of Palestine*. With only slight modifications, the *Plan of Partition with Economic Union* was the one adoption and implementation of which was recommended in resolution 181(II) of November 29, 1947. The Resolution was adopted by 33 votes to 13 with 10 abstentions. All six Arab states who were UN-members voted against it. On the ground, Arab and Jewish Palestinians were fighting openly to control strategic positions in the region. Several major atrocities were committed by both sides.
- League of Arab States rejects Plan of Partition adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution 181(II).
- On April 17, 1948 the UN Security Council called for the cessation of all military and paramilitary activities in Palestine and on April 23 it established a Truce Commission to supervise and help bring about a ceasefire. UN General Assembly decides to relieve UNSCOP to relieve it from its responsibilities.
- On May 14, 1948, the day on which the British Mandate over Palestine expired, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum, and approved a proclamation which declared the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz Israel, to be known as the State of Israel. There were no mentions of the borders of the new state other than that it was in Eretz Israel. The next day the then seven Arab League members, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Egypt,

Saudi Arabia and Yemen coordinated a march with their forces into what the previous day had been the area of the British Mandate marking the start of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War.

- In the introduction to the cablegram from the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States to the UN Secretary-General on 15 May 1948, the Arab League gave reasons for its *intervention*:

“On the occasion of the intervention of Arab States in Palestine to restore law and order and to prevent disturbances prevailing in Palestine from spreading into their territories and to check further bloodshed”

Clause 10 of the Cablegram said:-

“10. Now that the Mandate over Palestine has come to an end, leaving no legally constituted authority behind in order to administer law and order in the country and afford the necessary and adequate protection to life and property, the Arab States declare as follows:

- (a) The right to set up a Government in Palestine pertains to its inhabitants under the principles of self-determination recognized by the Covenant of the League of Nations as well as the United Nations Charter.
- (b) Peace and order have been completely upset in Palestine, and, in consequence of Jewish aggression, approximately over a quarter of a million of the Arab population have been compelled to leave their homes and emigrate to neighbouring Arab countries.
- (c) The Mandatory has already announced that on the termination of the Mandate it will no longer be responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine except in the camps and areas actually occupied by its forces, and only to the extent necessary for the security of those forces and their withdrawal.”

The Cablegram also declared -

“The Arab States recognize that the independence and sovereignty of Palestine which was so far subject to the British Mandate has now, with the termination of the Mandate, become established in fact, and maintain that the lawful inhabitants of Palestine are alone competent and entitled to set up an administration in Palestine for the discharge of all governmental functions without any external interference. As soon as that stage is reached the intervention of the Arab States, which is confined to the restoration of peace and establishment of law and order, shall be put an end to, and the sovereign State of Palestine will be competent in co-operation with the other States members of the Arab League, to take every step for the promotion of the welfare and security of its peoples and territory.”

- The Arab leaders were widely believed to be disunited, especially Egypt and Transjordan over the nature of offence. With Egypt suspicious of Transjordan's territorial ambitions.
- The fighting was halted after several weeks, under a four week truce called by the UN Security Council on 29th May 1948. The truce went into effect on 11 June and was supervised by the UN Mediator appointed earlier by the UN General Assembly with the assistance of a group of international military observers, which came to be known as the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). Despite the efforts of the Mediator, no agreement could be reached on an extension of the truce, and fighting broke out again on July 8.
- On 8 July 1948, the Arab League decided to set up a temporary civil administration in Palestine, to be directly responsible to the Arab League. This plan was strongly opposed by King Abdullah I of Transjordan (Now Jordan), and received only half-hearted support from the Arab Higher Committee. The new administration was never properly established. Another order issued by the League of Arab States on 8 August 1948 vested an Egyptian Administrator-General with the powers of the High Commissioner.

- On 15 July 1948, the UN Security Council ordered a ceasefire and declared that failure to comply would be construed as a breach of the peace requiring immediate consideration of enforcement measures under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.
- The Egyptian government, allegedly suspicious of King Abdullah's intentions and growing power in Palestine, put a proposal to the League of Arab State's meeting that opened in Alexandria on 6 September 1948. The plan would turn the temporary civil administration, which had been agreed to in July, into an Arab government with a seat in Gaza for the whole of Palestine. The formal announcement of the Arab League's decision to form the All-Palestine Government was issued on 20 September. The All-Palestine Government was established in Gaza on 22 September 1948 and was recognized by all Arab League countries except Jordan; and on 30 September a rival First Palestinian Congress was convened in Amman and promptly denounced the Gaza Government.
- More fighting took place in October 1948 and by December 1948; Israel controlled most of the portion of the Mandate Palestine west of the Jordan River. The remainder of the Mandate consisted of Jordan, the area that came to be called the West Bank (controlled by Jordan), and the Gaza Strip (controlled by Egypt). The War came to an end with the signing of the 1949 Armistice Agreements between Israel and each of its Arab neighbors.
- As a result of 1949 Armistice Agreements, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem were ruled by Jordan, while the Gaza Strip was occupied by Egypt.
- On 13 April 1950, Arab League members signed an agreement on *Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation*, which committed the signatories to coordination of military defense measures, and "the Arab League resolved to expel any Arab state which reached a separate economic, political or military agreement with Israel." On 24 April 1950, Jordan brought the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, formally under its jurisdiction.

- King Abdullah of Jordan is assassinated on 20 July 1951.
- In 1956, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, and blockaded the Gulf of Aqaba. On July 26, 1956; Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal Company, and closed the canal to Israeli shipping. Israel responded on October 29, 1956, by invading the Sinai Peninsula with British and French support. During the Suez Crisis, Israel captured the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula. The United States and the United Nations soon pressured it into a ceasefire. Israel agreed to withdraw from Egyptian territory. Egypt agreed to freedom of navigation in the region and the demilitarization of the Sinai. The United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF - I) was created and deployed to oversee the demilitarization. The UNEF was only deployed on the Egyptian side of the border, as Israel refused to allow them on its territory.
- Israel completed work on a national water carrier, a huge engineering project designed to transfer Israel's allocation of the Jordan River's waters towards the south of the country in realization of Ben-Gurion's dream of mass Jewish settlement of the Negev desert. The Arabs responded by trying to divert the headwaters of the Jordan, leading to growing conflict between Israel and Syria.
- In 1959, without reference to the League of Arab States that had created it, Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt officially dissolved the All-Palestine Government by decree, arguing that the All-Palestine Government had failed to successfully advance the Palestinian cause. The Gaza Strip became directly administered by Egypt.
- At the Cairo Summit of 1964, the Arab League initiated the creation of an organization representing the Palestinian people. The first Palestinian National Council convened in East Jerusalem on 29 May 1964. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded during this meeting on 2 June 1964. The area of activity for the PLO was clearly within the then borders of the State of Israel: the Palestinian National Charter of 1964 stated: This Organization does

not exercise any territorial sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip or in the Himmah Area.

- On May 19, 1967, Egypt expelled UNEF observers, and deployed 100,000 soldiers in the Sinai Peninsula. It again closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, returning the region to the way it was in 1956 when Israel was blockaded.
- On May 30, 1967, Jordan signed a mutual defense pact with Egypt. Egypt mobilized Sinai units, crossing UN lines (after having expelled the UN border monitors) and mobilized and massed on Israel's southern border. On June 5, Israel launched an attack on Egypt. The Israeli Air Force (IAF) destroyed most of the Egyptian Air Force in a surprise attack, and then turned east to attack the Jordanian, Syrian and Iraqi air forces. This strike was the crucial element in the outcome of the "Six-Day War". At the war's end, Israel had gained control of the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank including East Jerusalem from Jordan, Shebaa farms (A disputed territory at the intersection of the border of Syria and Lebanon), and the Golan Heights from Syria. The UNSC passes several crucial resolutions such as Resolution 242 on the issue to resolve situation in 1967, which further changed the situation on the ground. The results of the war affect the geopolitics of the region to this day.

- http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/middle_east/03/v3_ip_timeline/html/
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_League_and_the_Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_conflict
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_conflict
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suez_Crisis
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict
- <http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/udc.htm>
- <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/1967.shtml>