



NGMUN IV

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Secretaries-General

Under-Secretary-General

League of Arab States: Third Arab-Israeli War: June 11, 1967



Table of Contents

Letter from the Secretariat.....	3
Letter from the Director.....	5
Terms, Historical Background.....	6
Current Situation.....	8
Regional Positions.....	10
Works Cited.....	12

Letter from the Co-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NGMUN V! As we prepare to open our fifth season of debate, we are grateful to finally welcome delegates back to campus. After three years of virtual committees, it is our honor and pleasure to host what we hope will be a diverse and thoughtful debate. When delegates begin their conference day in person (which may feel new to some), we urge all to remember the spirit of debate and the challenge of immersing oneself in the perspective and interests of one's country or character, rather than relying on personal tendencies. Debate craves healthy controversy. Delegates should present the imperatives of their country or character respectfully and thoughtfully. We look forward to and expect the utmost diplomacy.

The Nobles Model UN club has an extensive and impressive legacy, with recent accolades including Best Large Delegation at Harvard MUN 2021. Club successes in conferences across the nation have solidified Nobles as a leader in independent school Model UN. NGMUN began as an idea between two dedicated members of the club, Will Whalen (N' 19) and Julia Temple (N' 20). The first NGMUN was held in the spring of 2019. Since then, though NGMUN's leadership has separated from the MUN club's leadership, our secretariat and daises have grown significantly in experience, skill, and creativity. This year's staff have a wealth of experience both as delegates and as staff members. Your chairs and co-chairs have spent months preparing committees full of robust debates, critical problem-solving, and international intrigue. They are driven, intelligent, and enthusiastic. You should approach your committee with trust and respect for the forces that be – they are just as excited as you are.

Regarding our expectations for the conference, we look forward to a commitment from delegates to enable successful committees. First of all, position papers will be required for any delegate seeking an award and are highly encouraged for all. Not only will position papers expand your own knowledge of the issue and your delegation's stance, but they also show your chair and co-chair(s) that you take your position at this conference seriously. Secondly, while you should be excited to debate and resolve conflicts, if the discourse between you and other delegates gets too heated, remember that this conference is a simulation. You should exhibit diplomacy, not hostility. Even if you are assigned to a committee where fights and arguments are in the description, there will be no tolerance for directly disrespecting the character of any of your fellow delegates, or any personal attacks. Should issues beyond committee jurisdiction arise, delegates jeopardize their privilege to continue in the debate. We look forward to a day of intellectual growth, diplomacy, and thoughtful discourse. On behalf of your very excited secretariat, thank you for joining us for a weekend!

Sincerely,

Katie Cheung & Oona Lundgren

Secretaries-General

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Sensitivity Statement

You are assuming the roles and responsibilities of diplomats, and therefore will be held to the ethical standards of the role. During NGMUN, we expect all delegate behavior to reflect the gravity and sensitivity of the international and individual impact of the topics being addressed, just as such topics would be addressed by professional diplomats. While the issues you debate are on the world stage and may seem distant from your lived experience, we ask that you approach debate with a high level of respect and sensitivity for others. Absolutely no racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, or any other forms of discrimination will be tolerated in or out of committee. This includes any such harmful rhetoric that can be attributed to the country or character you are representing. Any discriminatory language or ideas in speeches, resolutions, or at any other point in the conference is prohibited.

Letter from the chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the League of Arab States at NGMUN 2022! My name is Max Daniello, and I am thrilled to be your chair alongside Rohin Pinsetti, our amazing co-chair. Currently, I am a junior at the Noble and Greenough School, but I have lived in Cohasset, MA for the past six years. Some of my hobbies, outside of Model UN, include filmmaking, acting, singing, and running cross country. Also, I have a silver lab named Brandy who loves fetch and long walks!

I was introduced to Model UN in seventh grade at Derby Academy, a middle school in Hingham, MA and have loved it ever since. I instantly fell in love with the critical thinking and public speaking it requires. My favorite conference I have done took place in eighth grade when I was in a fictional crisis committee in the world of One Piece. My role was a character named Smoker and I remember that being the first time I truly started loving MUN. Since then, I have participated in countless committee sessions and have been on the staff of NGMUN for the past two years. I cannot wait to see all of you *in person* for NGMUN V. Whether you're an experienced delegate or just beginning your MUN career, I know it will be a wonderful experience for all!

The Six-Day War, also referred to as the Third Arab-Israeli War, June War, or Naksah, was a brief conflict that took place between June 5-10, 1967. This committee will be taking place on June 11, 1967, just one day after the official end of the war. Throughout all three Arab-Israeli wars, the entire Middle East alongside global superpowers such as the United States, Great Britain, and France were cast into political, social, and economic turmoil. With nations such as Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt rising to the forefront of the conflict, Israel's capture of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and Golan Heights has left a myriad of questions regarding the region's future. As the world would later learn, tens of thousands of casualties resulted from less than a week of warfare, highlighting the dire need for intergovernmental collaboration.

Lastly, it is important to recognize that participating in Model UN within the United States is a privilege others around the world cannot access. This committee is an amazing opportunity to not only develop public speaking skills and diplomacy, but also to create a comfortable environment for everyone to share their voice. I encourage you to conduct research beyond this background guide, and begin to think of creative yet pragmatic solutions. Additionally, the more prepared you are to contribute and discuss with your fellow delegates, the more you will take away from this committee.

Please send position papers to my email below, and if you have any questions or concerns be sure to reach out. I look forward to a stellar day of debate, collaboration, and, of course, fun!

Best,

Max Daniello

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TERMS

1. Haganah: Zionist military organization representing the majority of the Jews in Palestine from 1920 to 1948
2. To nationalize: transfer (a major branch of industry or commerce) from private to state ownership or control
3. Annexation: when one state claims sovereignty over a territory and that claim is recognized

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

First Arab-Israeli War

The War of 1948, also known as the War of Independence, began on May 15, 1948 when five military units, from the armies of Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, invaded Israel following the termination of the British mandate for Palestine. The war lasted until December 1949, resulting in the fall of the Arab forces and the successful establishment of Israel as a state (see Map 1). Despite the immense military personnel and equipment amassed by the Arab states, the Arab forces collapsed due to a lack of motivation and education throughout the armies. On the other hand, the Israeli army deployed experienced fighters who succeeded through means of thorough preparation and organization. On May 12, 1948, intelligence provided by the French consulate on the Arab's invading forces and their plans to invade the newly established state greatly contributed to Israel's success in confronting the Arab invasion.¹

Although the invasion by the Arab forces was criticized by the United States and the Soviet Union, its efforts were applauded by the Republic of China. The initial plans for the Arab army included the annexation of Tel Aviv by the Egyptians, and within the first stages of conflict, Egyptian forces advanced to within 16 miles of the city.² The original plan had also included Syrian and Lebanese forces invading from the north while Jordanian and Iraqi forces invaded from the east to meet at Nazareth. Here, they united and pushed forward towards Haifa. However, Lebanon decided not to take part in the war just before the plan was sprung into action. There is evidence that this occurred due to secret negotiations between Israel and Lebanon's Prime Minister, Riad al-Sulh.³

Although two cease-fire agreements were brokered by the United Nations during the war, Israel and the Arab states did not formally reach an armistice until February. Israel gained territory formerly allotted to Palestinian Arabs by the United Nations Resolution of 1947. Egypt maintained control over the Gaza Strip and Jordan maintained control over the West Bank. These armistice lines were preserved until 1967.

¹ Meir Zamir, "'Bid' for Altalena: France's Covert Action in the 1948 War in Palestine," in *Middle Eastern Studies*, by Routledge, 21.

² Jeremy Gypton, "Arab-Israeli Wars, 1948–1982," *ABC-CLIO*, last modified 2022, <https://worldatwar-abc-clio-com.ezproxy.nobles.edu/Search/Display/1301451.31>

³ Mahmoud Muhareb, "Secret Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon's Prime Minister Riad al-Sulh," *Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies*, accessed January 2, 2022, https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep12698?seq=8#metadata_info_tab_contents.

Second Arab-Israeli War *see map 2

Commonly referred to as the Suez Crisis or the October War, the second conflict in this sequence began on October 29, 1956 after the nationalization of the Suez Canal in Egypt. Due to Egypt's growing ties with communist nations such as Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain refused to finance Egypt's construction of the Aswan High Dam.⁴ This ended 72 years of British occupation of the canal and signified the dissolution of Britain's colonial powers in the Middle East. Due to Egypt's infringement on the Egyptian-Israeli armistice through blocking Israeli ships' access to the Suez Canal, Israeli powers drove towards Egypt in an attempt to annex the valuable waterway that controlled two-thirds of the oil used by Europe.⁵ Israel was swiftly supported by French and British forces. After many days of conflict, Egypt emerged victorious from the Suez Crisis causing the British, French, and Israeli governments to withdraw their troops in late 1956 and early 1957.⁶ Now, Britain and France feared that Gamal Abdel Nasser, the president of Egypt, would halt shipments of oil from the Persian Gulf to western Europe. When diplomatic efforts to settle the crisis failed, Britain and France secretly prepared military action to regain control of the canal and, if possible, to depose Nasser.⁷ As the Europeans allied with Israel, the relationship between Israel and Egypt turned hostile due to Nasser's blockade of the Straits of Tīrān as well as the many raids by Egyptian-supported commandos into Israel during this time.

On October 29, Israeli troops crossed the border to Egypt towards the canal. As tensions rose, Britain and France ordered for the evacuation of Israeli and Egyptian troops from the canal and mediated a cease-fire brokered by the United Nations. The cease-fire between Israel and Egypt was adopted due to pressure from the United States. On November 5, British and French troops occupied then annexed Port Said and Port Fuad. The next day, an Anglo-French ultimatum was addressed to Egypt and Israel requiring that they both withdraw ten miles from the canal zone. The ultimatum also requested that Egypt allow a temporary occupation of the zone, which they rejected.⁸ Anglo-French powers then proceeded to assault Egypt in the Canal zone the following day. At this time, Israel still controlled the Gaza Strip and key points on the Sinai Peninsula as a result of the War of 1948. On November 21, the first UN peacekeepers arrived in the Canal zone.⁹ On December 22, the United Nations removed Anglo-French troops from the canal, and Israeli forces withdrew from the Gaza Strip and Sinai in March 1957.

With the conclusion of the Second Arab-Israeli War, Nasser emerged victorious as a hero for the Arabs and Egyptian nationalism. Israel regained shipping rights in the Straits of Tīrān, but failed to gain similar results in the Suez Canal. Finally, Britain and France lost the majority of their economic and political influence in the Middle East.

⁴ Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Suez Crisis," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Suez-Crisis>.

⁵ History, "Suez Crisis," History, last modified November 9, 2009, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/suez-crisis>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Suez Crisis," *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

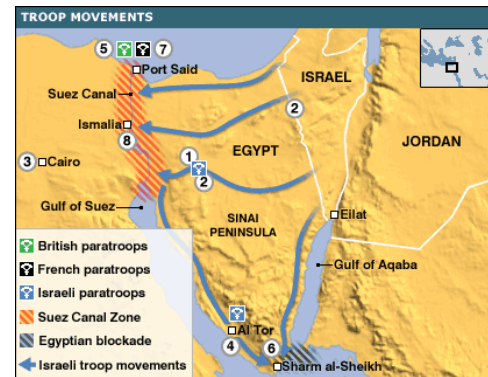
⁸ Charles Evans, "1956 Suez Canal Crisis," Nova Online, last modified 2010, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/evans/his135/events/suez56.htm>.

⁹ Evans, "1956 Suez," Nova Online.

Map 1: Armistice Lines



Map 2: Second Arab-Israeli War



THE CURRENT SITUATION

On June 5, 1967, Israel launched approximately two-hundred military aircraft with 18 individual airfields in Egypt as their target, thus commencing what is known today as the Six Day War. In a single attack, Israel diminished 90% of the Egyptian air force, and on that same day, desecrated the air force capabilities of Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, essentially gaining complete control over the Middle Eastern skies.¹⁰ But dominance in the sky was just the beginning as Israel simultaneously launched a ground assault into the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza strip, as well as deploying troops to Syria's Golan Heights and its eastern border with Jordan (see Map 3). On June 6, Israeli forces took control of Gaza, Ras el Naqeb, and Jebel Libni from Egypt.¹¹ Additionally, Israel began its conquest of Jerusalem by seizing its Northeast end, as well as nearby Ramallah, Ammunition Hill, and the city of Talpiot. After enduring over 10,000 casualties, Egyptian Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer ordered his forces to retreat and allow Israel to claim victory over the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip.¹² On the 6th, the United Nations proposed Resolution 233, which called upon "the Governments concerned to take forthwith as a first step all measures for an immediate cease-fire and for a cessation of all military activities in the area."¹³ Resolution 233 ultimately failed as it did not put a stop to Israel's fighting with Egypt, Jordan, or Syria.

Battle on the second front between Jordan and Israel saw its final day on June 7. On this day, Jordan pressed an offensive in Jerusalem by shelling Israel with a magnitude of guns.¹⁴ This attack by Jordan would end up being miniscule to the response that they had invoked. Israel proceeded to respond with a devastating counter attack on East Jerusalem and the West Bank,

¹⁰ "Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

¹¹ "Timeline: The Six Day War". 2022. *Npr.Org*. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216>.

¹² "Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

¹³ The United Nations. "Resolution 233." *Digitallibrary.un.org*. Last modified June 6, 1967. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90711?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

¹⁴ "Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

taking control of both locations. Seeing the continuation of destruction being unleashed on all three fronts, the United Nations proposed a second ceasefire initiative titled Resolution 234. The initiative demanded both Israel and the Arabs “should as a first step cease fire and discontinue all military activities at 2000 hours GMT on 7 June 1967.”¹⁵ Though Resolution 234 was initially rejected by Egyptian president Nasser and Syrian regime leader Hafez Assad, Israel was able to persuade Jordanian king Hussein into accepting Resolution 234 after repeated casualties within the Jordanian military. The third day of warfare saw Israel assume control of Jerusalem, establishing the end of fighting between Israel and Jordan.

June 8th did not bring about any sizable shifting of claim to territory, but fighting against Egypt within the Sinai Peninsula carried on, despite the bulk of Egypt's military being in retreat. Finally, Egypt accepted Resolution 234 and thus the fighting along the Sinai Peninsula through the Suez Canal came to a halt.¹⁶ The final phase of fighting took place along the northern border of Israel against Syria. On June 9th, Israel initiated an intense aerial strike against Syrian forces, and proceeded to send a great number of tanks and infantry into a crucial military region of Jordan called Golan heights. Within the following twenty-four hours, Israel had taken control of Golan Heights, but not without inflicting several hundred casualties upon Syrian forces. Also on this day, flaring political tensions forced Egyptian president Nasser to resign in disgrace of devastating losses, only to return to power after heavy public demand for his leadership.

By June 10th, Israel had killed around 20,000 Arabs, while sustaining no more than 800 casualties themselves. Israel emerged from the six days with significantly more land than it possessed prior to the war.¹⁷ The United Nations put forth its final statement titled Resolution 235. This affirmed the previous two resolutions as well as requested “the Secretary-General to make immediate contacts with the Governments of Israel and Syria to arrange immediate compliance with the above-mentioned resolutions.”¹⁸ At last, Syria agreed to the cease-fire and the Six Day War came to an end.

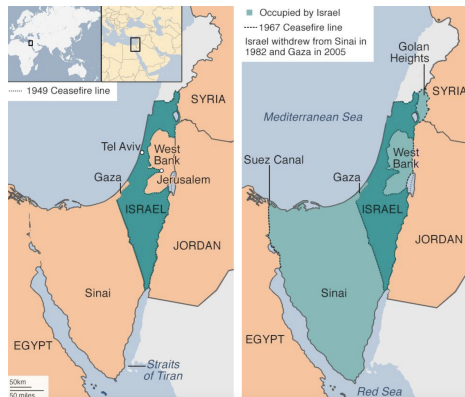
Map 3:

¹⁵ The United Nations. "Resolution 234." Digitallibrary.un.org. Last modified June 7, 1967. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90711?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

¹⁶ "Timeline: The Six Day War". 2022. *Npr.Org*. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ The United Nations. "Resolution 235." Digitallibrary.un.org. Last modified June 6, 1967. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90711?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.



REGIONAL POSITIONS

Pro Israel

In the Six-Day War, Israel was the victor and principal combatant on one side of the conflict. This nation's main objective was to overtake multiple regions in the Middle East such as the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. Israel is looking to maintain control over its newly acquired territory and strengthen its global standing.

Pro Arab

The Arab states of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan composed the main trio that fought against the Israelis. Additionally, Syrian-backed Palestinian guerrilla attacks on Israel increased hostility between the two countries. These Arab nations hope to constrict Israel's geographic and military growth by regaining control over the territory that was won by Israel.

Beyond the Middle East

Prior to the Six-Day War, the US repeatedly rejected Israel's requests for military support and approval for an Israeli preemptive attack on Egypt. On June 6, 1967, Robert McCloskey, the US State Department spokesman at the time, announced that "our position is neutral in thought, word, and deed." When he was asked if the US would remain neutral no matter how the war developed, he said, "that is our effort."¹⁹ Also, while the USSR publicly declared support for the Egyptians by providing a modern air force, there were reports of Soviet delegates urging Egyptian officials to avoid any conflict that would involve the USSR and the US. In the 1960s, Israel also bought French aircrafts and British tanks. With underlying ties to various global superpowers, the six days of fighting have altered the world's view of Israel's strength and highlighted the disarray of the Arab states.

¹⁹ "Six-Day War: U.S. Government Declares Itself Neutral' in the Arab War against Israel."

NEXT STEPS

So where does this leave the Middle East on June 11th? Israel has emerged as the uncontested victor, but millions of dollars in damage to the surrounding Arab countries follows in the war's wake.

The first issue is the handling of displaced persons. Over one million Arabs are now considered to be inhabiting Israeli territory.²⁰ Will Israel continue to occupy the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and Golan Heights? If so, will the Israeli government be responsible for taking care of the refugees living in these territories? Since national identity and legal identity do not go hand in hand, a refugee crisis is on the horizon.

The second problem that needs to be addressed is who is responsible for the resulting military damages. While Israel may have caused the bulk of destruction, it had also been the most supportive of ending the war on June 7th which contrasted the Arab sentiment. The militaries of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria are not the only ones to have been depleted. Libya, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia all provided backup military support to the Arabs after they lost much of its forces in the first few days of the war.²¹ As a means of replenishing their supply of ammunition and weapons, uncertainty regarding the possibility of these countries siding with Israel arises.

Third, the lack of stable infrastructure created by the Six Day War is a prominent concern. Critical roads and buildings have been reduced to rubble in Jerusalem, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In order to avoid further economic and humanitarian devastation, countries must formulate effective short term and long term solutions to restore public works such as bridges and highways to ensure the flow of commodities to critical institutions like hospitals, schools, and government buildings.

The final and arguably most important goal of this committee is to establish a legacy of long-lasting peace between Arabs and Israelis. On May 31, 1967, only a few days prior to the Six Day War, the president of Iraq stated that "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear – to wipe Israel off the map."²² The next day, Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol claimed that "Arab propaganda raised the contention that Israel is concentrating forces in order to attack Syria."²³ As the explicit denunciation of opposing nations transformed into days of lethal warfare, the idea of peace and prosperity within the Middle East has slipped farther away. As a delegate, the success of this committee will be heavily dependent on each country's ability to compromise while maintaining individual country policy.

²⁰ "Six-Day War". 2022. *HISTORY*. <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war>.

²¹ Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

²² 6 Days War: Crucial Quotes | Survival". 2022. *Lessons.Myjli.Com*. Accessed January 2. <https://lessons.myjli.com/survival/index.php/2017/03/20/6-days-war-crucial-quotes/>.

²³ Ibid.

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