

MUN 2014

Background Guide:

*The United Nations
Security Council of 1956:*

Suez Canal Crisis

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
March 14-16, 2014

Letter from the Director

Delegates,

Welcome again to the annual Model United Nations Illinois Conference. My name is Sadhana Krishnamoorthy and I am currently a sophomore in Computer Engineering. I've been involved in Model United Nations for six years and involved with MUNI (as a delegate and staff member) for 5 years. I am honored to work as your Director of Simulations for the 2014 conference and I look forward to seeing how this year's simulations challenge and excite.

Just like any proper simulation, you will never know what to expect. Be ready for political scheming, extreme warfare, and a battle for international dominance. Challenging as the committees may be, your skills as a diplomat as well as an intellectual will prove useful and rewarding once you step into the world of international politics.

Set in 1956, the United Nations Security Council will be combating some very serious situations yet to arise. From Egypt's drastic occupation of the Suez Canal to the crumbling walls of the Soviet Union, there will be crises and global catastrophes to spare. But fret not, for in the end it will all be worth it. The rigor and pace, the anger and utter despair, the meltdowns and comedy will all make this year's simulation just as memorable as years before.

But nothing comes easy. Weeks of preparation and full planning will only make this committee more enjoyable for everyone involved. Dig deep into the years of history and aftermath and think what could have happened if only you had made the decisions that diplomats of the past had once struggled with. You have the time, the knowledge, and the technology to shape the very course of history; if only for three days.

If you have any question or concerns in regards to the simulation or MUNI in general, feel free to email me at krshnmr3@illinois.edu.

Best of Luck,
Sadhi Krishnamoorthy

Overview

In the tumultuous time of weakening Soviet Union influence and the battle between West and East, a crisis, with the ability to change the very result of what would soon be known as the Cold War, emerged in the Middle East. The aftermath of World War II resulted in an increase in colonized nations' desires to gain independence and push Eastern European nations to break the Iron curtain and remove themselves from the United Soviet States of Russia. Rising powers in the Middle East gave way to potential allegiances and opportunities to strengthen both sides of the long-term international pseudo-war.

On June 23, 1956, along with the introduction of a new constitution, Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected as the second president of Egypt. A mastermind behind the overthrow of the previous monarchy, Nasser served as the Deputy Prime Minister for four years before entering into his newfound presidency. A proponent of neutralism, Nasser refused to pick a side during the Cold War, which resulted in mounting tensions between Egypt and the Western world. Egypt had supported the independence of the former French colony, Algeria, causing condemnation from France and also recognized the legitimacy of the newly formed Peoples Republic of China, sparking controversy with the United States. While Nasser's decision angered the United States and Europe, he began to gain favor in the eyes of the Eastern Block. The Soviet Union approved of many of Nasser's actions and even engaged in an arms trade with Czechoslovakia.

Because of this action, the United States and the United Kingdom withdrew crucial funding to the Aswan Dam. In retaliation and after much deliberation, Nasser decided to nationalize the Suez Canal. This came as a shock to both Britain and France, whose stockholders held ownership over the Suez Canal. Within three months, Israel invaded the Sinai Peninsula on suspicion of an impending Egyptian assault.

Desperate times may call for desperate measures. In the incoming days, the decision to protect European economic investments versus Egyptian national sovereignty will come into question. All the while a very strategic opportunity lies within the hands of the Eastern bloc. This body will have the chance to alter the very course of history and even go so far as to affect the end results of the Cold War. Be strategic, manipulative, and intelligent with your choices but remember to maintain your country's ideologies and overall diplomatic courtesy.

Committee Staff

Head Chair

My name is Muhammad and I am excited to be chairing the Historic Security Council for MUNI 2014. I've been in Model UN for five years and I am a Philosophy major with a Political Science minor. Our topic area for this year is sure to foster some intense debate. Make sure to do your research (this means reading the background guide and finding your own information) and bring your all to each committee session. This includes being a good diplomat, delegate, and representative. As always these simulations can be unpredictable and your actions in this committee will affect the world we know today—don't be afraid to change history! Work hard, but do not forget to have some fun too; this year's conference is going to be great.

Syed Muhammad Yousuf, Head Chair

Vice Chairs

Neil Bhide

Ashwin Kumar Vijay