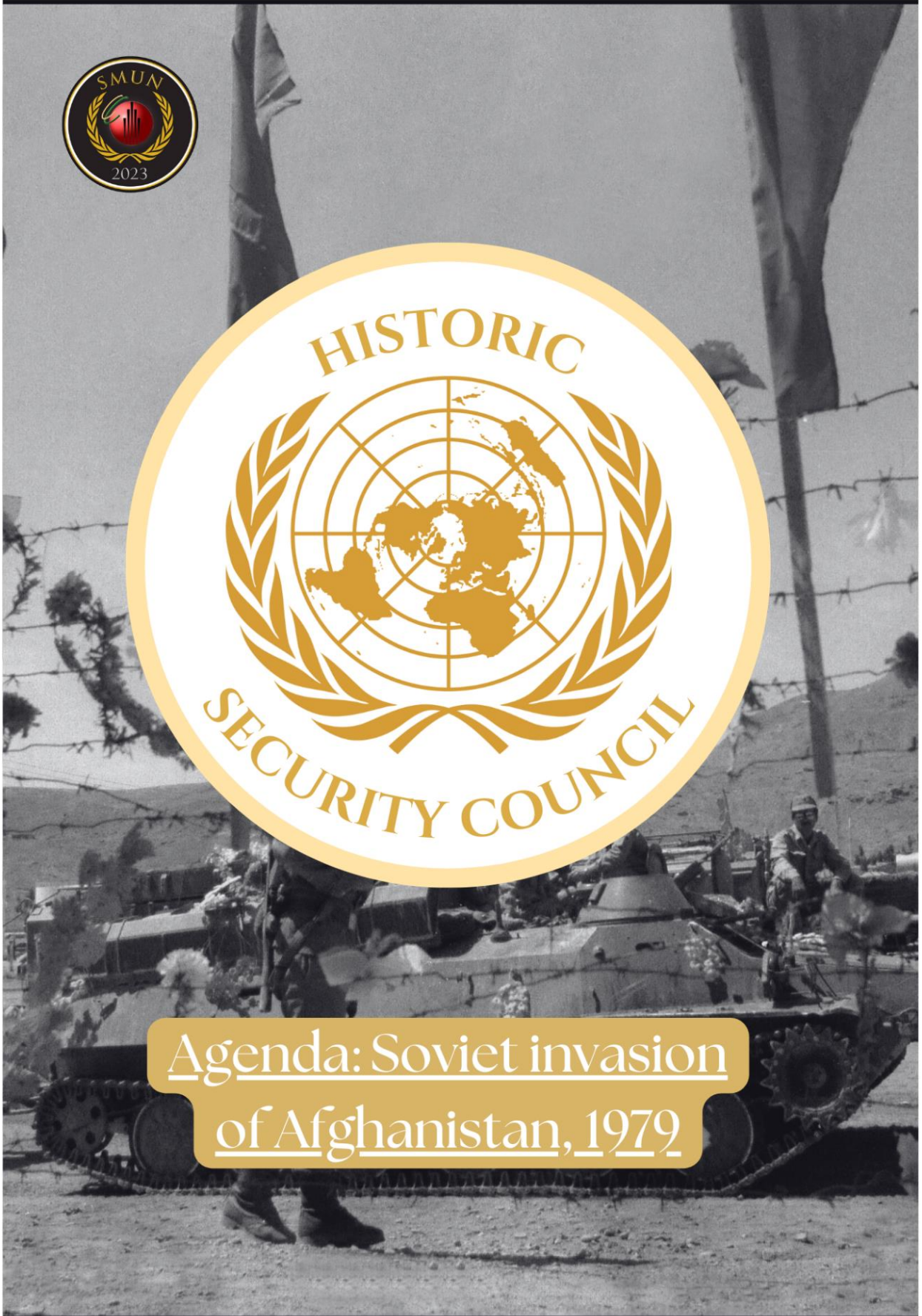




Agenda: Soviet invasion
of Afghanistan, 1979



Letter from the Chairpersons

Greetings delegates, it is our honor and privilege to welcome you to the Historic Security Council at SMUN 2023. HSC – the committee where diplomacy, deliberation, dialogue is omnipresent and seasoned with the dramatic salt of secrecy, slyness, and mistrust; the same one where one of us fought an almost-personal war against the ‘Delegate of Ronniet’ which now becomes the same committee we co-chair.

Life truly comes full circle, and that’s exactly how this committee ought to be – conflicts, their causes, and their consequences are meant to come around in this ‘Great Game’, or ‘Cold War’, however you’d like to phrase this race to hegemony.

This committee will be extremely fast-paced, with a barrage of updates and crises that will demand dynamic and quick thinking from each of you. It will force you to think creatively and work collaboratively, through the course of the committee.

In this committee, tensions remain high as the Soviets are on the edge of making an aggressive move, power dynamics remain but a necessity, while friendliness and lobbying will be a key factor that will lead to victory, not just in committee, but in the larger ‘Soviet-Afghan War’, as the people have recently been calling it. Will conflicting ideas of capitalism and communism take precedence in delegates’ decisions, or will the council stick to its mandate and work for peace and security of member nations? This is the key question for our committee. It is said that history is written by the Victors. This time around, who will write history?

We would implore delegates to conform diligently to their national policies, and ally strategically in line with the deluge of crises we will have to strike a balance of power in committee.

This committee must answer a vital question – Will people’s represented governments, in whatever shape or form prevail, or will it be those installed as puppet regimes by more powerful nations who reside West? To what extent can those willing to form this government go in order to seize power, and to what extent can those against this go to repress them?

To quote the lyrics of Burning Heart by Survivor, *‘Is it East vs West, or Man against Man? Can any nation truly stand alone?’*

Until October,

Aarya Saraf and Ronniet Biala,

Co-Chairpersons,

Historic Security Council

Introduction to Topic Area

The Soviet-Afghan War of 1979 was an event that not only defined the geo-political situation in the late Cold War era, but was also a key event in shaping the world, as we know it today. It had vast fallouts from indirectly causing the fall of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) to its inadvertent implications on the war in Afghanistan led by the United States that started in 2001 and ended in 2021.

To have a better overview, we must take a close look at Afghanistan's geographical location. Afghanistan is a landlocked nation which sits in a strategic location in Central Asia, a region important for strategic and trade related activities. Historically it had shared borders with British India (Modern day Pakistan) and the Russian Empire. Also of importance is the ethnic composition of the people inhabiting the country/region, it was inhabited by a mix of various tribal groups like the Pashtuns, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kurds and many others.



The roots of the issue can be traced back to the 19th century, when the former Russian and the British Empires had a rivalry to gain greater influence in Central Asia, more specifically Afghanistan, Persia (Iran) and Tibet. During this time period, Russia rapidly expanded into Central Asia through various successful military campaigns, challenging British superiority in the region. Britain, on the other hand had control over Afghan foreign policy following the Second Anglo Afghan War in 1878, using it as a buffer against Russian expansion in the region. In the context of Afghanistan, the rivalry ended with the Russians and British coming together to set up the Anglo-Russian Joint Boundary Commission to decide upon the northern boundaries of the country from 1885-86. However, both sides, despite this, continued to try to exert influence over the region.

By 1917, the Russian Empire had transitioned into the USSR.

In 1919, Britain granted Afghanistan independence by setting up the Afghan Monarchy with Amanullah Khan as the first monarch, Amanullah Khan is known to have sent Vladimir Lenin a letter vying for permanent friendly relations with a treaty among the two countries (Afghanistan and USSR) being signed in 1921. In the 1960s under the rule of Muhammed Zahir Shah, Afghanistan saw rapid modernization with establishment of progressive and democratic practices such as fair elections, women's education, political rights etc. However, in 1973, Mohammed Daoud Khan, the cousin of the Zahir Shah, staged a bloodless coup. under the pretext of listening to the pleas of the Pashtuns who he felt were neglected.

As the cold war is in full swing, Afghanistan is once again faced with a decision to choose between the USSR or the United States, with both nations aiming to get Afghanistan under their spheres of influence to get the upper hand over one another. In 1978, Mohammed Daoud

Khan was ousted in the **Saur Revolution** which transferred power to Hafizullah Amin, who despite initially being supported by the Soviets is now gradually taking a stance that undermines Soviet importance in the region.

The war is considered to be a proxy war by many as it majorly involved foreign powers. The belligerents understood the seriousness of the conflict and the adversities it could bring upon them. The war began on 25th December when the Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov issued an official order, stating that “the state frontier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is to be crossed on the ground and in the air by forces of the 40th Army and the Air Force at 1500 hrs on 25 December”. This was the formal beginning of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. What followed was an armed protracted conflict that lasted for way longer than it should have – *9 years, 1 month, 3 weeks and a day*.

The Soviet government had initially planned to swiftly secure Afghanistan's towns and road networks, stabilize the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) government, and withdraw all of their military forces in a span of six months to one year. However, they were met with fierce resistance from Afghan guerrillas and experienced great operational difficulties on the rugged mountainous terrain. The eventual complication of the conflict led to a *stalemate* situation and large economic and other losses for the ever-increasing forces of the Soviet Union. This eventually led to the Afghan Civil War. Many believe that this war was a major cause for the fall of the Soviet Union too.



Status Quo

Just a few hours ago, we have received reports that claim Hafizullah Amin, the current ruler of Afghanistan, has requested the Soviets for military assistance against the mujahideen. It has been 5 days since the NATO Double-Track Decision was taken, which has been met with widespread opposition and criticism, however there has been no Soviet response to the same. As we all know, this decision is a response to the move by the Soviets in 1977 wherein they stationed SS-20 Saber missiles in the Eastern Bloc. It will be worth noting how the Middle Eastern and South-Eastern spheres of the world perceive this information considering that an all-out war may be waged in their own backyard if effective action is not taken and even if the war is waged - which side will they be on as both the Western and Eastern sides are currently in need of support, irrespective of the country, because the war which was once brewing in the cold white mountains of Eastern Europe has now made its way to the hot barren plateaus and deserts of Afghanistan.

After repeated requests from the Afghan side to the Soviets for military support, various operations and mobilizations have been conducted in the volatile region in the past few months. Be it sending weapons, or full-scale covert operations - the unstable regions of Afghanistan have seen it all. Reports claim that the KGB have even deployed spetsnaz forces in recent times. Amidst the Soviet uncertainty after Taraki's death, rumors afloat regarding Hafizullah Amin's loyalties towards the West. On 2 sides are the two superpowers, while Afghanistan lies getting choked in the middle by both of them. The nation must decide its own fate, by making a choice, or maybe even, staying non-aligned. However, if it does decide to stay 'neutral' amidst this steaming atmosphere, who knows whether it might just get burnt along the way? Tensions brew and the chances of conflict seem ever more imminent as the worth of the Afghan people is undermined to a proxy power struggle. Will the world see a recap of the atrocities of Vietnam? Or will we see yet another 'puppet rule' as we have in Eastern Europe?



This conflict of 20 is often misunderstood to be a conflict of 2. Delegates must carefully analyse and understand the risks, repercussions, and even rewards that this 'war' can bring them. A major impact will be caused, not only to the adjoining territories, but to the globe as a whole. The lasting impressions can be unpredictable, trust us. It is now up to the Security Council to shape the future of this fragile world carefully by discussing and debating upon the recent events that have transpired. A new chapter in the history books awaits the Council starting from the 17th of December 1979 – the freeze date for this committee.

Timeline of Events

21 Feb, 1828	Treaty of Turkmanchai Under this treaty, Russia limited Persian borders and many Persian territories were ceded to the Russian empire. This sparked British fear about rising Russian influence in Central Asia.
24 March, 1838	First Anglo-Afghan War commences
30 Nov, 1839	Kabul seized by British East India Company While Kabul is taken, the East India Company is unable to capture neighboring countryside.
Oct, 1842	The First Anglo-Afghan War comes to an end. Results in British withdrawal, reinstallation of Dost Mohammad Khan to the throne of Kabul.
1 Sep, 1878	The Second Anglo-Afghan war commences
1 Dec, 1885	Border skirmish between Russian and Afghan troops near Panjdeh In light of this Britain contemplates mobilizing troops in aid of Afghanistan against Russia in order to honor the Treaty of Gandamak signed in 1879. The Emir convinces the Viceroy that it was a mere skirmish and full-scale conflict is avoided. In the aftermath Russia gained the oasis city of Merv.
August 19, 1919	Afghanistan granted independence from British control Under the Treaty of Versailles, Afghanistan is granted freedom from British control.
8 November, 1933	Mohammad Zahir Shah becomes King . His rule brought modernization, progress in Afghanistan. Newfound freedom given to Afghan people. When the cold war broke out between the USSR and the US Zahir Shah opted for Afghanistan to maintain a neutral stand for the benefit of its own people.
17 July, 1973	Zahir Shah deposed by cousin Mohammad Daoud Khan While the King was away to Europe for a medical treatment, he was deposed by cousin Mohammad Daoud Khan in a virtually bloodless coup . Progress in Afghanistan continued however at a much slower pace, and there were brewing tensions amongst various ethnicities given Daoud Khan's excessive incline towards the welfare of Pashtuns
21 July, 1975	Helsinki Accords signed
27 April, 1978	Saur Revolution Tensions reach breaking point, and in 1978, a violent coup is underway to depose Mohammad Daoud Khan. In his stead, Hafizullah Amin and Nur Mohammad Taraki take control. In the revolution, Mohammad Daoud Khan and his family are killed.
18 June, 1979	An agreement was reached and the SALT II Treaty was signed by the US and the USSR.
9 Oct, 1979	Nur Mohammad Taraki assassinated After rising tensions between Amin and Taraki post the Saur revolution, Nur Mohammad Taraki was assassinated on alleged orders of Hafizullah Amin. This has led to rise in tensions between the USSR and Afghanistan, especially as Leonid Brezhnev had pledged to protect Taraki.

Bloc Dynamics

- 1. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:** Its interests in Afghanistan are coming at the cost of a war that it may be forced to fight. With Leonid Brezhnev at the helm, the nation is trapped by the promise made to the Afghans through the treaty of friendship between the nations as it reportedly receives daily pleas for military aid against the Islamic resurgence a plea which is to be responded as per the treaty. When the USSR answers these pleas is a question that may be answered soon but for the time being USSR's actions in the future seem to be governed by its interest-global domination starting from Afghanistan.
- 2. Afghan Mujahideen-**The rebels of Afghanistan, the mujahideen are the orchestrators of the growing movement against the government of Afghanistan. An organization that fights for the cause of Islam in Afghanistan today stands disunited to fight an enemy greater than itself with limited means. It is set to jump in on any opportunity of allying to help it receive aid to fight for its rights and achieve its objective. However, what remains to be seen by the Security Council is how it aims to increase its international reputation and unite the rebel Islamic groups for one common purpose by solving its internal conflicts.
- 3. United States of America-** The other leader of the Cold War era, stands by its Western allies for the united purpose of defeating "communism". The uprisings led by the Mujahideen in Afghanistan to fight the Afghan communist government allowed the United States of America to shine on the world stage and at the same time accomplish its real motive of bringing down the USSR's influence and breaking a communist regime. Jimmy Carter's presidency has seen the recent signing of the SALT II Treaty with the USSR to reduce the manufacture of strategic nuclear weapons has done very little to improve the USA's relation with the USSR but its contribution has been immense to add to its Camp David Accords achievement in Israel to improve America's image at the world stage and allow it to rally a massive coalition if required.
- 4. Pakistan-** A nation currently at loggerheads with the Afghan government because of the hosting of Pashtun-Baluch militants operating against Pakistan in Afghanistan, the nation holds a strategic location in the event of a conflict. The nation is undergoing a period of instability because of the recent coup and the execution of the deposed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as it faces extreme leftist movements. The nation's actions will play a crucial role in governing the immediate future of Pakistan as it attempts to solve each internal crisis one by one by finding new allies, strengthening its relations with the old ones and reaffirming the faith that its citizens once had in the nation's administration. Afghanistan may prove to be that source of faith.
- 5. China:** The People's Republic of China and the USSR are undergoing a tough time in foreign relations as they interpret the very idea of a communist ideology in their different ways. Apart from this, they differ on their opinions about peaceful coexistence between the East and the West and the USSR's relation with India which adds another dimension to a supposed Sino-Soviet split making these 2 countries fight it out for eastern allies in this cold war and a slight shift for China towards the west as it mourns the loss of its most influential leader, Mao Zedong.

- 6. India-** One of the key soviet allies present in the region, India's dependence on the USSR in past conflicts in terms of military and financial aid makes it a strong soviet supporter willing to back its ally which has been strengthened by the 1971 Treaty of Friendship between them. However, at the same time, India's role in the Non-Aligned movement may coerce the nation to not take a very aggressive approach unless circumstances determine otherwise as despite being a soviet supporter it doesn't want to jeopardise relations with any prospective Western allies, and be caught in the middle of the cold war.
- 7. UK and France-** Scarred by their failure in the Suez Canal crisis, the nations have had to tread very carefully in these past years. For the United Kingdom, this is the second great game against the USSR as it once again aims to strengthen its foothold in Afghanistan along with its allies. France so far has not shown any major signs of involvement in the tensions as it aims to strengthen itself under de Gaulle's leadership by withdrawing from the NATO Military Command Structure and taking an independent stance in the Cold War for now and walking out of the Washington shadow.
- 8. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany-** Their Warsaw Pact and COMECON membership make them the USSR's most loyal allies to the extent that they are classified as its satellite states. These nations relied immensely on the USSR for aid and served as the gateway for the USSR to establish the Brezhnev Doctrine. The nations play a crucial role in establishing the USSR's influence worldwide through their support in the Cold War and may also come in handy in case the Soviet Union faces a war that it cannot fight alone.
- 9. Saudi Arabia-** A major American ally in the Cold War that has benefitted from America's twin pillar policy and the Nixon doctrine, Saudi Arabia has a lot to offer when it comes to America being involved as it is a vital economic and military partner to the nation and is a strong advocate for America in the Persian Gulf that can play a vital role to bring America the support that it may need in the future.
- 10. Iran-**Following the Islamic Revolution, America lost its Iranian support and further strained relations with the nations as a result of the ongoing hostage crisis in Iran. Under Khomeini as the leader, Iran's Islamic sentiments drove forward in the world as it sees the mujahideen as a voice of the Islamic community, the only problem is that it finds only a certain section of the mujahideen as the voice. Iran's location and beliefs will be crucial to determine the outcome of what is to come next but only time will tell if it achieves a common objective to find an ally.
- 11. Turkey, Canada, and Japan-** The nations are separated by continents but united with purpose. The nations are strong American allies but have not displayed an aggressive approach so far throughout the course of the events that have taken place in the region. Their approach so far has been diplomatic and humanitarian in nature, an approach that has provided a calm influence on the otherwise heated situation.
- 12. Israel and Egypt-** Nations that once didn't recognize each other signed a peace treaty namely the Camp David Accords thanks to Jimmy Carter. The new relationship

between the nations thanks to America brings into perspective their importance for America. Their support towards America will only go up if America plays its cards right and these nations play for the collective good in Afghanistan.

- 13. West Germany-** On the other side of the Berlin Wall, West Germany as a nation has proven to be a significant ally of the United States. It has been a subject of great economic cooperation with the United States and as a NATO member bolsters great military might that can create a huge difference when the chips are down. What must also be noted is that the nation's insecurities peak as it borders a rather hostile counterpart – East Germany. After the US debates its own nuclear policies, a large number of West German protesters are on the rise, concerned about their own safety. The nation must carefully decide whether to prioritise its safety and security through a firm stance, or a cooperative and cautious stance to prevent a state of global isolation.
- 14. Vietnam-** Having been at the receiving end of American hostility during the Vietnam War, the nation finds an ally in the Soviet Union. Cooperation between the two nations proves to be key for shaping the Cold War and the situation in Afghanistan as the USSR may find a reliable ally in the conflict that is to come.



Paperwork

Communiqués

In crisis committees like the Historic Security Council, a communiqué is by far one of the most powerful weapons in a delegate's arsenal. It is an executive order issued by the delegate to an organisation, a government official, or even an individual who is not in a post of authority. It is simply a message from the government or portfolio you represent to another organisation or individual whom you wish to carry out an action, or make use of the information that you provide to them through this communiqué.

Want to move your troops? Want to send spies to steal information? Want to ask your home government for more supplies? Want to establish an alliance with a country or organisation not represented in committee? Use a communiqué. Ensure your communiqués are detailed and realistic, and chances are that we will pass the communiqué.

For some actions, delegates might need to carry out a sequence of events that follow each other. In that case, they may utilise multiple communiqués that build upon one another to form what is called a crisis arc. Note that these will only be valid once the first communiqué of this arc has been ratified by the Executive Board.

Also, the timing of the communiqué and its relevance to committee flow is of key importance. A decently written communiqué perfectly timed will be marked much higher as compared to a very well written communiqué which is irrelevant in the current committee situation.

There are 3 types of communiqués – open communiqués, closed communiqués, and joint communiqués.

1. Open Communiqués – In the implementation of actions caused by open communiqués, the one causing this action will be revealed to committee. These are often used when the information/action is not sensitive in nature and revealing this to the committee will not harm the global image of the country in question, rather it might favour them.
2. Closed Communiqués – These communiqués remain classified between the sender and the recipient themselves. Any action taken through these remain covert and are not immediately revealed to the committee. It is a perfect opportunity for delegates to take any controversial actions or ones that they are better off keeping in the dark. Actions so implemented may also be issued as a crisis update as per the Executive Board's discretion, including revealing the author, so be cautious in using these.
3. Joint Communiqués – These are the communiqués written by two or more countries together, to further a similar objective. The resources and strength of multiple nations can be pooled in here, along with tactical advantages offered by some, military advantages offered by others and mutual benefits enjoyed by both countries.

NOTE: Pls include the name of the sender, recipient and a brief aim of the communiqué in 2-3 lines at the top of your communiqué. Pre written communiqués are highly

discouraged and will be down marked.

Pls find below a sample communique.

Covert Communique – Operation Congratulations

To: Xanana Gusmao, Leader of the FALINTIL
From: the Delegates of Portugal
Subject: Appreciation for the mission and future plan of action

Well done, your acts of bravery amount to be greater than the power of all these nations that sit in the council combined. Your men have done us proud by creating the instability at Mount Ameloh and their sacrifices will not go to ruins.

However the mission is yet to be completed, which is why we must continue to fight for our rights and carry out the following actions-

1) Spreading East Timorese Propaganda

It is essential for us to spread support and establish a mindset within the population of east timor to the extent that an entire rebellion is caused in not just east timor but also in Indonesia which will be carried out in the following manner-

i) Carry out armed processions with the slogans “Hidup Timur Timor” and “Bersamamu Timur Timor”. The armed processions should have 15 members each and they should hold these rallies in the states of Manufahi and Ainaro.

ii) Utilise youngsters and children aged 14 and above by enlisting themselves with the FALINTIL and spread the message in their families and their neighbourhoods. The



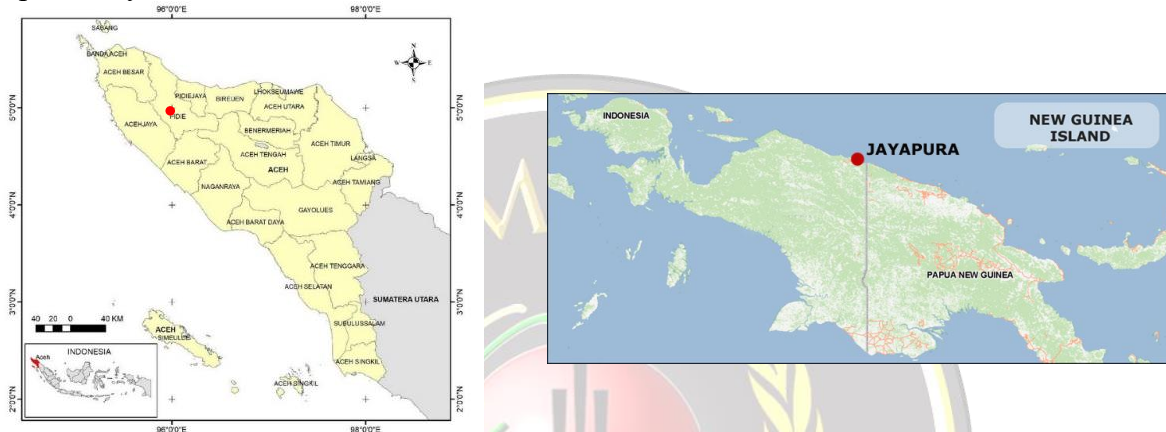
youngsters will be the roots to the tree of East Timorese independence so utilise them to the fullest.

iii) Make sure this is portrayed as a Timorese rebellion and no form of Portuguese involvement is exposed. It is time that the rebellion spreads to the Indonesian forces, and not our own people. We want your Falintil soldiers to resist Indonesian forces, and attack all inactive Indonesian camps, as well as destroy their supply chains to the largest possible extent.

2) The numbers represent the increasing rebels in the region; thus, our first target must be 30,000 total rebels followed by 45,000 and finally our supreme goal, 50,000.

3) And now, for the major step – this rebellion must not remain localised. Conspire with **Jacob Hendrik Prai**, Leader of the Free Papua Movement as well as **Hasan Tiro**, leader of the Free Aceh movement recognising their struggles for independence against the Indonesians. Remind them that we have fought this struggle for long years, and ask for their support now.

i) These rebels must raise rebellion in the **Pidie** district (4.66667°N 96°E) in Aceh and **Jayapura** ((2°31'58.8"S 140°43'1.2"E) in West Papua, dressed in black and using whichever weapons they have access to at the moment.



ii) They must raise the slogan '**Kami bersamamu timor timur**', for their own independence but also advocate public support for the East Timorese struggle in these uprisings. Indonesian forces will be resisted, armed processions will be launched and Indonesia must get a taste of internal conflict in their actual 'own house' which will soon disintegrate. **The Scorched Earth policy** must be followed in these operations.

iii) Further information, support and resources will be provided soon to you to further this struggle against the oppressors.

**They may have burned our homes, but they haven't extinguished our spirits.
They may have captured our land, but they will never truly own it.**

Our brothers, the rest of the mission lies in your hands. We have trusted you, because of our devotion to both our causes, and look forward to more cooperation in the future. But until then, free your land from Suharto's shackles, and make us proud. Make the people of not just Timor, but also Aceh and West Papua proud. As easily as we have helped you, it is also easy to fight you in case contents of this letter are leaked, do keep this in mind before you take any decisions. We look forward to working with you in the future. Incinerate this document upon reading it, and carry out the action as desired – to make this **a small spark to the fire of our revolutions.**

- seus fiéis amigos portugueses

Directives

Directives are a form of paperwork essential for taking public action in crisis committees. Immediate action is taken by the committee, usually including a number of countries in an alliance. Directives have simpler formatting, as compared to formal resolutions but serve essentially the same purpose – give a set of public instructions, or in certain cases, war plans.

Directives are usually utilised after a series of crises have been introduced in committee, providing solutions to all of them, or taking joint action to address the crises so far. Ensure your directive has an appropriate title, signatures with portfolios of all signatories, clear orders of action that will be undertaken and the expected result.

Please find below a sample for the same.

Joint Directive

Signed- Islamic republic of Pakistan, China, Poland, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Jordan, Ceylon, Syria, France, United Kingdom, Iran, United States of America

In light of the recent crisis update, the signatory countries will in collaboration launch a joint investigation to:

1. Find the validity of the recording and images shown to us and look into it, possibly prove its link to India or Panama.
 - a) Direct the resources of the Inter-Services Intelligence Agency for this operation.
 - b) Any assistance required by the ISI throughout this operation will be provided by the United States Intelligence Community (IC).
2. Find the diplomatic enclave and find which country's embassy it is, then ordering a full search in the embassy in search of the plans that were "thrown...in a big mansion in Islamabad's diplomatic enclave"
 - a) Thoroughly search the mansion in the diplomatic enclave for harboured separatists and guerrilla fighters, or any records or evidences of their presence.
3. Trace all records of a navy cadet by the name of Asif Risvi and verify the validity of the medals.

If any important information regarding these crises comes to light after the investigations, it will be brought to the notice of the security council.

Also note, veto power will not be entertained for the purpose of this committee, in case the committee ends up voting on any formal paperwork.

Conclusion

This study guide is by no means the end of research, we would very much appreciate if the leaders are able to find new realms in the agenda and bring it forth in the committee. Such research combined with good argumentation and a solid representation of facts is what makes an excellent performance. In the session, the executive board will encourage you to speak as much as possible, as fluency, diction or oratory skills have very little importance as opposed to the content you deliver. So just research and speak and you are bound to make a lot of sense. We are certain that we will be learning from you immensely and we also hope that you all will have an equally enriching experience.

Since this is an intra-MUN, we encourage you to speak as much as you can, without hesitating, as we are here to guide you at every step of the way. Having evolved from raw delegates to furnished orators, we promise you that each speech gets easier to deliver as you move on to the next.

In case of any queries, feel free to contact us on hsc.smun2023@gmail.com. We will try our best to answer the questions to the best of our abilities.

PLEASE NOTE: The Background Guide contains multiple points and references to information that is from a time frame post the freeze date. They are simply to aid your understanding of the agenda and not for usage in committee. Please remember that the committee is operating on a freeze date in 1979. You can only use information from before the freeze date in your speeches and paperwork.

References for Further Research

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