

CHAPTER II.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

STATE MEMBERS

Algeria	Denmark	Romania
Argentina	France	Russian Federation
Benin	Greece	United Kingdom
Brazil	Japan	United Republic of Tanzania
China	Philippines	United States of America

Representatives to the Security Council should note that the agenda provided is only provisional. The Security Council may discuss any international peace and security issue brought before it. For this reason, Representatives must have a broad base of knowledge on current events in the international community. Also, the overviews provided below are only current through the publication of this handbook. **Many of the topics listed below will change significantly before the Conference, and Representatives should be familiar with the up-to-date situations.** Periodicals are one of the best recommended sources available for day-to-day updates. These include among others: *New York Times*, *UN Chronicle*, *London Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Economist* and *Keesing's Record of World Events*. Also, the UN Foundation's on-line daily newsletter, the *UN Wire*, is an excellent resource for timely information. Whenever possible, AMUN recommends that Representatives familiarize themselves with the most recent report(s) published by the Secretary-General on each situation, along with other UN documents. These can be found on the UN homepage under the Security Council documents section (www.un.org/Docs/sc/). Please note that the bibliographies for these topics focus primarily on UN sources, with some news sources provided for background on important aspects of the various situations.

Initial background research is provided below for each region, with one or two topics receiving a brief analysis. Security Council representatives are neither limited to the main topics discussed nor to any of the topics listed. Should world events move in a different direction from the topics provided in this handbook, the Security Council is welcome to discuss any peace and security matter which it desires.

Please note that draft resolutions should be written on the sub-topics of each regional area: i.e., resolutions would not be written about "Issues in Africa," but rather about "The Situation in Sierra Leone" or similar sub-topics within the region.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

ISSUES IN AFRICA

The Situation in Sudan

Despite increasing pressure from the international community, the Darfur region of Sudan remains in the grip of a violent insurgency which is now more than two years old. The conflict started as rebel groups attacked government posts throughout the Darfur region, alleging that the government was favoring Arabs over black Africans in the region. The Sudanese government and allied Arab militia groups, such as the Janjaweed, retaliated against the rebels, causing widespread instability. Estimates vary on the number of dead since the beginning of the rebellion, but at least 180,000 people are believed to have died and millions more have been displaced from their homes.

On 31 March, the Security Council referred allegations of war crimes in the region to the International Criminal Court. The Court is now reviewing a list of 51 suspects who are alleged to have committed war crimes. Additionally, the African Union has decided to expand the African Union Mission in Darfur (AMIS), an observer mission deployed to the region. The observer force will be expanded from its current authorized strength of 3,320 to 7,731 personnel. However, the expansion will be contingent on aid from Western countries to pay for the deployment, as well as significant logistical support from NATO member states. The southern region of Sudan is calm for the first time in years, following the signing of a peace accord on 9 January. The United Nations has authorized 10,000 peacekeepers to oversee the implementation of the accord; however, they only have authorization to operate in southern Sudan.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- Why has the crisis in Sudan continued to escalate? What factors have limited the ability of the Council to take action?
- How does the Council's decision to refer Sudanese war criminals to the ICC affect the development of the ICC?
- What effect does the peace agreement in Southern Sudan have on the conflict in Darfur? What effect does it have on the rest of the region?

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- "U.S. Presses Sudan for Action on Darfur Crisis," *The Washington Post*, 15 April 2005.
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UN Documents:

- S/Res/1593 (2005)
S/Res/1591 (2005)
S/Res/1590 (2005)
S/2005/305 – Monthly report of the Secretary-General on Darfur



S/2005/285 -- Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations assistance to the African Union Mission in the Sudan
S/2005/240 -- Monthly report of the Secretary-General on Darfur
S/2005/140 -- Report of the Secretary-General on the Sudan pursuant to paragraphs 6, 13 and 16 of Security Council resolution 1556 (2004), paragraph 15 of resolution 1564 (2004) and paragraph 17 of resolution 1574 (2004)

The Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The peacekeepers of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) have stepped up efforts to enforce a disarmament agreement between the various armed forces in the region. MONUC has launched several raids against militiamen near the town of Ituri, following the expiration of an ultimatum for the militias to voluntarily disarm. UN forces claim to have killed dozens of militia, but the raids have come under fire from some human rights groups. According to CNN, the NGO Justice Plus has alleged that the raids killed several civilians in addition to the militia, and that the planning of the raids did not sufficiently protect civilians in the area. MONUC has also come under fire after a report from the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight which found that peacekeepers had sexually abused many local girls. The report found that peacekeepers would often engage in sex-for-food deals with girls as young as thirteen. The New York Times believes that the United Nations figure of 150 incidents most likely understates the problem, as many rape victims have been reluctant to talk with investigators. The scandal has damaged relations with locals and raised troubling questions about the effectiveness and impact of MONUC on the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What role should MONUC take in the ongoing conflict between militias in the Eastern Congo and the government?
- How does the reliance on peacekeepers from nations without a strong tradition of respecting human rights and with limited resources to pay and equip their troops impact the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions?
- What impact does the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have on the surrounding region?

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"U.N. battles sex scandal in Congo; Allegations undermine mission," *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 3 April 2005.
"UN may act against Rwandan rebels," *The Financial Times*, 30 March 2005.

UN Documents:

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S/Res/1592 (2005)

S/2005/167 -- Seventeenth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Situation in Cote d'Ivoire

The situation in Cote d'Ivoire remains tense more than two years after the country erupted into civil war. On 4 May, the Security Council again extended the mandate of the existing peacekeeping force (UNOCI) for a month while the member nations debated expanding the peacekeeping force by 1,200 and extending its mandate to include stabilizing the country in preparation for elections, scheduled for October. Currently, 10,000 UN and French peacekeepers are charged with patrolling a buffer zone between the rebel-held northern and government-held southern regions of the country. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has pushed for the expansion of the force; however, the move comes as UN peacekeepers are increasingly overstretched. The 2005/6 budget for peacekeeping anticipates a five billion dollar budget to keep almost 69,000 peacekeepers in the field, both unprecedented figures.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- In light of other peacekeeping commitments around the world, can the UN sustain this peacekeeping force, and can the currently deployed force achieve its mandate?
- What does the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire mean for the surrounding region?
- What are the motivating factors behind the conflict? How can the peacekeeping force address these factors most effectively?

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S/Res/1594 (2005)
S/2005/186 -- Fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.
S/2005/135 -- Report of the Secretary-General on inter-mission cooperation and possible cross-border operations between the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone, the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

ISSUES IN ASIA

The Situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Six party talks aimed at resolving a crisis over the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear program remained stalled even as the United States warned that the DPRK may be preparing for a nuclear test. The parties have not met since June of 2004, when the DPRK withdrew from the talks, citing a "hostile attitude" from the United States. Japan has recently taken a stronger stance on the issue, urging that the situation be referred to the Security Council if the DPRK does not return to negotia-

tions. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Mohamed ElBaradei has warned of "disastrous consequences" if the DPRK conducts a nuclear test, and he called the DPRK's demands for concessions from other countries "nuclear blackmail." However, the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China have opposed calls to refer the situation to the Security Council. The ROK has stated that it does not believe the DPRK is preparing for a nuclear test, while the Chinese have resisted American pressure to reduce their energy and food aid to the DPRK. Although Chinese officials have privately complained about the DPRK's actions, they have so far been reluctant to pressure their neighbor and ally.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- Should the international community give economic, development, or humanitarian aid to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to encourage it to give up its nuclear ambitions?
- How does the history of the DPRK's nuclear program affect the compromises made in the Non-Proliferation Treaty?
- How does the progression of the DPRK's nuclear program affect the negotiations over the Iranian nuclear program?

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"Pyongyang keeps world guessing on arms: Fears are rising over N Korea's nuclear intentions, but governments are reluctant to call its bluff," *Financial Times* (London), 10 May 2005.

"Shock at N Korea claim on fuel rods," *The Australian*, 12 May 2005.

"U.S. in warning to North Korea on nuclear test," *New York Times*, 16 May 2005.

"White House Warns North Korea Against Nuclear Testing," *The Washington Post*, 16 May 2005

The Situation in Nepal

In February of 2005, King Gyanendra took power from the Prime Minister of the country and declared a state of emergency in the country. The King justified his move by blaming the elected government for the lack of success against a Maoist insurgency which has killed 12,000 people over the last 10 years. However, outside observers have not noted any improvement in the government's fortunes since the act, and both the government and the rebels have been accused of serious human rights violations as the fighting continues. Nepal's allies initially reacted strongly against the coup, with India, the United States and the United Kingdom suspending military aid to the government. However, Nepal's most important ally, India, has since resumed military aid to Nepal after the King lifted the state of emergency in May. India has been alarmed at the possibility that China might use the weakening of ties to gain influence in the region, especially after the rumored delivery of Chinese made Armored Personnel Carriers to the Nepalese military. Others have expressed concerns that a Maoist victory in the civil war could lead to instability in the region. While the Security Council has not taken up this issue to date, it is of interest to many Council members.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How much pressure should be applied to the government of Nepal to restore democracy while they fight off an insurgency?
- What interests do regional and international powers have in Nepal?
- Should the Security Council take an interest in this situation?

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ISSUES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Situation in Iraq

More than two years after the United States led invasion of Iraq, the country remains plagued by a tenacious insurgency. The United States is proceeding with its plan of training Iraqi security forces to assume security duties from coalition forces while the newly elected government of Iraq creates a constitution for the country. General George Casey has predicted that the United States will be able to significantly reduce troop levels once the constitution has been finished and a government is elected under that constitution in December. However, there have been serious concerns about the ability of Iraqi forces to fight the insurgency. Although there are now 107 battalions of Iraqi security forces, only 3 are capable of independent operations, and only about one-third are fully capable of operations even with support from coalition forces. Additionally, insurgent attacks have stabilized at approximately 65 attacks per day, but field commanders report the attacks are increasing in their sophistication.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How can the Security Council assist in the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty?
- When should UN personnel be committed to dangerous and unstable environments?

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The Situation in Iran

Iranian leaders have expressed frustration with ongoing talks about the future of their nuclear weapons program. Iran has agreed to suspend the enrichment of uranium pending the outcome of the talks with the European Union; however, they have indicated that they expect to resume enriching uranium as part of any final deal. The United States has expressed alarm at such an outcome, alleging that Iran's program is aimed at producing a nuclear weapon. Iranian officials insist that the program is intended for civilian uses only, and that their country has fulfilled its obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Europeans and the United States have differed over their policies towards Iran; the EU has favored incentives and negotiations while the Americans have urged that Iran be referred to the Security Council for possible sanctions. Russia has also played a role in the situation. President Putin stated in April that he was convinced that the

Iranian program was peaceful, and that his country would continue cooperating with the Iranians to construct civilian reactors for electric power.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How does the Iranian nuclear program relate to the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?
- What are the Iranian's intentions for their nuclear program?
- What assurances should the international community expect from the Iranians about their program?

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