

Obra D. Tompkins Model United Nations

2020 Conference Background Guide



Crisis: The Great Purge

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Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the Great Purge Committee! I can't wait to see you all in session, I'm sure the day will be interesting and full of political tension. My name is Tori Morales and I am your Crisis Director for this committee. I am currently a junior at OTHS, and I've been doing Model United Nations since freshman year, though this is my first time directing a crisis committee. My staff and I hope to make this an exciting and educational conference for new and experienced delegates alike. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

All the best,
Tori Morales
Director of the Great Purge Committee
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Contextual Overview

The 1905 Revolution

In 1905, in an event Lenin would later call “the Great Dress Rehearsal”, a crowd of striking workers outside the palace of the Tsar were fired upon, resulting in the massacre of anywhere between 200 and 1000 individuals. This event, which eventually came to be known as “Bloody Sunday”, marked the beginning of the 1905 Russian Revolution, which would set the stage for the more successful 1917 Revolution. Widespread workers’ strikes followed, with over 2 million workers in active demonstration by October of 1905, shutting down most national railways in the process. Most of the blame was laid upon Tsar Alexei II’s policies of Russification

Concessions were made, including the formation of the State Duma, more religious tolerance, and loosening of speech laws. Despite this, protests continued and were increasingly fueled by socialists. In October of 1905, the October Manifesto was signed into action, cementing further concessions into law and granting more legislative authority to the Duma. Though liberals were placated, socialist revolutionary agitators continued to call for the complete dissolution of the Tsarist regime, leading the military to respond with violent force, eventually forcing the protestors’ surrender. In total 13,000 deaths occurred throughout the 1905 Revolution. Despite government victory, unrest continued to boil under the surface as socialists would lay in wait for a second opportunity to present itself

The February Revolution

World War I was perhaps the most direct factor in the 1917 revolution. Angered by numerous defeats and poor conditions, any sense of nationalism that the people once held quickly began to fade. Dissatisfaction with the Romanovs increased radically. Much of the blame for the poor performance of the Russian war effort lay on the Tsar, who had taken personal control of the army in a bid to regain favor, and suspicions of the Tsar’s German-born consort and her relationship with the mystical Rasputin began to mount.

In addition, due to Ottoman entry into the war, Russia was deprived of a valuable trade route, only worsening the economic crisis. To finance the war, Russia had printed millions of ruble notes, leading to extreme inflation. Prices in 1917 were 400% what they had been in 1914. Farmers soon began to turn back to subsistence farming, creating mass food shortages even as prices soared. The army too was affected by the economic issues: by 1917, Russia struggled to supply troops with munitions or food, leading to an extreme loss of morale on the war front.

Due to both the economic and political issues of the war, loss of confidence towards the government occurred even in the highest levels of Soviet society. Workers were angered by long bread lines and harsh working conditions: 10-hour workdays 6 days a week were commonplace in factories. Former serfs were required to pay redemption payments to the government and often lived in extremely poor conditions. Some demanded communal tender of the land they worked. Even as Russia began to do better in the war, morale dropped as the draft continued. A lack of workers worsened the economic conditions, leading to more protests. Protests increased in number and severity starting in 1915, and by 1916 government officials were becoming concerned that the protest threatened the future of the Soviet Union.

In 1917, the February Revolution began, with workers in Petrograd's largest industrial plant announcing a strike. Demonstrations were organized to demand bread, gathering crowds of students, white-collar workers, and teachers who joined the factory workers who had been working for years. The Tsar looked to the army: 180,000 troops were technically available, but many were untrained or injured, as the majority of combat-ready troops were fighting in WWI. Only about 12,000 were reliable, but even they were hesitant to move in on the crowd, due to the number of women who were joining in the protests. On March 11, troops began to revolt after being instructed to fire into the crowds. Some joined the protests, but many were shot or went into hiding. The Tsar's forces had dwindled. As symbols of the Tsarist regime were torn down around the city, the socialists established the Petrograd Soviet to represent the protesting workers and soldiers. The next day, almost all the Tsar's troops were aligned with the Petrograd Soviet.

On the 15th of March, the Tsar abdicated. He nominated his brother, the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, to take the helm. Knowing the people would not

give him support, the Duke declined. Former Tsar Nicholas was later arrested by the Provisional Government.

The Interim

The Provisional Government and the Petrograd Soviet stood at odds with each other: the Provisional Government claimed to be the legitimate head of government, but the Petrograd Soviet had the ability to rally large numbers of citizens, a group which would come to be known as the Petrograd Soviet Council of Workers' Deputies. It is important to note that at this stage, the Petrograd Soviet did not believe Russia was ready for socialism, and instead pushed for Democratic reforms. For much of 1917, the Petrograd Soviet acted as a lobby group, with the Provisional Government being willing to listen to them in many cases. This remained the case until the October Revolution.

The October Revolution

In the late fall of 1917, liberal and monarchist forces, organized into the White Army, went to war against the Bolshevik Red Army. The Allied nations from WWI supported the White Army. In late November, Soviet membership became exclusive to Bolsheviks, due to Bolsheviks performing poorly in elections. Overall, the October revolution was nothing more than an increase in political tensions, and rising anti-Bolshevik mentality. Note also the exclusion of non-Bolsheviks in the Soviet Party, marking the beginning of the later dogmatism that would come to define the upper echelon of the Bolshevik Party.

The Russian Civil War

This war was fought shortly after the October Revolution, caused by increasing tensions between the Red and White armies, though other political factions also joined. Many protested restructuring championed by the Soviets after the fall of the Provisional Government. Though the Whites had international support, the Red Army's internal support proved to be of more value when the White Army was defeated. Though there were protests against the Bolsheviks, particularly over the seizure of crops, leading to armed repression of protestors

and many of the rebels fleeing the country. Ultimately, the Civil War placed control into the hands of the Bolshevik dominated Soviets, though it also created many enemies for the new ruling party.

The Establishment of a New Government

The 1924 Constitution of the USSR, in essence, expanded the 1922 Treaty on the Creation of the USSR, which legitimized the Bolshevik government and ended the Russian Civil War. The Constitution established the Congress of Soviets of the Soviet Union, the supreme governing body, as the legislative branch which dictated Soviet economic and political policy. However, Congress would convene only when necessitated by the Central Executive Committee of the Soviet Union, which acted as the governing body when the Congress of Soviets was not in session. The Central Executive Committee could call for the convening of the Congress of Soviets, oversee elections for the Council of the People's Commissars, and enact legislation. The CEC and the CSSU when convened were considered the head of state in the USSR. The Council of the People's Commissars was considered the executive branch and the head of government in the USSR, with the Premier leading the 18-member council of ministers that oversaw different operations and branches within the Soviet Government. Vladimir Lenin was appointed as the first Premier, but was succeeded by Alexei Rykov in 1924 and later by Vyacheslav Molotov in 1930.

The Holodomor

Derived from a Ukrainian word meaning "to kill by starvation", the Holodomor was a famine that occurred in 1932, as part of the wider Soviet Famine that was occurring at the time. It is often called the Great Famine, the Terror-Famine, the Famine-Genocide of Ukraine, or simply the Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-33. Though the total death count is disputed, it is in the millions, including some estimates of up to 12 million, though most range between 3 and 7.5 million. There is great dispute over the man-made aspect of the famine, specifically regarding whether or not it was deliberately caused by Joseph Stalin. In response to foreign journalists publishing photos of the famine, the USSR launched a propaganda campaign involving celebrities denying any hunger in Ukraine, making Stalin seem more guilty in the eyes of

many Ukrainians. The USSR's official position was that no famine occurred, and discussion on the topic was all but banned. This event caused an exacerbation of tensions between political heads in Russia and Ukrainian farming villages.

Joseph Stalin

Rise to Power

In 1922, Vladimir Lenin would nominate a Georgian Bolshevik and revolutionary by the name of Joseph Stalin to act as the general secretary of the Communist Party. Despite their numerous public disagreements, Stalin had helped to rally support for Lenin's New Economic Policy against the criticism of leaders like Leon Trotsky, who believed the policy was too capitalistic in nature. For this, Lenin considered him to be a key ally, and he believed putting Stalin in the position would strengthen the stability of his own leadership. Lenin could not have predicted, however, that he would suffer a debilitating stroke less than a month later, partially paralyzing him and rendering any further direct political leadership impossible. Stalin was a regular visitor to Lenin's home, and often had political disputes with the ailing Lenin, who, in addition to twice requesting help from Stalin to end his own life (which Stalin refused), had begun to dislike the new general secretary, remarking to his sister that he believed he was "not intelligent". Lenin would succumb to illness and die in January of 1924, and Stalin would begin to exercise the power of his position as General Secretary to appoint the staff and members of the party. He preferred to appoint new members from the poor peasant and worker backgrounds, slowly building up a legion of loyalists in key positions. Throughout the 1920s, factionalism would run rampant through the party, and the opposition to Stalin would eventually unite under the leadership of Leon Trotsky. Opposition, however, did not last, as Stalin was able to use accusations of factionalism to deport Trotsky and remove key opposition leaders, cementing himself as the undisputed leader of the party and the Soviet Union.

Cult of Power

In the years following his consolidation of power, various locations would be named after Stalin, and in 1929 a lavish celebration was thrown for his 50th birthday, becoming the beginnings of a powerful cult of personality surrounding the leader. The reverence of Stalin has risen dramatically, and some have taken to bestowing upon him grandiose epithets such as "Our Darling", "Our Guiding Star", "Patriarch", "Life and Sun", "Father of Nations", and "Architect of Socialism", among others, despite the fact that none of this apparent worship has ever received official endorsement from Stalin. In fact, Stalin routinely denounces what he refers to pejoratively as the "Cult of Heroes", believing instead that great change is a result of social forces and the combined efforts of the heroic working masses, rather than any single person. However, Stalin is becoming increasingly reluctant to speak out against this tendency, perhaps seeing it as a useful tool to exercise power, although he still periodically censors the most extreme examples of worship and remains humble in his speeches.

Character Backgrounds

Anachronisms: Due to the nature of turning real-life events into good conference material, some historical facts have been tweaked to make this committee work. Though many of the chosen characters would realistically work in different political organs, for the sake of the conference you will all be in one room and vote together. Any junior members who, in the year 1934 could not vote will be given voting power.

Kliment Voroshilov

Member of the Politburo, People's Commissar for Defense

Born into a railway worker's family in what is now Ukraine, Voroshilov began his political career in the Ukrainian Council of People's Commissars after the 1917 revolution. He became close to Stalin during the Red Army defense of Tsaritsyn in 1918. Becoming a part of the Central Committee in 1921 as People's Commissar for Military and Navy Affairs, he was instrumental in the movement of key industry to better defensive positions east of the Urals. An outspoken man with no issue denouncing those who oppose him, he is nevertheless loyal to Stalin, and willing to do whatever is necessary for the good of the party.

Lazar Kaganovich

*Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party,
Chairman of the Commission for the Vetting of Party Membership*

Born to Jewish parents in what is now Ukraine, Kaganovich joined the Bolshevik party in 1911. During the October Revolution, he led the Gomel revolt. After the rise of Stalin, Kaganovich was appointed to head the Organizational Bureau (Orgburo), where he worked to place supporters of Stalin within the Party bureaucracy. In the late 1920s, he clashed with moderates over his support of policies suppressing kulaks (wealthy peasants). After becoming Chairman of the Commission for the Vetting of Party Membership, he ensured that no individual associated with anti-Stalin movements remained within the Party. When Stalin, during the XVII Congress of the Communist Party,

received 292 negative votes, Kaganovich interfered, leading to the official results seeing Stalin with just 2 negative votes.

Kaganovich is perhaps one of the most staunch supporters of Stalin, willing to obey any order and take all measures necessary to assure that Stalin remains in power.

Nikolai Yezhov

Head of the NKVD, Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party

Born in St. Petersburg, Yezhov joined the Bolsheviks in 1917, six months before the October Revolution. During the Civil War, he fought within the Red Army. In the early years of the Soviet Union, Yezhov worked in various positions of the Party, including as the head of the Accounting and Distribution Department, Deputy People's Commissar for Agriculture, head of the Department of Personnel, and head of the Department of Special Affairs. In 1934 he was voted into the Central Committee. Yezhov was described as cruel, and as such was not unwilling to act on orders others would refuse. Ambitious, harsh, and willing to serve the Party, Yezhov is an important tool for the Party to remain powerful.

Sergo (Grigory) Ordzhonikidze

People's Commissar of Heavy Industry, Politburo Member

Ordzhonikidze joined the Bolshevik party at a young age and was an active participant in the October Revolution and Civil War. During the 1920s he was tasked with overseeing economic production in the Soviet Union, and in 1930 became the leader of Vesenkha (later re-formed as the People's Commissariat of Heavy Industry). The Commissariat implemented the five-year plans for economic development and helped create the model of Soviet workers (Stakhanovite movement). Though a skilled economic planner, Ordzhonikidze gained enemies in his political career. In particular, Ordzhonikidze was loyal to workers and unwilling to denounce friends for greater political gain, much to Stalin's dislike. Ordzhonikidze remains a necessary part of Soviet economic planning; however, he stands against continuing revolutionary ideals in top Bolshevik circles.

Vyacheslav Molotov

Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars

Born in Kukarka in 1890, Molotov expressed strong socialist views as a child and eventually joined the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party when he was 16, and later the Bolshevik faction. In 1911, Molotov joined an underground Bolshevik newspaper called *Pravda* and continued publishing anti-monarchical sentiments as well as advocating for the Bolshevik Party, and would meet Joseph Stalin for the first time. He played a key role in spreading awareness of the February and October Revolutions, becoming Stalin's close ally and protégé, and supported him after Lenin's death. In 1930, Molotov was appointed Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars and would go on to try and improve relations with Nazi Germany and the West.

Grigory Petrovsky

Representative of Ukraine SSR in the USSR Central Executive Committee, Candidate Member of the Politburo

Petrovsky was born to a craftsman family in a village near Pechenihiy, Ukraine in 1878, and after being dismissed from school and beginning work at a metallurgical factory, he joined the revolutionary movement in 1895 at the age of seventeen. Under the Tsarist regime, Petrovsky was involved in political agitation for the Bolshevik faction of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party and took part in the failed 1905 revolution. He was elected as a deputy to represent the workers of Yekaterinoslav Governorate in the 4th Russian State Duma, where he worked closely with Vladimir Lenin and fought to improve the working and living conditions of the miners and workers of Donets Basin. After the October Revolution and the seizure of government by the Bolsheviks, he was appointed People's Commissar for the Interior Affairs for a short time, becoming a supporter of the political repression and mass killings of the Red Terror, which he believed were necessary to secure the gains of the revolution. Petrovsky is now the representative of the Ukrainian SSR in the Central Executive Committee, serving as co-chairman. As an internationalist and firm bolshevik, Petrovsky remains loyal to the

proletarian socialist vision of the USSR, but as Stalin's paranoia grows, he is finding he must strike a balance between the needs of his people and the demands of his leader.

Andrei Zhdanov

Member of the Politburo, Member of the Orgburo, Junior Secretary of the Central Committee

Zhdanov entered into the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party in 1915, following the death of his father. Though Soviet officials claim this as the day of his "conversion" to socialism, his loyalty wavered, and in 1917 before the tsar abdicated, he found himself on the front lines as an army ensign. By 1918, however, he was firmly behind the Bolsheviks and was quickly appointed the editor of a local newspaper. Due to his close association with Stalin, he quickly moved up through the Party ranks. He was particularly important in the establishment of cultural policy, including the creation of the Union of Socialist Workers which moderates the content that writers are permitted to put out. In addition, as a member of the Central Committee, he executed Stalin's decrees on Soviet industrialization. An up and coming member of the Soviet bureaucracy, Zhdanov is loyal to Stalin but seeks to balance his own power and ambition with the goals of the Party as a whole.

Anastas Mikoyan

Central Committee Member,

Born to Armenian parents in the village of Sanahin, Mikoyan was an early supporter of socialism. At the age of 20, in 1915, he worked a worker's soviet in Echmiadzin. Soon after, he joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (later known as Bolsheviks), becoming a revolutionary leader in the Caucasus region. Mikoyan fought in the February Revolution of 1917, and during the fighting saved the life of Sergo Ordzhonikidze, a fellow Party member, eventually being promoted to the role of Commissar in the new Red Army. His success in the party lasted until 1918 when he and 26 other Commissar's attempted to flee Baku. Mikoyan, for unknown reasons, was the only

one not executed. Becoming a Central Committee member in 1923, Mikoyan supported Stalin in the power struggle following Lenin's death. After being appointed to the position of People's Commissar for External and Internal Trade, he introduced various technologies from the West, including canned goods, which proved to be beneficial to the Soviet economy. Though his past may hint otherwise, Mikoyan currently appears loyal to the Party and is willing to follow Stalin into the bright future of the USSR.

Aleksei Stetsky

Member of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union

Born in Borovshcina, a small village in the Viaz'ma District, Stetskii joined the Communist Party in 1915. In 1916, he was exiled to Perm, where he continued to conduct Party work. In 1917, during the February Revolution, he agitated for the Bolsheviks and entered the Party bureaucracy, becoming a delegate to the Sixth Congress of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP). From 1918-1920 Stetskii conducted work for the Red Army, and by 1926 had moved on to become a member of the Northwestern Bureau of the Central Committee, where he acted as the Head of the Propaganda and Agitation Board. At the 13th Congress, he was elected to the Central Control Commission, and at the 15th Congress, he was elected to the Central Committee. At the Central Committee, he worked on a variety of cultural issues, including the Congress of Soviet Writers, a representative assembly of state-supporter writers. A newer member of the upper-level Party, Stetskii is nonetheless a committed Soviet and dedicated to advancing the rights of the proletariat in the USSR.

Levon Mirzoyan

1st Secretary of the Regional Committee of the Party of Kazakhstan

Mirzoyan was born in 1897 to an Armenian peasant family in the village of Ashanl, located in the Elizavetpol Governorate of Imperial Russia. He would join the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party in 1917. Between 1926 and 1929, he served as First Secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, and as the Secretary of the Perm Regional Committee between 1929 and 1933. He now leads the Communist Party of the Kazakh ASSR, an autonomous republic region within the Russian SFSR which has been undergoing unprecedented change

under the Soviet regime. The increase in literacy rates, new systems of universal education, cultural advancement, rapid industrialization, and economic incorporation have been ushered in with the revolution. However, forced industrialization and collectivization have triggered unrest and peasant protests, while Kazakh intellectuals and elites face systematic purges and arrests. Mirzoyan is growing increasingly concerned with the methods of Stalin and his secret police, and although not of Kazakh origin, Mirzoyan is a dutiful statesman and proletarian socialist dedicated to the task of providing leadership and representation to the Kazakh people.

Yefim Yevdokimov

*Ex-All Russian Extraordinary Commission Secret Police Officer,
Ex-OGPU North Caucasus Region Chief, First Secretary of the North
Caucasus Regional Committee of the CPSU*

Yefim Yevdokimov was born in 1891 to a peasant family that migrated from Kursk to modern-day Kazakhstan to join the Semirechye Cossacks. Growing up, Yevdokimov aligned himself with the anarcho-syndicalist ideology and heavily criticized the Tsarist monarchy. During the 1917 October Revolution, Yevdokimov was freed from prison in Moscow by Bolshevik forces and subsequently joined the party and took up arms against the Tsar by joining the All Russian Extraordinary Commission (Cheka or VChK), the party's first secret police organization. Upon the establishment of the USSR in 1922, Yevdokimov was named Head of Police Special Departments in the Red Army, and in 1924 was eventually transferred to the North Caucasus Region as the Chief of the OGPU in that region. This followed his ruthless massacres of White Army soldiers and effectiveness in quelling local resistance in the Ukrainian Civil War. After the Shakhty Trials and Yevdokimov's aggressive role as an interrogator, he was barred from promotion in the secret police for defying his superior officer's orders and would later go on to join the CPSU in 1934 as a party member and politician.

Alexander Yegorov

*Deputy People's Commissar for Defence, Chief of the General Staff of the Red
Army*

Alexander Yegorov was born in Central Russia in 1883. He joined the Imperial army in 1902 and qualified for a promotion to officer in 1905. A year prior, however, he had joined the Socialist Revolutionary Party, a party dedicated to the implementation of radical social-democratic and agrarian socialist reforms. Despite his revolutionary leanings, he still played a part in putting down the 1905 revolution as an officer in the Imperial Army, and, during World War I, would be promoted to the position of Lieutenant-Colonel. After the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917, the Socialist Revolutionary Party split into two radically opposed anti-Bolshevik and pro-Bolshevik factions. Yegorov remained with the latter, becoming a commander for the Red Army during the Civil War. After joining the Red Army, Yegorov would eventually be promoted to his present rank, becoming one of the most high-ranking and influential officials in the Soviet Military Hierarchy. Yegorov is a loyal military man, poised to achieve even higher ranks in the near future, and he maintains close ties with Stalin himself. He is firm in his goal to defend the Soviet State against all threats and is assured of Stalin's trust and of the duties of his post.

Additional Resources:

- This abridged version of the 1924 Constitution is helpful if you are struggling to understand how the government works. It will also be useful if the Committee decides to write a new Constitution, as occurred in 1936.
 - [http://pwerth.faculty.unlv.edu/Const-USSR-1924\(abridge\).pdf](http://pwerth.faculty.unlv.edu/Const-USSR-1924(abridge).pdf)
- This source gives good contextualization of what led up to the events of the purges, as well as covering real-life events that may serve as an influence for your plans
 - [https://jsis.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/USSR Stalin Great Purge.pdf](https://jsis.washington.edu/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/USSR%20Stalin%20Great%20Purge.pdf)
- This source couples modern essays with primary sources from the time of events depicted, going back to 1917. This is invaluable for understanding the conversation around political events.
 - <http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1934-2/>

Further Research: It is recommended that if you struggle to find information on your character that you find alternative spellings of their name. There are multiple ways to latinize Russian names, and some sources may use different spellings than what is used in your character biography. Feel free to contact us at othsmuncrisis@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Crisis Rules and Procedures

Definition of Internally-Undefined Terms

Lincoln-Douglas Debate: A format of debate that involves two people making an opening argument, counterargument, rebuttal and counter-rebuttal. Time restrictions are at the discretion of the Chair, or by Committee policy. This manner of debate has been introduced as an option for Executive Debate (see *Executive Session*).

Session: One of the two days in which OTHSMUN 2020 takes places, cited as Session I and Session II, respectively.

Censure: A public reprimand by the Committee against one of its members. Main Motions regarding censure are only in order at the discretion of the Chair in times of major breaches of decorum.

Substantive Vote: A vote taken on a non-procedural matter (i.e. a main motion).

The Dais

The Dais serves as they presiding entity over Committee debate. Every Committee has a Dais, consisting of a Chair and 2-3 Rapporteurs. The Chair is the presiding officer of the Committee, charged with conducting debate, answering questions related to procedure, ruling on specific procedural matters, and maintaining order in the chamber. The Rapporteurs are the Chair's aides, and are charged with facilitating note-passing, locking the doors during Executive Session voting, and ensuring the delegates have all of their physical needs met. Under OTHSMUN 2020 procedures, the Dais is immune from any in-Committee motions regarding expulsion, censure or otherwise change in the composition or duties of the Dais, including cases in which a Suspension of the Rules has been invoked.

Debate Structure

In OTHSMUN 2020 Crisis, debate will be in moderated caucus for much of the committee, and delegates will motion for an unmoderated caucus should they wish to do so. In moderated caucus, delegates raise their placards to request to speak for a given amount of time, with no crosstalk. During unmoderated caucus, delegates may move about the room to work on directives, press releases, or communiques with other delegates.

Decorum

As a representation of a historical figure, delegates are expected to epitomise diplomacy, calmness and productivity with their peers. During Committee, delegates may not speak to one another (unless they are co-delegates, where it must be in a low whisper). The use of profane, inflammatory and/or insensitive language, obscene gestures, influence-peddling, strong-arming, politicking and physical violence is strongly condemned by OTHSMUN 2020, and is grounds for in-Committee censure or expulsion from our Conference.

Note-Passing

Due to the fact that delegates cannot speak to one another during general debate (not including unmoderated caucus), they may write notes to one another for in-Committee communication. Note paper will be provided by the Committee Dais. Delegates may pass notes to other delegates without the approval of the Dais, however, the Dais retains the power to view any notes which they believe may be inappropriate for committee. Keep note-passing as discreet as possible when other delegates are speaking.

Electronics Policy & Personal Privilege

Though OTHSMUN allows non-internet laptop use during standard committee, this is unnecessary in crisis, due to the fast-paced nature of committee, paper is preferable. As such, there will be no laptop use permitted during committee. Phones and smartwatches are not permitted to be used at any time during Committee. Alterations to this Policy during Committee may occur at the discretion of the Chair.

During Committee, delegates are granted the personal privilege to: use the restroom, make a brief call to a family member, alter the room temperature (if possible) and request a Speaker to raise their voice. These privileges may be invoked via the use of a Point of Personal Privilege at any time during Committee.

Commencement of Debate

Once all delegates have entered the Committee room, the Chair will strike their gavel and call the Chamber to order. After making their opening remarks, the Chair will

begin with Roll Call. During Roll Call, the delegates' country names are called out, and they are to respond with "Present" or "Present and Voting." Present indicates that they will allow themselves to abstain on substantive votes – present and voting means that they are restricting themselves to "aye" and "nay" votes. After Roll Call, the Chair will open the floor to any and all points or motions. It is at this time that delegates may raise points of parliamentary inquiry so as they may have their procedural queries answered prior to entering debate. Upon the conclusion of this period, the Chair will ask for a motion to open the Speaker's List.

Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses

Delegates may motion for a moderated caucus if they wish to have a set time of debate allocated to a specific subtopic. The moderated caucus must have a stated duration of time, time per Speaker and topic. During moderated caucus, delegates are recognised by the Chair without particular order, though the Chair may prioritise recognising delegates engaged in a substantive debate.

Delegates may motion for an unmoderated caucus if they wish to suspend the Committee rules and engage face-to-face with their fellow delegates to craft resolutions and/or debate their viewpoints on the issue. The unmoderated caucus requires only a stated duration of time. Extension motions will be entertained at the discretion of the Chair.

Directives

Directives function similarly to resolutions in the standard committee. They should be written on lined paper, with the names of the sponsors and signatories at the top, with any clauses numbered neatly. These will be sent to the Dias and, when a motion to move to voting procedure passes, be voted on. Committee directives require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority to pass.

In addition to Committee directives, delegates can also pass private directives. These do *not* require any signatories but must still be written with any clauses numbered. For personal directives, delegates are encouraged to research their character thoroughly and only take actions that are realistic. Any action is subject to the approval of the Crisis Staff. Private directives do not require a vote and can be sent up as a crisis note.

Press Releases and Communiques

Press releases exist to convey information from the committee to other nations or people within the crisis universe. A press release may, for example, be passed to respond to the actions of a rival country. Press releases require a sponsor and signatories and should be written in a numbered list. A 50% + 1 majority is needed to pass a press release.

Communiques function similarly to press releases but are authored by an individual or group instead of the whole committee. Generally, they are written to non-delegate individuals within the crisis universe, but can be written to disseminate information or to other countries. Again, no signatories or votes are needed.

Crisis Updates

Throughout the course of the Committee, Staff will periodically interrupt session to bring updates on the situation in the world. These may serve as answers to crisis notes or directives. A questioning period may be opened where delegates can ask clarifying questions on the updates. Updates may be through visual, textual, or in-person events.

Executive Session

The Executive Session is a special state that a Committee must enter to consider main motions. Once a motion to enter Executive Session has been approved, all current debate procedures, including the Speaker's List, are suspended. The Chair will call the Committee to order, and will open the floor to motions to set Executive Debate. Executive Debate comprises two methods in which to conduct debate: 2 pro/2 con speeches or 2 Lincoln-Douglas style debates on the main motion. For the purposes of simplifying procedure, the 2 pro/2 con speech format will be known as Executive Debate A, and the 2 Lincoln-Douglas debate format will be known as Executive Debate B. Delegates may motion to set Executive Debate to any of the two options on one or all of the Draft Resolutions on the Docket. Once all motions have been entertained, they will be voted upon and the set style of debate shall commence on the main motion. All Executive Debate begins with a designated Sponsor reporting the

operative clauses of their main motion, and them participating in either a pro speech or one-on-one debate with an opposing delegate. Voting shall take place at the end of each Executive Debates.

Voting

Although relatively straightforward, voting is the most important facet of debate, for it provides the judgement of the Committee on a main motion. Voting procedures may be triggered by the Chair or by a motion to call the previous question. Once voting procedures have commenced, the Committee doors shall be locked, and will remain so until voting has ended.

Voting may occur one of three manners: show of placards, roll call and acclamatory. The simplest is acclamatory – once motioned by a delegate, the Chair will ask whether there are any objections to the main motion. If none are voiced, the main motion is officially passed. The show of placards is the default manner of voting, and entails the delegates raising their placards to demonstrate whether they are for, against or abstaining from the main motion. The Dais will report the results shortly after. The final method is roll call, which requires the Chair to call the roll and for each delegate to state whether they are in favour (“aye”), against (“nay”), or abstaining. At the end of the roll call, the Chair reports the results. *Due to the duration of roll call voting, it is only allowed in Security Council.*

Adjournment

Upon the conclusion of all voting, the Chair will ask for a motion to exit Executive Session. Once normal order has been restored, the Chair will reinstate the Speaker’s List for one last speech. At the conclusion of this non-POI speech, the Chair will open the floor to any and all points or motions. It is at this time that a delegate may motion to recess debate for the following day, or adjourn debate entirely. A show of placards vote shall proceed, and all debate shall cease as the Committee has completed its business for the day.