

Security Council – President’s Letter

Introductions

Hello and welcome to this year’s St. Bonaventure University high school Model United Nations conference! My name is Daniel Bakowski and I am pleased and honored to be the Chair of the Security Council. A little bit about me before we all meet again in March: I am an Honors Political Science and International Studies double major here at St. Bonaventure with a minor in Pre-law and Civil Society. I have participated in both Model UN and Mock Trial throughout both my high school and collegiate level careers and have received several awards in both clubs and organizations. Additionally, I also have quite a few years of experience in both chairing and competing in various different conferences for various different committees. I am truly so excited to share in this experience with all of you! I am looking forward to seeing you all in March!

As your Chair, it is my responsibility to preside over debate, evaluate your motions, and score each of you based on your individual performance as you assume your roles as diplomatic

The Current Situation in the Ukraine

Winning its independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the small Eastern European nation of Ukraine has had quite a complicated history with its far more powerful European neighbors. The turmoil began first with a series of protests against the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in 2013. Following a military altercation that turned the once peaceful protests violent, President Yanukovich fled from the Ukraine and left the government in shambles, prompting the Russian Federation to invade the Crimean Peninsula in March of 2014 to reclaim their allegedly lost land. Crimea was formally annexed by a referendum vote. Russia succeeded in annexing the Crimea peninsula even though not a single country recognizes this annexation. For many European countries and for the US, this was an overtly aggressive Russian behavior that must be countered.

The conflict did not end with the annexation of the Crimea. Ukraine has a large population of Russians especially in the South and East of the country. The conflict then escalated in the following months as Ukrainians became divided along ethnic lines. The revival of a Pro-Russian secession movement only heightened the tensions of a brewing civil war. The ensuing armed conflict only grew until it came to a tragic global climax in July of 2014 when a Malaysian Airlines flight was shot down over Ukrainian airspace, killing all 298 passengers. Many nations have since speculated that the Russian Federation is responsible for the attack and for the continuation of the war.

Today, the conflict is estimated to have claimed over 10,000 civilian lives as the war's frontline has extended far beyond a total of 280 miles across the entire nation, causing more than 1.5 million Ukrainian citizens to become displaced within their own country while Crimea remains under Russian control and the population is still deeply divided.

Questions to Consider

- x What is the situation in the Ukraine?
- x Who are the major players in Ukraine?
- x What exactly happened? Why did the war start? How? Who caused it?
- x What is your state's relationship with the Ukraine? With Russia?
- x Has your country engaged in any initiatives to resolve the ongoing conflict?
- x Is your country concerned about the situation in Ukraine? Why?
- x Who are your allies/enemies in the region?
- x Why is peace and stability in Ukraine important to your country and the region?
- x Does the UN have any role to play in this conflict?

Resources:

- x The war in Ukraine is more devastating than you know
- x U.N. finds growing signs of Russian involvement in Ukraine war
- x <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-un-idUSKBN0OH2SK20150601>

The Growing Tensions in the East and South China Sea

Referring to the 81,000 square mile area of maritime economic and international free waters boundary just off the coast of China and Japan, the East China Sea exists as a hotbed of rising tensions and instability as the major powers of the region battle for economic control of the Senkaku/Diaoyu islands and other territories. Originally claimed by Japan in 1895 as a part of their privately-owned economic exclusion zone, debates over the true ownership of the isles have existed since the early 1970's with China in particular arguing for control to be returned over to them. Tensions have only continued to rise as of late w9 -1.25 wr4 (b[(ex)-ci)-2omlyhee2k20.86 38()Tj26.5

Questions to Consider

- x What is the current state of affairs in the South China Sea?
- x Who is in control there?
- x Why is China building man-