



International Utopia MUN'20

United Nations Security Council

Investigating the possible hazard of the presence of Weapons of Mass
Destruction in Iraq

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The United Nations Security Council is one of the principal organs of the United Nations. It is comprised of five permanent members and ten occupying two-year rotating membership status. The UNSC also allows nations that it deems are affected by the crisis at hand to sit in the council if they agree to forego their voting rights in accordance with the UN Charter.

It is the only committee that is non-recommendatory in nature (ICJ is an exception) and can issue actionable directives. It is organized to function continuously. To that end a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at the United Nations Headquarters, but the council may also meet elsewhere.

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend the parties to try to reach an agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation by appointing special representatives or requesting the Secretary-General to do so.

When a dispute leads to armed conflict, the Council's first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing hostilities. It also sends United Nations peacekeeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas to keep opposing forces apart and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

The Council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (such as trade embargoes), or collective military action. In addition to several standing and ad hoc committees, the work of the council is facilitated by the Military Staff Committee, Sanctions Committees for each of the states under sanctions, Peacekeeping Forces Committees, and an International Tribunals Committee.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Like the UN as a whole, the Security Council was created following World War II to address the failings of a previous international organization, the League of Nations, in maintaining world peace. In its early decades, the Security Council was largely paralyzed by the Cold War, though it had authorized interventions in the Korean War and the Congo Crisis, and peacekeeping missions in the Suez Canal Crisis, Cyprus, and West New Guinea. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, UN peacekeeping efforts increased dramatically in scale, and the Security Council authorized major military and peacekeeping missions in Kuwait, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, Somalia, and Sudan.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

Under the UN Charter the functions and powers of the security council are :

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- To take military action against an aggressor;
- To recommend the admission of new Members;
- To exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To accept changes to the charter of the United Nations;
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

ACCEPTABLE SOURCES

News Sources

Reuters (<http://www.reuters.com/>) – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.

State-operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. The Executive Board shall remain neutral towards the credibility of these reports.

Government Reports

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, the essential difference is that if a government report is being denied by a certain country, it can still be accepted by the Executive Board as a credible source of information.

Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America
<http://www.state.gov/index.htm>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France (<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation (http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng)

Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports:

<http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of the Permanent Representative.)

United Nations Reports

All UN Reports and publications are considered as credible sources of information.

UN Bodies: Like the SC (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>), GA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>), HRC (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>) etc.

UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>); etc.

BACKGROUND

Background of the Western Motivations

The United States of America, in the post 911 era, sought to adopt an active stance to combat terrorism to halt institutionalism of extremism and radicalism. Part of its wide-ranging “war on terror” was instilling democracy to destabilize terrorism internationally. The United States sought to tackle the democratic challenge in the Middle East first and naturally, the country which garnered most attention was Iraq. Saddam Hussein’s autocratic and murderous regime along with a potentially destructive Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) program made Iraq primary candidates.

Soon after, the CIA officially and publicly concluded in its investigation into the Iraqi regime, that Iraq’s WMD program constitutes a reasonable and sufficient threat to national and international security.

The CIA along with its British counterpart, the MI6, continued its investigations into the WMD Program of Iraq, to which Iraq did not show any particular resistance. The CIA-MI6 joint findings also concluded that Saddam Hussein did possess nuclear weapons. These findings were then jointly taken to the United Nations Security Council, which under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, authorized by consensus a use of force against Iraq.

It was later revealed, however, that the CIA had allegedly falsified information and was aware of Iraq’s WMD Program being non-existent. **Please note that these are mere allegations and allegations were only made AFTER the given freeze date of the committee.**

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THE UN’S ROLE IN THE 2003 IRAQ INVASION

The UN Security Council initially refused to endorse the joint invasion by the United Kingdom and United States in March 2003. Both countries hoped to ignore the UN and operate with a free hand in the country. But a fierce Iraqi resistance, persistent economic and political problems, and continuing international criticism forced the US-UK alliance to seek international partners for their enterprise, including assistance from the UN. A debate ensued between those who thought that the UN could be the wedge for internationalism and US-UK withdrawal and those who thought a UN presence would only discredit the world body. Following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1483, two months after the war, then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed a Special Representative for Iraq and the UN assumed some relatively minor responsibilities there. In August 2003, a massive bombing of the UN offices in Baghdad killed fifteen UN staff including the Special Representative. The UN then pulled out of Iraq and kept its distance, but in February 2004, under heavy US pressure, the UN agreed to send a mission to the country, to help construct a new interim government. After the establishment of an interim government in June, the UN took a larger role in planning national elections. As the situation continuously spiraled out of control, Washington cited the worsening humanitarian crisis as reason enough for the UN to intervene. The new Secretary General,

Ban Ki-Moon, seemed to be more supportive of greater UN involvement in Iraq. Consequently, The Security Council discussed and voted on August 10, 2007 to expand the UN's role in Iraq.

Russia's Foreign Policy and approach to invasion.

Surprisingly, the Russian Federation was always rather supportive of USA's war on terror and strong rhetoric in the post-9/11 world. Earlier, Russian and Soviet Foreign Policy revolved around maintaining political and military bipolarity by keeping itself at a 'balance' with the United States. This often led to various ideological rifts and thus to polar stances on most conflicts. This, however, changed after 9/11. Russia, on the face of it, was quite supportive of Western-led initiative into WMD Programs in Iraq.

It is, however, alleged that Russia on several occasions during the invasion provided Iraq with intelligence and logistical support. However, as matter of explicit foreign policy, Russia in line with its post-9/11 diplomacy took a supportive stance on the Western initiatives but not the invasion itself. There were of course, several disagreements on exact conduct, the actual feasibility of an 'invasion', the legal ambit of the use of force and other related issues.

A TIMELINE

28 February 1991

The Gulf War ends, leaving Iraq subject to United Nations sanctions and arms inspections to look for weapons of mass destruction (biological, chemical and nuclear). Disputes over inspectors' access to Iraqi facilities continue for years.

11 September 2001

Four commercial flights are hijacked and flown deliberately into targets in the US. Almost 3,000 people are killed. The attack is quickly blamed on al-Qaeda and its leader Osama Bin Laden, then resident in Afghanistan.

7 October 2001

US-led forces begin military action in Afghanistan.

29 January 2002

US President George W Bush identifies Iraq - along with Iran and North Korea - as part an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union address.

12 September 2002

President Bush addresses the United Nations General Assembly and warns Iraq that military action will be unavoidable if it does not comply with UN resolutions on disarmament.

24 September 2002

The UK publishes a dossier on the threat posed by Iraq. It includes the claim that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction which could be used within 45 minutes.

8 November 2002

The UN Security Council unanimously passes resolution 1441, giving Iraq "a final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations" and warning of "serious consequences" if it does not.

November 2002 to March 2003

The UN's Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission fails to find weapons of mass destruction despite carrying out 700 inspections in Iraq.

25 February 2003

The US and the UK submit a draft resolution to the UN, stating that Iraq has missed its "final opportunity" to disarm peacefully. But this is opposed by France, Russia and Germany,

10 March 2003

France and Russia announce that they are ready to veto a UN Security Council resolution which gives Iraq seven days to disarm.

17 March 2003

The UK, the US and Spain abandon their attempt to secure a second UN resolution authorizing force.
US President George Bush gives Saddam and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq or face war.

18 March 2003

Tony Blair wins House of Commons backing to send UK forces into war in Iraq, despite a major rebellion by Labor MPs.

20 March 2003

The invasion - Operation Iraqi Freedom - begins with a "shock and awe" campaign of aerial bombardment intended as a show of force.

9 April 2003

The government of Saddam Hussein loses control over Iraq's capital Baghdad, with the advance of US forces into the center of the city.

1 May 2003

President Bush appears on an aircraft carrier off the coast of California to declare victory.
29 May 2003

A BBC report casts doubt on the government's 2002 dossier stating that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction capable of being deployed within 45 minutes.

13 December 2003

Saddam Hussein is found by US troops in a cellar south of Tikrit, his home town.

RESEARCH

1. The proof and claims made by the CIA to associate 9/11 to Iraq as well as the potential WMD's.
2. What are the assumptions/ implications of American claims?
3. Does the security council have legal authority to sanction an invasion?
4. Objectives of a potential invasion
5. Alternate course of action to seize the WMD's
6. Economic boycott of Iraq as a measure
7. Feasibility of a UN inspection in search of the potential WMD's

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Is the proof presented by the US good enough to imply that Iraq has WMD's?
2. If the committee is to believe that Iraq poses a threat to world peace what could be the possible course of action?
3. If Iraq claims to not have WMD's and the proof suggests otherwise, is it justified to invade Iraq?
4. Is Saddam Hussain committing crimes against humanity?
5. What will happen to the state of Iraq if an invasion were to take place?
6. If an invasion is ruled out, what would the possible course of action be to get hold of these potential WMD's?

7. If the Security Council is to sanction an invasion of Iraq, will the peacekeeping forces accompany the American and English forces in their pursuit?
8. Is a war to ensure peace justified?

For Any Further Queries Contact the Secretariat at: utopiamodelun@gmail.com