

ACADEMIC GUIDE



Defying the ordinary, building the extraordinary

Committee

Historical
Security
Council

HSC

SENIOR

Topic A: Operation Menu

Topic B: Yom Kippur War

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Welcoming letter

Distinguished delegates:

The chair of the United Nations Security Council feels pleased and more than honoured to welcome you to this committee. During the days in which the council will be in session, we will provide moderation and support to all the delegations present. As per procedure, we will abide by the Charter of the United Nations, having into special consideration Chapter V. We only wish that the development of the committee results in fruitful proposals that could lead to viable solutions for the problems in the established agenda.

On a more personal note, allow me to introduce myself: my name is Martín Misas and I am a senior at Gimnasio Fontana, and I am seventeen years old. I have many interests, but I am especially curious about the human brain, and the biological mechanisms underlying mental function and dysfunction. I also love reading. My co-chair, Juanita Gomez, is a senior at Colegio Tilatá, and a very smart and interesting person. Her scrupulous knowledge of international law, global geopolitics, and the intricacies of Model UN will for sure help you

navigate the committee and its topics. We are both big fans of this committee, and have participated in the UN Security Council committee together as delegates on several occasions. Surely, chairing this committee together will show to be a notably pleasurable experience, and we hope you delegates will enjoy this committee as much as we will. Mateo Porras is a student at Hacienda Los Alcaparros, his critical thinking and knowledge regarding international context, and crisis management, make this a space for academic growth, but also for us to enjoy.

On a final note, I must say that for both of us, academic rigor is paramount for the successful development of the committee, hence, we expect an argumentatively vigorous debate, with no room for speculation, deliberate inaccuracy or historical revisionism. I don't think I must remind you that the topics of this committee are not entirely fictional, and they both constituted instances of tremendous suffering and death. Both Juanita and I will answer your questions. We hope to see you at the Model.

With our kindest regards,

Martín Misas & Juanita Gomez.

Introduction to the commission

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC for short) is, arguably, the most influential and important organ of the United Nations. It came into existence during the UNCIO, held in San Francisco in 1945. Officially, the UN (along with the Security Council) came into existence on October 24, 1945; after the ratification of the UN Charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Indeed, the Security Council (from now on SC) has 15 members. 10 of them are non-permanent, changing every year; whilst 5 of them are permanent. As of 2024, the 5 permanent members of the SC are the: United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China, French Fifth Republic. For the topics to be discussed during this committee, there will be a small variation of the delegations represented by the 5 permanent members. It is important to highlight that these five permanent members have the veto power, which means that these members can

block the application of a resolution, meaning that even though the resolution is approved by at least nine members, the veto power can block the resolution.

FOR TOPIC A:

1. United States of America
2. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
3. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
4. Fifth French Republic
5. Republic of China (i.e., Taiwan)

FOR TOPIC B:

1. United States of America
2. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
3. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
4. Fifth French Republic
5. People's Republic of China (i.e., Mainland China, see A/RES/2758)

Given that this is a historical committee, there is a set of things that delegates have to take into consideration for a satisfactory experience: sources have to be accurate to the date and time of the topics. Delegates may NOT cite anachronistic sources (including UN Resolutions), as, for the time being, they do not yet exist.

Topic Summary

Topic A: Operation Menu

In the context of the Vietnam War and the controversial military moves by Henry Kissinger the US Secretary of State, the US bombing of Cambodia took place. This was a bombing campaign between 1969 and 1970, which was part of the U.S. campaign in Southeast Asia, which has as its antecedent the domino theory in the framework of the Cold

War. U.S. officials declared the bombed areas as zones of communist emergence. The direct and indirect actors of the Vietnam War are involved in this campaign. In addition, the discussion of the existing security threat from different lenses depending on the perspective of each country in the cold war is of great importance.

Topic B: Yom Kippur War

The Yom Kippur War was an Arab-Israeli war that began in 1973. It was a war fought between a coalition of Arab states led by Egypt and Syria, against Israel. The war began when Egyptian troops and artillery crossed the Suez Canal into southern Israel and Syrian forces entered the Golan Heights in northern Israel. This was an unexpected attack and at a time of vulnerability: the day of Yom Kippur, which is the holiest date on the Hebrew calendar.

TOPIC A: Operation Menu

CURRENT DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 1969

Key Concepts

1. *Domino theory*: This is a concept created during the Cold War, this gives the idea that “if one falls, the others will too”, This means that when a State “falls” over an ideology, the others around geographically will do it too. This works for both communist and capitalist ideologies and is essential for geopolitics in the Cold War.
2. *Sovereignty*: According to the sovereignty of Westphalia, a State is composed of three parts: territory, citizens, and administration. When a State has these three, it is considered a sovereign State. Review the Montevideo Convention to develop this concept
3. “*North Vietnam*” is the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
4. “*South Vietnam*” is the Republic of Vietnam

***To avoid confusion, during the guide they are going to be named North Vietnam and South Vietnam**

Historical Context

Operation Menu was done in the context of the Vietnam War, the United States engaged in a conflict with North Vietnam and the Viet Cong. With strategic objectives, the United States carried out a bombing campaign in Eastern Cambodia. To understand the context of these bombings, it is relevant to give context about the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam War was an armed conflict whose origins could be identified in the Indochina wars, which were conflicts in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia with the principal involvement of France since the French had control over Vietnam. During this war, Ho Chi Minh, a Vietnam leader, decided to front the colonialism of Japan and then France with the support of the Soviet Union and China. The Viet Minh army was created to achieve independence for Vietnam and inspired by the Soviets and China, decided to confront the French supported by the United States, during eight years for independence. During the Dien Bien (1954) Phu battle, France was defeated and had to give their colonial power in land to past Indochina. The victory of the Viet Minh over French colonialism led to the independence of Laos, Cambodia, Birmania, and Thailand.

In July 1954, negotiations were held between the French and the Viet Minh in which the Geneva Agreement was signed, which temporarily demarcated a territorial line dividing Vietnam between the French military forces and the Viet Minh. While the north was led by the Viet Minh under the Communist Party of Vietnam, in the south the French transferred their power to the State of Vietnam ruled by former Emperor Bao Dai. During 300 days after the signature of the accords, a demilitarized area was created in order to allow civilians either



from the north or the south could abandon the zone. In addition, the country agreed to carry out national elections in 1956. In May of 1954, Viet Minh troops invaded and overrun the French Base [Dien Bien Phu](#), in which they had a victory that brought to the end of the colonial power of France in Indochina.

Even though the division between the North and the South was accepted, United States President Dwight Eisenhower started an assistance program in South Vietnam. This is because American strategists, in the context of the Cold War, viewed Asia as the most dangerous and unstable theater of conflict with the Communist bloc, which they perceived as the most dangerous threat to their ideals of a “free world”, which is connected with the domino theory. In addition is also important to highlight that after the signing of the agreement, a demilitarized zone was established.

Based on the Geneva agreement, a referendum had been agreed upon to define the reunification of the country in 1956. However, in South Vietnam, anti-communist forces supported by the United States began to develop paramilitary activities in the region to prevent the spread of communism. Later, in June 1954, the United States carried out a mission with the objective of stopping the advance of communism in Asia. It would later become known as the Saigon Military Mission. Meanwhile, Dinh Diem was the representative of the southern faction, promoting the opposition to the communist regime, and the advances of the army. In contrast, North Vietnam sought the unification of the country under a communist regime influenced by the Soviet Union and China, and creating the Viet Cong, a military group for the unification of Vietnam. For this reason, armed clashes began between the North and the South and their respective blocs.

For this reason, at the end of 1960, North Vietnam had the formation of the National Liberation Front (NLF), with its military army that was Viet Cong, and political organizations with their own army that sought the unification of the country into a communist one, influenced by Soviet military strategies as well. The conflict escalated, until U.S. President John F. Kennedy decided to expand the military program in Vietnam, following the domino theory, and prevent communist expansion in Southeast Asia, in countries such as Cambodia, which was in the context of a civil war.

Regarding the Cambodian context when the Operation Menu was done, Cambodia was also getting involved in the escalation of the Vietnam war, since different North Vietnam soldiers were in Cambodia, and also it was becoming a key location regarding military strategy and geopolitics. In 1965, president Johnson launched an offensive called Operation Rolling Thunder, however it was directly to the NLF. Also, it is important to highlight that in 1968, the escalation of the civil war in Cambodia had begun, which marked the beginning of the guerrilla movement known as the Khmer Rouge, which had communist leanings and sought to establish itself in power in the country, which also prompted the U.S. bombing campaign in Cambodia.

Current Situation

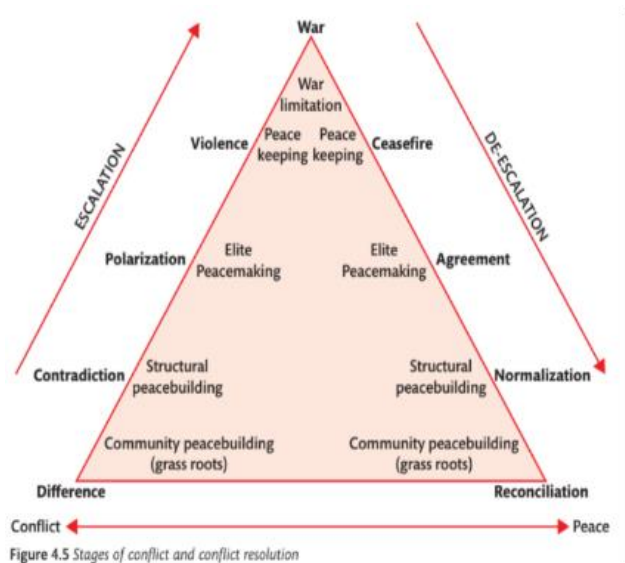
From this historical context regarding the Vietnam War, and Cambodia as an essential strategic section of the United States strategy, on March 18 of 1969, operation Menu started, at the beginning as a secret operation. This was a tactical bombing campaign in eastern Cambodia. The main targets of these bombardments were base areas of the People's Army of Vietnam, the North Vietnamese army, and Viet Cong bases, which were used by North Vietnam to resupply, train, and rest across the borders with South Vietnam. In addition, these bombardments had the objective of interrupting NLF supply routes such as Ho Chin Minh. The current date is almost 8 months after the beginning of the campaign, the attacks are still ongoing, and Cambodia is also losing stability in their territory. In May 1969, this operation was discovered by the US congress, and broken by The New York Times. In addition, an anti-communist position is growing in Cambodia, with the leadership of Lon Nol supported by the United States. On the other hand, the Khmer Rouge is also a winning force, which will have a strong impact in Cambodia years later. This operation was divided in phases, with specific names:

1. Breakfast (March-May 1969): Attacks in Svay Rieng province
2. Lunch (May-August 1969): Expansion inside Cambodia
3. Snack (August-October 1969): Rural strategic areas

4. Dinner (October-November 1969): Intensification in North Vietnamese military bases

Relevant approaches

- **Approval of the operation and International law:** United States President Nixon didn't have approval for the Operation Menu bombardments. According to International Law, the United States couldn't do Operation Menu, since this would be intervening in another state's sovereignty, since intervening in Cambodian territory and citizens, without being under a context of war directly with Cambodia. Also, Cambodia hasn't authorized US military intervention in the State. This legal context is backed up by the UN Charter, and the Geneva Conventions.
- **The civil war in Cambodia:** Operation Menu was key in the Cambodian context since it brought instability regarding political issues, especially regarding the current government that had been losing legitimacy due to Lon Nol. However, the Khmer Rouge was also getting stronger, which would have an impact on Cambodian future.
- **Ho Chi Minh Route:** This route was key in the context of the Vietnam war. It was mainly used by North Vietnam to infiltrate troops and get inside south Vietnam. This route is part of Cambodia and Laos, therefore it was also used by North Vietnam to get control over these countries. Delegates must discuss sovereignty around this route, also it is essential to understand geopolitics in the topic.
- **Escalation of the conflict:** Operation Menu becomes key when discussing the escalation of the Vietnam War due to the US involvement. In addition, the operation also brings a risk to the escalation in the whole of southeast Asia. Delegates must discuss the implications of a possible escalation and how can the UNSC support a de escalation. It is recommended to consider this graph:



- Civilians in Cambodia:** Delegates must consider how Cambodian citizen's security is affected by the Operation Menu since there have been civilian casualties in Cambodia. Therefore, delegates must consider the Fourth Geneva Convention regarding the importance of civilian protection in a war context. ***Note:** There's no detail in the existent web sites, therefore delegates can also use crisis to get more information.

BLOCK POSITIONS

Communist Bloc: This block has the North Vietnamese leadership, and includes the Khmer Rouge guerillas regarding Cambodia. Taking into account the context of the Cold War, it is strongly supported by the Soviet Union and China, this support was regarding the army but also ideological influence in North Vietnam. Regarding North Vietnam actors, this includes the Viet Cong and the National Liberation Front. In addition, even though the Cambodian Norodom Sihanouk government was declared neutral in the Vietnam War. However, it tolerated the presence of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese armed forces and opposed the US bombardments.

Capitalist Bloc: This block was under the United States leadership, in order to support South Vietnam in the context of the Vietnam War, and avoid the spread of communism. Inside Cambodia, it was supported by the anti-communist leader Lon Nol, who was also

backed also by the US and has an ongoing plan of a coup against the Cambodian government. The United Kingdom and the Fifth French Republic had geopolitical interests in the area, and relations with the United States, however, they have declared a neutral position regarding operation Menu.

QARMAS

- According to international law, to what extent is Operation Menu Valid? What are the causes and consequences of this?
- What are the limitations that the UNSC has when intervening in Cambodia? How it can intervene?
- What is your delegation's position on Vietnam War? Consider the bloq positions, geopolicis, and cooperation with the directly involved States
- How can the UNSC assure cambodian citizens security and human rights protection?
- How can the UN create a guideline on military interventions considering sovereignty and already existing international laws?

Useful links

1. President Nixon's Cambodia Incursion Address:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cAAnoqmksg>
2. 18 March 1969: Operation Menu and Secret Carpet Bombing in Cambodia:
<https://vietnamtheartofwar.com/1969/03/18/18th-march-1969-operation-menu-and-secret-carpet-bombing-in-cambodia/>
3. The Vietnam war explained in 25 minutes:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tNTh6K1XXU>

4. [Operation Menu & Nixon's Bombing of Cambodia:](https://study.com/academy/lesson/video/cambodia-and-laos-impact-of-major-operations-under-nixon.html)
<https://study.com/academy/lesson/video/cambodia-and-laos-impact-of-major-operations-under-nixon.html>
5. The Geopolitics of Vietnam war: <https://thediplomat.com/2015/02/the-geopolitics-of-the-vietnam-war/>

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TOPIC B: Yom Kippur War

Introduction to the topic

CURRENT DATE: OCTOBER 13, 1973

On October 6, 1973, the Yom Kippur war started with a surprise attack by Syria and Egypt directed towards Israel. Its name originates from the day of its start: the day of Yom Kippur. The holiest day on the Jewish calendar was now the theatre of a conflict being fought on two fronts. The conflict escalated rapidly, eventually causing the indirect confrontation of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This eventually caused the intervention of the highest power of international security: the United Nations Security Council.

Key Concepts

- **Proxy Warfare:** An armed conflict in which one or more third parties support one of the combatants. The supported combatant fights in favour of the interests of the third party.
- **Border Dispute:** When a state claims sovereignty over a territory that another state also claims or administers.
- **Occupation:** A temporary control exerted by a military over a piece of land that lays outside of the boundaries of the state that the aforementioned military serves.
- **Embargo:** A restriction of trade and other economic activities imposed by one or more states over a state or a group of these. It aims to apply pressure on the receivers by limiting their ability to import and export.
- **Ceasefire:** A temporary cease of hostilities between two conflicting powers. It aims to prevent further violence or discuss terms for peace or rendition.

Historical Context

After the Second World War, the idea of a Jewish state became quite attractive amongst European Jews. Even though Zionism had existed since the 1870's (when Theodor Herzl first proposed it), the Holocaust propelled the popularity and reach of the ideology and further established moral justification for its fruition; becoming a decisive factor when understanding the creation of the State of Israel.

After the creation of the United Nations, the newly found General Assembly established the Special Committee on Palestine, which recommended the creation of an independent Arab State, and independent Jewish State, and the cease of the British colonial mandate. It also suggested the management of the city of Jerusalem to be that of international trusteeship (i.e., *corpus separatum*). This was adopted through A/RES/181(II) and A/RES/185(S-2). The aforementioned information is key for the development of the committee.

In 1947, Israeli paramilitary organisations (namely Irgun, Haganah) began attacking the British Administration. Simultaneously, European Jews began settling in the coast, especially in the cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv (Note: Jewish immigration to the area started as early as the late 1920's. The volume of said immigration increased notably after the Second World War). With this began an event which is known by Palestinians (and today a wider community of historians, among others) as the Nakba. Only in 1948, a large majority of Palestinians were expelled and forcibly displaced from their homes, with estimates ranging between 750,000 and 1 million (*various sources, please contact the chair if you deem these necessary*) at first by Zionist paramilitaries, and then, after the formal establishment of the State of Israel, by the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

Immediately after the creation of Israel, a multinational coalition of Arab countries attacked it. This conflict ended with the 1949 armistice. With this, UN involvement also rose in the Middle East, starting with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) established and reinforced by the means of S/RES/48, S/RES/50 and S/RES/54.

In 1954, a pan-Arab nationalist and socialist, Gamal Abdel Nasser, took office of the presidency of Egypt, taking a hostile stance towards Israel. In 1956, he nationalised the Suez Canal, which, at the time, was owned by a Franco-British consortium. These two countries,

enraged by Nasser's actions, made a covert deal with the government of Israel: Israel would invade Egypt; afterwards, the United Kingdom and France would intervene as "peacemakers", seizing control over the canal. After Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula and the uncovering of the anglo-french strategy, all three countries faced heavy international pressure by the United Nations and particularly powerful states, mainly the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. This was a political victory for Egypt, despite a poor military performance. Shortly thereafter, the General Assembly voted in favour of the establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF, set with A/RES/997(ES-1), A/RES/998(ES-1) and A/RES/1001(ES-1)), a military operation to ensure the withdrawal of IDF, French and British personnel from the Sinai Peninsula back to the armistice lines set in 1949. These events are colloquially known as the Suez Crisis.

The next major conflict occurred in 1967, and is commonly known as the Six-day war. In the first months of 1967, the UNEF began withdrawing personnel from the Sinai Peninsula. Soon, the IDF launched a series of attacks at Egyptian bases, fearing an invasion. This led to the partial destruction of Egypt's air force, giving Israel air supremacy. Simultaneously, Syrian forces intensified the bombing of Israeli villages from positions in the Golan Heights. In retaliation, Israel responded by shooting down Syrian fighter jets. These actions enraged Egypt, and Nasser ordered his military to mobilise towards Israel, stationing them in the Sinai Peninsula. However, Israel was militarily superior, and the war quickly finalised. This war was the prelude for S/RES/242, which overwrote the original partition plan for Palestine, drafted in A/RES/181(II).

Current Situation

Aside from sporadic skirmishes, the situation remained relatively stable until the sixth day of the tenth month of the ongoing year, nineteen seventy-three. After their victory in 1967, Israel retained control of the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula, in an utter and complete violation of the will of the Security Council, set unanimously on the twenty-second day of the month of November of the year nineteen sixty seven. On the afternoon of October 6, Syrian and Egyptian forces crossed their respective ceasefire lines. Fighting has been non-

stop since then, totalling 7 days of war. The Security Council, preoccupied by the violent escalation of the war, summons all members to an extraordinary session.

Relevant approaches

No Docility: Delegates must be blunt and dire with their actions. Their alignment to their bloc and the decisiveness of their actions will be key to the success of the committee. Their positions must bear material historical accuracy and be momentous for the direness of the situation. For delegations without direct involvement in the conflict, it may be useful to use economic coercion, simple condemnation/declaration of support, or any other action that is sanctionatory or appraising to one of the parties of the conflict.

Prevent Escalation: The promotion of dialogue is prioritised over the promotion of further conflict for certain delegations. Delegations who are directly or partially involved in the conflict should justify their use of force legally by understanding the actions of their counterpart.

Humanitarian Focus: Civilians are suffering with this war. They must be cared for and aid must be provided. Detriment to civilians must be justified legally (this is notably challenging).

Block Positions

Arab States: Advocate in favour of the joint operation by Egypt and Syria, and the support of the Soviet Union. Remember, the ideological objective of this bloc is Palestinian self-determination through statehood, and in most cases, the end of the State of Israel. Be cautious in order to maintain diplomatic ties and ensure economic and political stability for your country.

Israel: Emphasises security concerns, the right of the people of Israel to settle in the levant and American support. Uphold Israel's self-defence with a legal and ethical framework. Attempt to establish a legal foundation that gives grounds for Israel's The ideological objective of this bloc is the maintenance of a Jewish state; a position which

inherently comes with the defence of American Economic and Political interests in the region.

Non-aligned: Support a peaceful solution, structured in international law and the preservation of all of the parties involved. May support UN partition plans, or otherwise have their own, nuanced take.

QARMAS

- How can we ensure compliance with a ceasefire?
- What measures can be taken to address humanitarian needs in conflict-affected areas?
- How can we promote dialogue between the parties to prevent future wars?
- What role should the UN play in resolving territorial disputes?
- How can we balance national security with regional stability?

Useful links

[Yom Kippur War Documentary - The Arab Israeli Conflict \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Yom Kippur War 1973 - Sinai Front DOCUMENTARY \(youtube.com\)](#)

[BBC Two - Secondary Schools, Arab Israeli Conflict, The Yom Kippur War](#)

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