



SIMUN X

St. Ignatius Model United Nations

Tenth Annual Conference

Israeli/Palestinian Crisis Cabinets

November 5, 2011

St. Ignatius College Prep | Chicago, IL

Background Guide Contents:

Letter from the Chair	3
History of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	4
The Oslo Peace Process	6
Topics for Discussion	8



Greetings Delegates,

Let me first officially welcome you to this year's SIMUN X conference. Our Saint Ignatius Model United Nations Team has put in tremendous effort since last year to prepare for the conference, and watching your hard work, as delegates, will be a wonderful reward for all the late nights, frantic planning, and multiple cups of coffee necessary to pull off this feat. My name is Jane Skapek, and I will be serving as the Chair for the Palestinian Cabinet, in our Israeli/Palestinian Joint Crisis Committees. Serving with me will be my political officer, John Simon, and vice chair, Barbara Taylor. Opposite, in the Israeli Cabinet, is the lovely Miss Bridget Rose, chairing, and Jay Hartman as her political officer. Palestine's recent bid for statehood has presented us with a unique opportunity to debate issues currently happening on the global stage. We have high expectations for this committee, and believe the topic will present an opportunity for dynamic discussions in both cabinets.

As Palestine presents its case for statehood to the United Nations, you too will have a chance to argue your position in front of other delegates. In addition to debating with other delegates within your cabinet, both cabinets will present their case before two other SIMUN X committees, the Security Council and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Your presentation and use of rhetoric will determine the outcome of these hearings. Incidentally, as a side note, the start date for our committees will be September 1st, 2011. We encourage delegates to diligently prepare research to in order to faithfully represent their assigned representative's position, while proposing innovative solutions to this complex problem.

As far as position papers go, delegates from both committees are required to submit position papers, with research on their person (position), the topic, and the issue as it pertains to their respective country. However, delegates will be mainly judged on their performance in committee, so I encourage you: speak! No matter how new you may be to Model United Nations, the one rule is always: you get out of this experience the effort you put in. This said, I know I speak for the dais staff of both committees when I wish you all, Good Luck! If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to contact me at the email listed below. I look forward to seeing you all at SIMUN X!

Yours in Diplomacy,

Jane Skapek

Jane.skapek@students@ignatius.org

History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

The complex modern conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians has its roots in both Zionism and Arab-nationalism. At the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, an understanding was reached that Britain would be given custody of Palestine, under the condition that the British were to bolster the realization of a Jewish national home. In 1922, the border of Palestine was moved west of the Jordan River. However, Palestinians refused to cooperate with this British mandate, causing a violent Arab-nationalist revolt against both British rule, and the rising number of Jewish immigrants to the Holy Land. In response to this extreme faction of nationalism, the Jewish people formed an armed defense organization, known as Haganah. In spite of British attempts to limit Jewish immigration into Palestine, an estimated 15,000 Jews per year immigrated to Palestine for over five years. As the Second World War and the Holocaust rolled around, Jewish immigration increased exponentially in order to escape persecution in Eastern Europe. In fact, in 1942, Zionist issued the Biltmore Declaration, referring to the British as the enemy for attempting to prevent Jews from seeking amnesty in the Holy Land by restricting immigration.

In 1948, British control of Palestine was officially terminated and the state of Israel was established. The Arab-nationalists violently rejected this course of action, and the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 shortly followed. Many neighboring Arab states, such as Egypt and Syria aided the Arab-nationalists. However, the result was a decisive Israeli victory, allowing Israel to expand its borders past the previous agreed upon boundaries for a Palestinian Arab state. In spite of the Israeli victory, the Arab states refused to recognize Israel as a legitimate nation.

During the years of the war, many Jews were displaced from Arab nations, fleeing to Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced out of Israel, into the Transjordan

regions. After the war, many Palestinians remaining in Israel were eventually granted citizenship; however they faced discriminatory and martial laws until 1966. Today, they have the same rights as Israeli citizens.

Conflict along the Jordanian border built up gradually, encompassing both small raids from both Israelis and Palestinians, and major incursions. Tensions between Israel and Egypt flared over the Lavon affair and Israel's establishment of the National Water Carrier Plan. Egypt's innate distrust of its own internal Jewish community led to retaliations, which caused Israel to attack an Egyptian military outpost in Gaza in February, 1955. After the attack, Egypt began to actively train, sponsor, and arm Palestinian volunteers from Gaza, to commit raids on Israel. This led to the founding of the Palestinian Liberation Army (PLO) in 1964.

In order to turn global attention to their cause, Palestinian guerrilla groups turned to acts of terrorism against Israel, attacking civilians schools, homes, airports, even embassies. By 1972, Palestinian terrorism reached its height, cumulating in several deadly massacres, not the least of which being the Sabena Flight 572 hijacking, the Munich Massacre, the Savoy Hotel attack, and the Coastal Road Massacre. PLO operatives in Lebanon organized attacks throughout the '70s and '80s.



The Oslo Peace Process:

In the 1990s, both the Palestinians and the Israelis agreed to meet for the Oslo Peace Process. Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) attempted to negotiate a two state solution, which as eventually unsuccessful. However, the Peace Accord did have several key features, which were considered a major step forward in the peace process. One of the main features of the Accord was the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA), a governing institution, separate from Israel, which would govern Palestinian communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel ceded authority to the PA in several regions, giving the institution economic authority and governmental right over Palestinian communities, including a police force, legislature, and legal courts. In exchange for this concession, Israel expected the Palestinian Authority to promote tolerance of Israel in Palestinian communities.



Map of Israel and Palestine

In actuality, however, the Oslo Peace Accords were less successful than was hoped. They failed to bring about an official Palestinian state, and failed to solve other key points, such as the status of settlements, and reparations for Palestinians who suffered mistreatment under Israeli law in the '60s. In July of 2000, the Camp David Summit was called in attempt to resolve any remaining issues, but in disintegrated in the wake of the Second Intifada, which broke out in September of the same year. The Second Intifada is a period of intensified Israeli-Palestinian

violence that has continued unabated to the present. Since 1948 and the present day, there have been an estimated over 15,000 casualties caused by this violence. Since then, a blockade of the Gaza Strip has been maintained by Israel and Egypt since June of 2007. Tensions again spiked in 2006, when Hamas, a long criticized sponsor of terrorist activity, won the majority of the Palestinians legislative elections. This triggered retaliatory economic sanctions against the Palestinian Authority by Israel. In June of 2007, a coalition of Hamas and Fatah in the PA allowed them to take control of the Gaza Strip, which they have retained since.

Topics For Discussion:

Some key issues to consider in debate:

- The mutual recognition of both Palestine and Israel by neighboring countries and the rest of the global community
- Geographical Borders and border security
- The control of Jerusalem
- The freedom of movement from Palestinians
- Legal status of Palestinian refugees
- Israeli settlements

