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JCC Cold War: United States

Abeer Shah & Rylan D'Souza
Chairs



JCC Cold War US

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Honorable delegates,

Greetings and welcome to the 14th iteration of George H. Moody Middle School's Model United Nations Conference! Your chairs for this committee are Abeer Shah and Rylan D'Souza and they are thrilled to meet all of you at the conference later this year. Abeer Shah is a 7th grader at Moody Middle School and has been participating in Model UN since 6th grade, winning seven awards total. Outside of school, you can find him playing various instruments, picking up a tennis racket, or playing video games. Rylan D'Souza is a 7th grader at Moody Middle School and has participated in Model UN since 6th grade, attending conferences such as GSMUN and WMUN. Outside of school, he is the co-founder of a Richmond Magazine called "Tree of Life Stories" and also plays soccer for Richmond United's ECNL Team.

This committee will be very intense and fast-paced, so it is important to have a comprehensive grasp of the topics before you begin. The majority of this committee will take place in Berlin, Cuba, and possibly the U.S. Topic one will begin in June 1961 and topic two will begin in October 1962. Even though it may have seemed like a puppet war, the Cold War threatened to have devastating effects on people all across the globe. The war was between two big sides, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., and they clashed over differing ideas such as Communism vs. Capitalism. It spread through multiple continents and had everlasting impacts on countless regions. The first topic, the Berlin Crisis, refers to the climax of the Cold War when an altercation between the two superpowers occurred in Berlin. The second topic, the Cuban Missile Crisis, refers to when the U.S.S.R. demonstrated nuclear power in Cuba after the U.S. planted nuclear-capable IEMs in Italy and Turkey. It is up to you all, the delegates, to find solutions that would lead to an end to this conflict benefitting the United States.

As a reminder, the dress code for this conference is Western Business Attire. This includes but is not limited to suits and ties for boys and formal dresses for girls. Position papers are not required but are HIGHLY recommended and mandatory to be considered for awards. Please send your position papers to hcps-shahav1@henricostudents.org and hcps-dsouzarc@henricostudents.org by April 10th at 5:00 P.M. and give editor access in order for us to review and provide feedback for your paper. Any paper submitted after this deadline will not be accepted as this is a strict deadline.

Throughout the committee, we will be looking for delegates who show dedication, collaboration, and strong leadership qualities in order to decide awards. We will be looking for dedication through your position paper and research, and we should see thorough preparation and comprehensive analyses. **Any usage of AI on the position paper will be an immediate disqualification from awards, a possible ban from the conference, and possibly a meeting with the conference sponsor and student's principal.** At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, please do not come up to us and argue about the awards as these decisions are final. However, we are glad to give you feedback anytime.

Finally, please bring your own snacks and lunch if you have dietary restrictions, and bring money if you want to buy food from the charity cart. To close, we wish you successful preparation and hope you have a wonderful and beneficial experience at the 14th iteration of Moody Model UN in the committee, JCC Cold War US.

Your Chairs,
Abeer Shah & Rylan D'Souza

MMSMUN XIV

George H. Moody Middle School Model United Nations

JCC Cold War - US

Topic 1: The Berlin Crisis

Topic 2: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Committee Overview

The Cold War was a long period of political and military tension between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) lasting from 1945 to 1991. The Cold War began right after WWII, and was a result of the political differences between the two countries. The US was a democracy and a heavy supporter of capitalism, while, on the other hand, the USSR was run by a communist dictatorship. These opposite systems resulted in a deep mistrust between the two nations, resulting in long-lasting issues affecting millions, if not billions, of people around the world. The Soviet Union held control over Eastern Europe by installing communist regimes in

puppet states. As the expansion of communism continued to increase, the U.S aimed to prevent the spread of communism across Europe and the rest of the world. The US and USSR didn't share the same goals and disagreed about the aftermath of WWII. Their contrasting political stances, ideologies, and views eventually turned them into bitter enemies. This sparked the beginning of the Cold War.

In this historical committee, delegates will participate in a very intense and fast-paced environment. They will also have to be able to think on their feet and provide comprehensive solutions to the urgent issues of the Cold War. Delegates will need to be able to work with others and

apply their research and tactical approach to prevent the struggles of this daring time. The goal is to essentially “defeat” the U.S.S.R. and benefit the U.S.. Delegates will be working to provide extensive solutions using their quick thinking skills. As World War II had already left the US in a poor economic and political state, the Cold War not only indirectly caused millions of casualties, but also the division of two nations that were once allies.

This war consisted of several countries, but this committee will be specifically focused on benefiting the US against the Soviet Union. After WWII, the United States became one of the most dominant nations economically and militarily . However, their most significant change was moving away from isolationism, shifting towards a global system that was centered around containing the spread of communism. Their shift to globalism was driven by threats of the U.S.S.R. to expand

communism in parts of Europe. Overall, the splitting of views across the globe led to proxy wars fueled by the US and the Soviet Union (Korean War, Vietnam War, and the Chinese Civil War)

Topic 1: The Berlin Crisis

Topic Introduction

The Berlin Crisis was a major confrontation in the Cold War focused on the political and strategic status of Berlin in the aftermath of WWII. Germany at the time was divided into four occupation zones, each occupied by either Germany, France, UK, or the Soviet Union. This destabilized it immensely. Even though West Berlin fell in the Allied Powers’ territory, it was located deep in Eastern Germany, making protection from a communist takeover a constant challenge for the Western powers. In 1948, the Soviet Union cut off land access to West Berlin, prompting a year-long Allied airlift that ultimately forced the reopening of access routes since the Soviets were just

wasting resources. By 1958, however, a similar event would have doomed the city, as it was already too populous and too prosperous to be supplied by air. At the same time, the United States economic stability and political freedom as a landmark of capitalist success around the world. However, for the Soviet Union, the existence of West Berlin was becoming a dangerous liability as the divided city highlighted the sharp contrast between capitalist success and communist poverty, and the freedom of movement between both sectors led to a mass exodus from the Eastern side. Looking to stop the flow of people from East to West and destabilize the military power of Western Germany, Soviet Prime Minister Khrushchev insisted in his November 1958 speech that it was time for the United States to pull out of the city completely. This event sparked the beginning of the Berlin Crisis.

History of the Topic

Following the defeat of Nazi Germany in WWII, Germany was divided into four different occupation zones. Central and Eastern Germany was controlled by the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom controlled the West and the North, America controlled the South, and France controlled the South-West. Berlin, regarded as the most strategic location in Germany, was surrounded by Soviet Union territory at the time. However, the city itself was split into West Berlin (USA, France, Britain) and East Berlin (USSR). The Soviet Union wanted to take control of West Berlin to shift the entire city to communist influence and stabilize its government, mainly because of the city's location. This sparked tension not only between Germany and the Soviet Union but also within the Allied Powers.

In March 1948, after economic instability and concerns, the Allied Powers decided to merge West Berlin into a single economic unit (trizone). This promised

efficiency of economic transport throughout the area. However, the USSR, already feeling hateful sentiment towards the Capitalist West Berlin, only felt their hatred grow when seeing the economic stability of West Berlin. So, in response, the Soviet Union withdrew from the Allied Control Council, officially marking the end of its relationship with the Western World. In June 1948, tensions only grew after the United States established a currency reform in the trizone, uniting all regions under one currency. West Berlin was now growing into a nation capable of efficiently running itself and its economy, so, feeling threatened, the Soviet Union decided to use the fact that West Berlin was surrounded by Communist territory and launched a land blockade on the Capitalist State. The blockade was a short-lived success for the USSR as the Allies started one of the most famous campaigns ever known as the “Berlin Airlift”, which built up almost a year's worth

of necessities for West Berlin. Because the Soviets failed to destabilize the growing West Berlin, the USSR officially divided Berlin in November 1948 when a separate municipal government was set up in East Berlin, ending all hopes of diplomatic talks.

Following the failed blockade of West Berlin, not only was Berlin split into two regions, but so was the whole nation. In 1949, Germany was officially split into the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). After a decade of economic growth and stability in the West, shortages of food and lack of stability in the East, the USSR was on high alert due to the strength of West Berlin. Not being able to figure out a solution after the failure of the Berlin blockade, the Soviet Union resorted to cutting all ties with West Germany and West Berlin, and in 1958, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev announced an ultimatum

to the United States that he wanted them out of Berlin, or else.

Analysis of the Topic

Known as one of the most defining moments in the Cold War and in global history, the Berlin Crisis was significant in establishing the direction of the Cold War and the clashing ideals of capitalism and communism. This crisis, on a deeper analysis, is about not only the fight between capitalism and communism, but also the fight between the East and the West. The fight between totalitarianism and democracy. Not only did the Berlin Crisis decide the fate of the divided city, but it also influenced the surrounding European borders drastically. At the time, much of Europe had sovereign borders with its own allies; however, an enormous number of nations were forced to choose between the USA and the USSR. NATO (Northern Atlantic Treaty Organization) was formed in 1949 after the Berlin blockade from the

USSR, as the United States of America, Britain, and France saw the threat posed by the opposition to capitalism, and the blockade was used as an excuse to finally form a coalition worthy of competing with the Soviet Union.

Germany as a whole was destabilizing rapidly due to the mass exodus of immigrants moving from East to West in the nation. Their decisions were guided by poor living conditions and a lack of democracy in East Germany; however, instead of trying to solve internal problems with their government, the Soviet Union instead built the Berlin Wall. While this provided a short-term solution to preventing the mass immigrant movement, it only further increased tensions in Germany and Europe. The poor planning taken when building the Berlin Wall was seen on October 28th at Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin, when American and Soviet tanks faced off for about 16 hours. This event

marked the beginning of a series of altercations between the two sides at the Berlin Wall, which brought the two countries closer to an utter war.

The impacts of the Berlin Wall and the Checkpoint Charlie event were not only seen in Berlin, but also throughout Europe. Throughout Germany, foreign offices and citizens became increasingly agonized because of the constant tension between the two superpowers of the world. Not only seen physically from the division in Germany, but the buildup of pressure was seen worldwide as various ideologies clashed. The impacts globally were immense, not only philosophically, but also economically and politically. This crisis's impact marked the beginning of the Cold War, a period where the world came closest to nuclear fallout.

The Berlin Crisis officially began in 1961; however, the disagreements that caused it had been seen decades before. In 1948, negative sentiment toward West

Berlin hit its first tipping point when the Soviet Union started a land blockade of Berlin. Then, in 1958, another crisis hit when the USSR gave the United States the ultimatum to leave Berlin. The crisis was mostly averted in 1961. Not only were the impacts of the Berlin Crisis seen in Germany, they were also seen throughout Europe and across the world. Tensions blew up in places like Korea and Vietnam, as the first real situation of the Cold War was seen. The first real situation of Capitalism V.S. Communism had been seen.

Possible Solutions

The aftermath of WWII resulted in the ongoing conflicts not only between the division of Germany into two opposing political stances, but also the everlasting ideological issues between the US and USSR. Following the decline of the Berlin Crisis, millions of East Germans had fled to West Germany. This weakened the East German Economy and negatively reflected

on the Soviet Union, due to the communist influence and major disparity regarding the lives of civilians. Many migrated to West Germany seeking equality, better living standards, and more opportunities, which the East did not provide. As time went on, this issue significantly increased in severity, which led to the infamous construction of the Berlin Wall. This wall physically stopped the migration of travelers from the East to the West, serving as an embodiment, creating a powerful symbol of the Cold War and the iron curtain. These crucial events practically ended the conflicts during the Berlin Crisis, as the construction of the wall solidified the division of Germany.

Although the opposing political views over Germany started to gradually decrease, the root causes of the Berlin Crisis were never fully resolved. These simple political and ideological issues may have seemed like a minor conflict, but they resulted in decades of proxy wars, tension,

and a bond between two nations that once shared the same battlefield. In this committee, delegates are aligned to the political beliefs of the US, supporting capitalism instead of communism. Positions such as world leaders, military officials, and political figures will all play a vital role in the possible solutions and outcomes throughout this committee. Resolutions in this topic should benefit the US by influencing capitalism and provide a diplomatic approach to not only overtake nations, but also to prevent triggering any further conflicts. These resolutions should be elaborate and display the delegates' comprehensive understanding of the topic while also being realistic. Delegates should aim for creating resolutions that highlight the real stances of political figures while also turning their ideas into action.

Previous resolutions attempted by the US had both positive and negative effects on the overall outcome of the war.

The US had a diplomatic approach to the Berlin Crisis to prevent any major conflicts between them and the Soviet Union, the most famous being the Berlin Airlift. As explained earlier, the US gave important resources to West Berlin, such as food, fuel, and supplies. This solution kept Western Berlin alive while still avoiding war with the Soviet Union. Furthermore, the US decided not to use ground troops to physically break the blockade, preventing the possible escalation of the crisis. Additionally, this crisis led to the creation of NATO, which allowed allies of the US to come together and protect Western Europe. The United States had a very systematic idea about how it could resolve these issues without starting a war, which not only helped Western Europe but also the global impression of the US. These alliances made the United States stronger and also increased the influence of capitalism over communism. Although the diplomatic resolutions may have been

effective, they never fully solved the root cause of ideological differences between the Soviet Union and the US. By analyzing the previous solutions and obstacles the US faced during the Berlin Crisis, delegates can use these ideas to strengthen themselves in order to make a possible resolution. Overall, these solutions should provide a strong grasp of the topic and help improve the alliances, government security, and influence of capitalism.

Questions to Consider

1. What strategies were used by the US and what possible strategies could be used to avoid direct military confrontation with the USSR while still defending West Berlin?
2. How did the construction of the Berlin Wall have negative consequences not only for people, but for the future progression of the war?

3. What strategies were used to promote capitalism in West Berlin to strengthen the US's political influence against communism?
4. How could the Berlin Crisis positively and negatively affect the progression of the Cold War and influence future government strategies?
5. What could be implemented into the Berlin Crisis to tackle the root cause of opposing ideologies instead of relying on division and possible military confrontation?

Topic 2: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Topic Introduction

The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the climax of the Cold War, was one of the most complex events during the Cold War. In October 1962, Nikita Khrushchev decided to order Soviet Union forces to deploy nuclear missiles in Cuba to discourage the

likelihood of U.S. aggression and protect one of its allies. However, the White House interpreted it as an act of war (rightfully, since Cuba's distance to the United States significantly amplified risks of a nuclear missile.) At this point, tensions and risks of a nuclear war were at its highest point because of U.S. missiles in Turkey and Soviet missiles in Cuba.

Though the Cuban Missile Crisis may hold a huge symbolic impact, the crisis didn't change too much in the Cold War's physical landscape. There was only one confirmed casualty throughout the entire event (a U.S. pilot who was shot down) and no infrastructure was harmed in a devastating manner. However, the symbolic importance of the Cuban Missile Crisis was immense. It served as a turning point of the Cold War, a sign that conflicts could be handled by both superpowers swiftly, professionally, and diplomatically. Delegates have the opportunity to keep the ending like

history (with a minor impact) or make it into a catastrophic world event.

History of the Topic

1949 marked the year that the global arms race accelerated rapidly & when the U.S. monopoly on nuclear weapons was ended, as the Soviet Union officially tested their first ever atomic bomb. According to a leaked letter from Director of Central Intelligence Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter to President Harry S. Truman, “an abnormal radio-active contamination was present in the atmosphere.” This led to an alarming realization in the White House that Moscow was progressing rapidly compared to predictions from CIA analysts, and it marked a huge American intelligence failure. America chose to preempt possible Kremlin action by announcing the test to the world, shocking the U.S.S.R. as they had no idea America had the capability to isolate and identify signs of a nuclear bomb. A year later, after the arms race had led to both

sides being juggernauts in terms of firepower, the Korean War broke out which deepened mistrust and showed both sides the importance of strengthening and supporting their global allies. Diplomacy and attempts at peaceful remediation only declined after the formation of the Warsaw Pact, which served as a counterpart to NATO. At this point, the Cold War was shaping up to be a massive arms race with limited interaction between both sides, until Cuba completely changed everything.

On January 1st, 1959, the ruthless dictator of Cuba, Fulgencio Batista was overthrown by Fidel Castro’s 26th of July Movement. This was sparked by decades of unrest and poor living conditions for the Cuban citizens. While Fidel Castro’s movement saved the U.S. from humiliation after they backed Batista (an unpopular, evil man) for 20 years as the Cuban leader it soon proved to be one of their biggest threats of the Cold War. In fact, it was only a

year after Castro took control of Cuba that he allied with the Soviet Union and their ideals, becoming the closest Communist ally to the Soviet Union. Gradually, as Cuba became stronger, the Soviet Union felt the need to get their arms into the nation. Hence, when the Soviet Union put missiles into Cuba, the Cuban Missile Crisis began.

Analysis of the Topic

The Cuban Missile Crisis was one of the most prominent conflicts of the Cold War between the US and USSR, caused by opposing political stances. This major confrontation had escalated from the Berlin Crisis and was the first look at a direct nuclear war. The US at the time had nuclear bombs in Turkey and Italy, located right next to the USSR. Because of this, the USSR felt threatened which caused them to rebel against the US. While this was happening, Fidel Castro took power in Cuba where he became an advocate for communism and allied with the USSR. The

US tried to overthrow Castro through an operation called Bay of Pigs Invasion, which sent Cuban exiles, trained by the CIA to invade Cuba. However, this invasion was poorly planned and Castro's forces were ready and stronger than anticipated. Without full US military support, the operation quickly failed which kept Castro in power and gave off a negative impression on the US. Additionally, this invasion strengthened the connection between Cuba and the USSR, and Cuba wanted protection from the USSR.

Following this event, in October, 1962, US spy planes spotted the construction of two Soviet nuclear missile sites being built in Cuba. If launched, these missiles could destroy most of the US in a matter of minutes and President John F. Kennedy saw this as a massive threat. The US set up a Crisis Management Committee (ExComm) to explore different options. In preparation for a possible attack, the US had three different options. The first was to

initiate air strikes, which would destroy the missile sites but risked a USSR retaliation. Next, they could invade Cuba once again, however this could risk the start of the war. Lastly, the US could create a naval blockade which was less aggressive but still prevented the arrival of Soviet missiles. Kennedy decided that this solution would be most effective because it would prevent a war with the USSR and Cuba while still making sure they stopped the missile sites. Both the US and the USSR were prepared with nuclear weaponry for an attack that could occur at any moment and during this period the world was on edge for a 13-day period. During this time, a US plane was shot down over Cuba which raised tensions and almost started the beginning of a war. However, President Kennedy and Nikita Khrushchev sent secret negotiations back and forth about ways to prevent an unwanted future conflict. Khrushchev offered to remove the nuclear missiles in Cuba if the US promised not to

invade Cuba, further demanding the removal of the missile sites in Turkey.

Due to this, the US publicly agreed to not invade Cuba, however they secretly agreed to remove the nuclear missiles in Turkey, narrowly avoiding the start of a Nuclear War. The Cuban missile crisis marked what is referred to as “the closest the world has come to nuclear war” but was avoided due to the prioritization of diplomacy. On October 28th, 1962, Khrushchev announced the removal of the missile which brought the end to the crisis. At the core of this conflict, the main issue wasn’t really about Cuba, but asserting dominance between the US and USSR of their political beliefs. The US viewed the USSR as very aggressive and untrustworthy which resulted in every move by the USSR being anticipated as a possible threat. At its root, the US had to focus on the safety of innocent civilians as an all-out nuclear war would’ve resulted in hundreds of millions of

casualties. Having nuclear missile sites being built in Cuba by the Soviet Union served as a major threat as strikes for that range could destroy populations within seconds. It also appeared negatively for the US to not be able to stop an attack by the USSR happening so close to their own territory. President Kennedy believed that this would be a signal of weakness, destabilizing the US's global power and image.

The Cuban Missile Crisis had several immediate effects which dictated the progression of the Cold War. Direct military confirmation was narrowly avoided and Cuba remained Communist but was isolated for the further escalation of the war which left them feeling betrayed. This event greatly strengthened the political image of John F. Kennedy was viewed as a courageous and decisive leader to handle the conflict without the need for war. On the other hand, Khrushchev's position in the

USSR was weakened as after all the missile sites and threats to attack, he seemed to back down under the pressure from the US. The crisis led to the establishment of the Moscow-Washington "Hotline" which connected the US and the USSR so they could directly communicate and prevent future misunderstandings between them. Ultimately, this diplomatic approach by the US and USSR not only saved the lives of millions, if not billions of people, but it prevented the possible escalation of a catastrophic nuclear war.

Possible Solutions

The Cuban Missile Crisis marked a daring point in the Cold War, where both the US and USSR were on the verge of a possible attack, which could have led to everlasting global issues. Although the Crisis served as a massive conflict, there wasn't really a major devastating aftermath as the conflict was resolved through diplomacy. However, throughout the Cuban

Missile Crisis there was always a threat and a feeling that neither nation could be attacked at any moment, having the entire world on edge.

In this committee, diplomatic solutions benefitting the US should be used without escalating the situation. Certain measures to prevent the possible nuclear missile attacks should be used to put an end to any sort of conflict as soon as possible. These solutions should strengthen the government by possibly allying with other nations, implementing security measures, and most importantly, prioritizing the safety of US citizens. Solutions should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the topic and have clear steps on how this solution can be implemented. Include different perspectives to see how actions can benefit and also harm other countries, governments, and people. These solutions should avoid any sort of military escalation to prevent mass casualties and nuclear conflict.

Delegates should work together with other political figures in the committee to have different ideas, values, and perspectives implemented in a resolution. Solutions with collaboration to prevent this global crisis will be looked favorably upon. However, delegates may need to adapt based on how the committee progresses and possible crises that may occur throughout. Positions such as world leaders, military officials, and political figures will all play a vital role in the possible solutions and outcomes throughout this committee. Lastly, in order to create a realistic and successful solution, it is most important to prioritize the safety of citizens and benefitting the US and capitalism against the USSR.

Questions to Consider

1. What strategies were used and what are possible strategies benefitting the US to prevent missile strikes from Cuba without engaging in direct military confrontation?

2. What diplomatic approach can be used to escalate tensions while still maintaining global credibility?
3. How can communication resources between the US and USSR be implemented in the progression of the Cold War and to have direct contact of government officials?
4. What strategies were used to put political and ideological pressure on the USSR to force an agreement, and to avoid nuclear war while still maintaining the US's global image?
5. How may nuclear weaponry at this time positively affect the outcome of the war, and if so, to what extent?

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