MEDIMUN MMXIX Annual Session 2019

Historical Security Council
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Introduction the Historical Security Council:

The Historical Security Council (HSC) at MUN resembles the Security Council (SC) in that it’s role is to preserve international peace and security; but instead of discussing current day issues, we discuss scenarios that have occurred in the past that have greatly impacted our world today. This year, these events are the Tiananmen Square Crisis (1989) and the fall of the Berlin wall and reunification of Germany (1989-90).

Like the SC, the HSC is composed of 16 members, 5 of which have a permanent seat and are know as the P5: China, France, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States of America (USA), and the Soviet Union (USSR). These 5 nations have veto-power, meaning that they can unilaterally block action from being taken by the SC. Any decision requires a majority vote of at least ⅔ of the votes out of the 16 members.

The ‘historical’ aspect of this committee means that any references to events in the 'future' are not allowed. This offers delegates the opportunity to re-write history rather than re-enact it.

HISTORICAL STARTING POINT: 28TH OF NOVEMBER 1989
Topic 1: The question of The Tiananmen Square Crisis of 1989

General Overview:

The 1989 Tiananmen Square protests—known in China as the June 4 incident—were student-led demonstrations that challenged the Maoist one-party political system. Set against a backdrop of rapid economic and social reform and changing international circumstances, the protests mirrored anxieties of the country’s future; China was in the midst of inflation and political corruption. Students, called for democracy—including freedom of the press and freedom of speech. At the height of the protests, one million students, workers and other ordinary citizens gathered in the Square. Chinese Premier Li Peng declared martial law; 30,000 troops marched into the Square to quash the protests and estimates vary from 200-10,000 deaths. This massacre led to mass civil unrest.

International Reaction:

In response to this series of events, the international community denounced the Chinese government. Chinese students living abroad staged demonstrations of their own in cities in Europe, America, Middle East and other parts of Asia. Most significant countries at the time simply condemned Chinese action. Some took a harder stance—for example, the USA suspended military sales and visits to China.
while Japan froze all loans to China for a (short) period of time. The UN Commission for Human Rights reminded China that they violated the terms of the Charter, which they have voluntarily signed and vowed to uphold. Other UN action was prevented due to member states’ personal interests and China’s veto power. China denounced Western nations who imposed sanctions on the country and deemed it interference in internal affairs.

**Parties/ Figures Involved:**

**Hu Yaobang:** From 1980-87 he was the General Secretary of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) who oversaw the purging of shameless Maoists and corrupt or incompetent members from the party. He replaced them with younger, better-educated men. He became a symbol for reform and progress after his death.

**Zhao Ziyang:** In the 80s he introduced “market socialist” and “open door” economic programs, boosting foreign investment and trade in China. He replaced Hu Yaobang as the General Secretary of CCP from 1987-89. He sympathized with and reached out to the demonstrators during Tiananmen Square protests. His seeming support towards the student pro-democracy demonstrations placed him at odds with other members of the party’s leadership.

**Deng Xiaoping:** After the Maoist regime and disastrous effects of the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), he restored China to domestic stability and economic growth. Standards of living rose, significant personal and cultural freedoms were introduced and ties were strengthened with the world economy. He was the paramount
leader of the government of China (People’s Republic of China) from 1978-89. He supported the use of force to subdue the protestors during the Tiananmen Square crisis.

**Li Peng:** He was the premier of the Government of China from 1987-98, working closely with Deng Xiaoping. He advocated a conservative approach to Chinese economic reform, thus he clashed with General Secretary Zhao Ziyang. As premier, Li Peng declared martial law during the Tiananmen Square crisis.

**Key Terms:**

**Martial law:** the imposition of direct military control of normal civilian functions by the government usually in response to a temporary emergency.

**Maoism:** the communist teachings of Mao Zedong (founder of People’ Republic of China and Chairman of CCP) including the idea of a permanent revolution and the importance of agricultural collectivization and small-scale industry.

**Cultural Revolution:** an extreme socio-political movement in China led by Mao Zedong, with the goal of preserving ‘true’ Communist Ideology by purging all capitalist, traditional elements from Chinese society.
Timeline:

**April 15, 1989** - Hu Yaobang, former general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party leader (CCP), dies. Hu had worked to move China toward a more open political system and had become a symbol of democratic reform.

**April 18, 1989** - Thousands of mourning students march through Beijing to Tiananmen Square, calling for a more democratic government. In the weeks that follow, thousands of people join the students in the square to protest against China's Communist rulers.

**May 13, 1989** - More than 100 students begin a hunger strike in Tiananmen Square. The number increases to several thousand over the next few days.

**May 19, 1989** - A rally at Tiananmen Square draws out an estimated 1.2 million people. General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Zhao Ziyang, appears at the rally and pleads for an end to the demonstrations. He was one of the moderates in the CCP and advocated for negotiations with the protestors.

**May 19, 1989** - Li Peng, the premier of the CCP, imposes martial law (the military controls civilian functions).

**June 1, 1989** - China halts live American news telecasts in Beijing, including CNN. Reporters are prohibited from photographing or videotaping any of the demonstrations or Chinese troops.

**June 4, 1989** - At about 1 a.m. Chinese troops reach Tiananmen Square. Throughout the day, Chinese troops fire on civilians and
students, ending the demonstrations. An official death toll has never been released.

June 5, 1989 - An unidentified man stands alone in the street, blocking a column of Chinese tanks. He remains there for several minutes before being pulled away by onlooker

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Topic 2: The question of The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the Reunification of Germany

Introduction:
The events that began in 1989 were not immediately seen as starting the process of German reunification. It is crucial to remember that politicians in the FRG, the GDR, Europe and the United States, did not actively work towards or even want German reunification at the start of 1989. What caused this change was the peoples of East Germany themselves, who rose against an oppressive regime, that for a variety of reasons, the majority of GDR citizens no longer wanted to be a part of. It was their action that forced the FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl to dramatically propose a roadmap to reunification in November 1989. It is important to take this into consideration when forming the political stances of your assigned countries, and the consequent writing of your resolutions.
Key Terms:

**FRG & GDR:** In the period after World War II, Germany was divided into four occupation zones, with the British, French, Americans, and Soviets each controlling one zone. The city of Berlin was also divided in a like fashion. This arrangement was supposed to be temporary, but as Cold War animosities began to harden, it became increasingly evident that the division between the communist and non-communist controlled sections of Germany and Berlin would become permanent. In May 1946, the United States halted reparation payments from West Germany to the Soviet Union. In December, the United States and Great Britain combined their occupation zones into what came to be known as Bizonia. France agreed to become part of this arrangement, and in May 1949, the three zones became one. On May 23rd, the West German Parliamentary Council met and formally declared the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). The Soviets responded by forming the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to govern their occupation zone, on the 7th of October 1949.

**USSR:** In post-revolutionary Russia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is established, comprising a confederation of Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine, and the Transcaucasian Federation. Also known as the Soviet Union, the new communist state was the successor to the Russian Empire and the first country in the world to be based on Marxist socialism.

**SED:** The Socialist Unity Party of Germany, established in April 1946, was the governing Marxist–Leninist political party of the German Democratic Republic from the country's foundation in October 1949. The GDR was a one-party state but other
institutional popular front parties were permitted to exist in alliance with the SED. (Christian Democratic Union, the Liberal Democratic Party, the Democratic Farmers’ Party, and the National Democratic Party)

**Helmut Kohl:** Helmut Kohl was a German statesman who served as Chancellor of West Germany from 1982, and as the chairman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) from 1973.

**Erich Honecker:** Erich Honecker was a German politician who, as the General Secretary of the Socialist Unity Party, led the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) from 1971 until the weeks preceding the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

**Mikhail Gorbachev:** Mikhail Gorbachev is a Soviet politician. He was the eighth leader of the Soviet Union, having been General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) from 1985 and the country’s head of state from 1988.

**Nikolai Potugalov:** Nikolai Sergeyevich Portugalov was a Soviet journalist and politician. He was a member of the Central Committee of the CPSU and adviser to party leader Mikhail Gorbachev. He was a key link between the FRG and the Soviet Government.

**Hallstein Doctrine:** was a key doctrine in the foreign policy of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1955–1970. As usually presented, it prescribed that the Federal Republic would not establish or maintain diplomatic relations with any state that recognized the German Democratic Republic.
Ostpolitik: (politics toward the East) In the early seventies, one of the first steps towards détente was taken by Willy Brandt - leader of West Germany. He wanted to improve relations with East Germany and Eastern Europe. Discussions between Brandt and the East German leader Willi Stoph began quickly, but no formal agreement was reached as Brandt would not recognise East Germany as a sovereign state. Initially, this initiative was greeted with suspicion in the East and enthusiasm in the West. In 1970, Brandt signed the Treaty of Moscow (treaty of non-aggression) with Brezhnev and soon afterwards the Treaty of Warsaw with Poland. The latter was an agreement to respect existing frontiers in Central Europe.

Perestroika: (restructuring) refers to the reconstruction of the political and economic system established by the Communist Party. Politically, contested elections were introduced to reflect the democratic practices of Western society and allow citizens to have a slight say in government. Economically, Perestroika called for de-monopolization and some semi-private businesses to function, ending the price controls established by the government for the past seven decades. The goal was to create a semi-free market system, reflecting successful capitalist practices in the economies of Germany, Japan, and the United States. Unfortunately, such an economy took time to thrive, and people found themselves stuck in a worn-out economy, which led to long-lines, strikes, and civil unrest.

Glasnost: (openness) this refers to the social and political reforms to bestow more rights and freedoms upon the Soviet people. Its goals were to include more people in the political process through freedom of expression. This led to a decreased censoring of the media, which in effect allowed writers and journalists to expose news of government corruption and the depressed
condition of the Soviet people. Glasnost also permitted criticism of government officials, encouraging more social freedoms like those that Western societies had already provided. Yet, the totalitarian state present since 1917 was difficult to dismantle, and when it fell apart, citizens were not accustomed to the lack of regulation and command. In promoting glasnost, Gorbachev assumed that it would enhance perestroika. But as the country became overwhelmed by the avalanche of reports about burgeoning criminality as well as revelations of state crimes of the past (“retrospective glasnost”), glasnost effectively undermined public confidence in the ability of the state to lead society to the promised land of prosperity or even arrest its descent into poverty and chaos.

**Détente:** the easing of hostility or strained relations, especially between countries.
General Overview:

In 1969, Willy Brandt’s policy of Ostpolitik, had lead to a series of negotiations and new treaty arrangements, which culminated in the Basic Treaty of 1972. This was a key turning point in FRG and GDR relations as they recognized each other as sovereign states for the first time, abandoning the Hallstein Doctrine. By the early 1980’s through the relationship between Erich Honecker in the GDR, and Helmut Kohl in the FGR, the two countries appeared to have reached a somewhat comfortable accommodation. The long-term existence of two separate Germanys was a fact that most within German politics had accepted into the foreseeable future.

The Role of Gorbachev

When Gorbachev became leader of the USSR in 1985, he was faced with a nation that was declining economically and confronting a variety of social problems. Gorbachev’s entire concept of Communism and the root to survival differed from Erich Honecker’s. Through his twin policies of perestroika and glasnost, he attempted to introduce significant economic reforms in the USSR, as well as pave the way to greater freedom of speech and political participation for the Russian people. Hoping to reduce the massive military budget that was bankrupting the
USSR, Gorbachev pursued a reduction in tension between the United States and the USSR. The fact that the USSR was no longer in a position to back up unpopular Communist governments in Eastern Europe, neither economically, nor militarily, was to set off a series of revolutions that would change Europe forever. It was this pressure that would undermine Honecker’s government in the GDR.

Gorbachev advanced these policies based on the belief that only through reforms leading to a less restrictive society with a better standard of living could he save the Communist system in the USSR.

Changes in the GDR as a Result of Changes in the USSR

Gorbachev’s policies had severe repercussions for the GDR. Honecker had no intentions in pursuing a more liberal society or undergoing any form of economic restructuring. Problematically, however, the economic situation in the GDR was declining, with money owed to Western financial lending institutions rising at an alarming rate. In the early 1980’s, for instance, the country borrowed 1.95 billion German marks from the FGR. With the GDR’s debt increasing, the country found it more and more difficult to maintain the policy of massive subsidies it paid, in order to maintain a decent standard of living for its citizens.

The
GDR could not afford to invest in crucial industry, and therefore its economy was stagnating.

To appease growing pressure from both the GDR’s population and some within his own party over the question of free travel to the West, Honecker allowed a greater number of East Germans to visit relatives in the FRG. Between 1986 and 1988, there was a massive increase in the number of Germans taking advantage of this policy. By 1988, the GDR had received innumerable applications for permission to emigrate to the West. It must be taken into account that the FGR did not support this new policy, because the FGR maintained the belief that if it pursued a direction of depleting the GDR, this would only lead to government repression and the decline of FGR-GDR relations, including the surprisingly liberal travel policy on behalf of the GDR. The policy towards greater travel freedom for its citizens did not equate to greater political freedoms in the GDR. Honecker made it clear that the Communist government was not going to replicate Gorbachev’s twin policies in his own state.

The growing increase in GDR refugees became a critical issue post May 2nd 1989, when the reforming Hungarian Communist government announced that it would be removing the fortifications along its border with Austria. This was a dramatic
move that substantially undermined the GDR and lead to a
refugee crisis in the FRG. Initially following the changes made,
the Hungarian officials attempted to stop East Germans from
entering Austria. However, on the 9th of August, it was announced
that Hungarian officials would no longer stamp the passports of
GDR citizens they caught attempting to flee to Austria. In practice,
this meant that Hungary would no longer forcibly return GDR
citizens if they were caught attempting to cross over from Hungary
to Austria. The events in Hungary led to an increase in East
German refugees elsewhere in Europe. West German embassies
in Prague, Budapest, Warsaw and East Berlin were inundated GDR
citizens desperate to leave.

Consequences of the GDR Refugee Crisis

The GDR’s leadership appeared to be at a loss as to how to deal
with the crisis. The situation in the GDR was chaotic, with the mass
depletion of people; the state’s survival was threatened. The
opening of Hungarian boarders was something that would offset a
greater need for freedom within the East German peoples. They
did not just want the freedom to travel to the West Germany; they
wanted to leave East Germany permanently.

The refugee crisis ran parallel to a growing political protest
movement in the GDR. Critically for the Communist party,
Honecker was taken ill, meaning he was unable to fulfill his role in
government. Without Honecker’s dominating position, the SED
found it increasingly difficult to deal with the rapidly accumulating
situation. Mass protests against
the Communist system broke
out in Leipzig in September.

At the beginning of October,
the Dresden riot broke out. In
response to this, Honecker closed the GDR border with Czechoslovakia and on the 7\textsuperscript{th} of October persisted with the GDR’s 40-year anniversary celebrations of the creation of the GDR. The celebrations proved opportunity for people to protest in Berlin. Two days later, a crowd of 70,000 gathered in Leipzig to protest, and by the 17\textsuperscript{th} of October it had grown to 1000,000. On the same day Honecker was removed as leader of the GDR and replaced with Egon Krenz. In an effort to quell the discontent, Krenz announced that he would be implementing political reforms.

In reality, however, Krenz’s new government was just as inadequate as Honecker’s in producing political reforms. The SED still refused to accept any changes that might challenge its leading role within the GDR or accept any legislation from the new opposition groups that had formed since September.

By this stage, in November 1989, around 750,000 East Germans had taken to the streets in protest across the whole of the GDR. On the 4\textsuperscript{th} of November, mass protests took place in Berlin, demanding political freedom. Under pressure, the SED’s response was undirected and confusing. On the 9\textsuperscript{th} of November, they hastily arranged a press conference, where Gunter Schabowski of the SED announced a new policy whereby any citizen with a passport would be granted greater rights of travel. When the press asked when these regulations would come into effect, he abruptly responded that they were in effect
immediately, despite having no authorization to declare such a thing. As the word spread that the boarder with West Germany was now open, thousands of Germans flooded to the boarder gates in East Berlin. The boarder guards at Bornholmer Bridge decided to lift the barrier between East and West Berlin. The Berlin Wall had now essentially ceased to exist.

**UN Involvement:**

There was no UN involvement in the fall of the Berlin Wall. However, on the 15th of November, six days later, in a powerful symbol of the end of the cold war, the United States and the USSR jointly propose a political resolution for the first time in the history of the United Nations. Resolution 44/21.

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A/RES/44/21
56th plenary meeting
15 November 1989

Enhancing international peace, security and international co-operation in all its aspects in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Desiring to strengthen further the role and effectiveness of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security for all States on the basis of full and universal respect for the Charter of the United Nations and through better international co-operation in resolving international problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character,

Mindful of the potential of the United Nations to be even more effective in achieving international co-operation,

1. Calls upon all States to intensify their practical efforts towards ensuring international peace and security in all its aspects through co-operative means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

2. Reaffirms its support for the validity and relevance of the Charter and urges all States to abide by it and, in particular, to respect the principles of sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of States and non-intervention in internal affairs, refrain from the threat or use of force inconsistent with the Charter, settle disputes peacefully, adhere to the principles of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and co-operation among States, and comply in good faith with their obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter;

3. Encourages Member States to consult and co-operate within the framework of the United Nations, the Security Council, the General Assembly and their appropriate subsidiary bodies in order to find multifaceted approaches to implement and strengthen the principles and the system of international peace, security and international co-operation laid down in the Charter.
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