

Colegio Alemán Alexander von Humboldt



Historical Security Council (HSC)

Humboldt-MUN VII Edition

Mexico City, April 19-21, 2018

"This will be the mother of all battles"

Saddam Hussein 1990

Welcome Letter

Dear delegates:

It is a pleasure to give you the warmest welcome to the Model United Nations, organized by the Colegio Aleman Alexander von Humboldt, Humboldt-Mun 2018 and, above all to the Historical Security Council. As hosts of this Model of the United Nations, we hope that this committee will represent a challenge for experienced delegates.

1991's breakthroughs still changing the world: lots of important things happened in 1991. That was the year when the map of Europe was more or less redrawn with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. But that is not what we want to discuss at this Security Council. Following the Iraqi invasion Kuwait, a United Nations Coalition Force including USA, Arab and European countries bombarded Iraqi Forces in Kuwait and force them out of Kuwait and back to Iraq. "This will be the mother of all battles" the words from Saddam Hussein predicted an awful bellic conflict that will not end until Hussein was executed in the 2000.

We consider that nowadays, this type of events have a very great importance and that they are not only useful for students who plan to study a career in law, international relations or political science, since the times we are living are very hard and know a little more about the international issues that people around the world are experiencing, will give us the opportunity to become more educated people who have knowledge about a wide variety of issues and be people who are aware of what is happening in our country, continent and planet.

The knowledge that these exercises give us is not only dead prose, during these days you will have the opportunity to develop skills and attitudes that will be of great help, not only for the school, but for life. Either argue better, lose the fear of speaking in public or being able to lead a discussion in a diplomatic way, among others.

Preparation is a priority for the Models of the United Nations, so we hope that everyone can gather a large amount of information to prepare the debate, the development. If you have any question, please reach us and we will try to answer as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours

Isaac Garcia – **President**

Vinicio Lopez – **Moderator**

Jorge Nava – **Conference Officer**

The Security Council, 1991

Introduction to the Committee

The Security Council was established by the Charter of the United Nations as one of the UN's principal organs on 17 January 1946. It is considered to be the UN's executive organ and bears primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. As testament to this, UN Member States are obliged to comply with resolutions of the Council; in other words, the Council's resolutions are binding. As testament to the Security Council's paramount position on security matters, the General Assembly is prohibited from making recommendations with regard to a situation or dispute that the Council is exercising its functions over, unless requested by the Council.

Under the Charter, the Security Council's powers of dispute resolution fall into two broad categories. Chapter VI of the Charter provides for the Pacific Settlement of Disputes. This includes calling on parties to resolve disputes peacefully (or recommending means by which they may do so) and investigating any dispute or situation to determine whether it is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. Under Chapter VII, the Security Council is able to take action in response to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.¹ Upon determining that such a situation exists, the Council can recommend measures to be undertaken. Such measures may or may not involve the use of armed force. Along with the right to self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter, this is generally regarded as the only other instance where States can legitimately use force.² This highlights the particular importance of the Security Council in questions of peace and security. The Security Council also has a number of other roles under the Charter including recommending new members to the General Assembly and in the appointment of the Secretary-General and Justices of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), demonstrating its broader organizational significance. Along with the General Assembly, the Security Council

¹ UN. (1946). Charter of the United Nations from the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>

² *Ibid*, Chapter VII

also enjoys a general power to request advisory opinions from the ICJ (whereas other UN agencies can only request advice on matters within their remit).³

In practice, the Security Council's powers extend beyond the Charter. It has an 'interpretive function' in clarifying the meaning of various parts of the UN Charter. It can also order peacekeeping measures under the so-called 'Chapter Six and a half' of the Charter.

³ *Ibid*, Article 49

About this Security Council

The Security Council has 15 members. The five World War II victorious powers (or their successor states) China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and United States of America hold permanent seats. They can also veto substantive decisions, but not procedural decisions. While the wording of the Charter is ambiguous, the Council has adopted the practice of treating abstentions as not constituting a veto; hence to veto a resolution a P5 member must vote negatively. The other 10 (initially six) members have two year terms and lack veto powers. These members are selected by a General Assembly vote. Selection criteria include contribution to international security and other organizational purposes as well as equitable geographical representation.

In the Historical Security Council the mission of the delegates is to change the course of history and to avoid mayor belic conflicts

Only Topic: The Situation of Kuwait (1991)

The invasion of Kuwait

The dispute between Iraq and Kuwait also implies that Iraq claims Kuwait as Iraqi territory. Kuwait was part of the Ottoman province of Basra. Therefore, the latter is claimed by Iraq as a legitimate Iraqi territory. The sovereign dynasty of Kuwait, the al-Sabah family, entered into a protectorate agreement in 1899, which assigns responsibility for its foreign affairs to the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom established the border between the two countries in 1922, making Iraq practically without access to the sea. Kuwait subsequently rejected Iraq's attempts to obtain additional provisions in the region.

Iraq also accused Kuwait of exceeding oil quotas set by OPEC. In order for the organization to maintain its price at \$ 18 a barrel, some discipline is needed. The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are regularly overproduced. For the latter, it is partly to repair the losses caused by the Iranian attacks during the Iran-Iraq war and to pay for the losses of an economic scandal. The result is a fall in prices, up to \$ 10 a barrel, corresponding to a loss of \$ 7 billion a year for Iraq. This shortfall is equivalent to its balance of payments deficit in 1989. The resulting revenues are no longer sufficient to meet the needs of the government, let alone repair the damaged infrastructure. Jordan and Iraq then want more discipline and get a small victory. The Iraqi government describes this as economic war, and considers that Kuwait has aggravated the situation with directional drilling across the border in the Rumaila deposit. At the same time, Saddam Hussein seeks to forge close ties with the Arab states that supported Iraq during the war.

He gets support from the United States, and believes that links with pro-Western Gulf States could help bring and keep Iraq within the US sphere of influence.

The conflict began on 2 August 1990 at 2 am, the Iraqi Republican Guard divisions and the Iraqi army's Special Forces are the first to enter Kuwaiti soil.

The offensive is a big surprise for Kuwaiti forces that had reduced their level of alert. Iraqi commandos deployed by Mil Mi-8 and Mil Mi-17 helicopters and boats attack the capital Kuwait, while the other divisions secure airports and air bases supported by Mil Mi-24 combat helicopters.

After several hours of fighting, Kuwait is in the hands of the Iraqi army, which manages to capture the residence of Emir Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the Dasman Palace, protected by the Kuwaiti National Guard and the local police. The latter had already fled into the Saudi desert from the beginning of the invasion. His half-brother, Sheikh Fahad Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah will be killed by Iraqi forces. The last pockets of resistance will fall on August 4th.

The 35th Mechanized Brigade of the Kuwaiti Army will also manage to retreat in Saudi Arabia as well as part of the Kuwaiti aviation and navy of that country.

Saddam Hussein set up a puppet government called the "Provisional Government of Free Kuwait," Alaa Hussein Ali became Prime Minister, and Ali Hassan al-Majid, a Ba'ath party official, was placed in charge of the government. Exiles from Kuwait's royal family are launching an international campaign to persuade other countries to put pressure on Iraq. Kuwait thus becomes de facto the nineteenth province of Iraq and is annexed, as advocated by Saddam Hussein.

The UN Security Council has adopted 12 resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, but to no avail.

Historically, the Ba'ath party and the Iraqi nationalists had never accepted the Sykes-Picot agreements of 1915-1916, where the British and the French divided the Middle East into zones of influence. Also, they had never accepted the establishment of a monarchy in Iraq, by the British, without consulting the population, and by placing a foreign monarch to Iraq, a kind of "puppet" which owed everything to the British, which meant for the nationalists, and the Baathists, that the country was a quasi-British protectorate until 1958, with the military coup

that ended the monarchy. The British will wait until 1961 to give independence to Kuwait. For many Iraqis, Kuwait was an artificial state, created from scratch by the British, while historically, it was a region of Mesopotamia (present-day Iraq), and its existence was only due to its strong reserves. hydrocarbons, whereas if it did not have such natural resources, the existence of this state would not make sense, and therefore, that the British would not have created it.

More than 400,000 Kuwaiti civilians and thousands of foreign nationals are fleeing the country, about half of the Kuwaiti population. 150,000 Indian nationals living in Kuwait were flown out by the Indian government within a week of the invasion. During the seven-month long Iraqi occupation, Saddam Hussein's forces looted Kuwait's vast wealth; there were also massive violations of human rights. The occupation of Kuwait has been unanimously condemned by all the major world powers. Even countries traditionally considered as close allies to Iraq, such as France and India, have called for an immediate withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Several countries, such as the USSR and China, have placed an arms embargo on Iraq. NATO member countries have also been very critical of the invasion and the United States is issuing an ultimatum to Iraq, calling on it to withdraw its troops from Kuwait by January 15, 1991 or face to a war.

Chronology

- On 2 August 1990, the United Nations Security Council adopted the Resolution 660⁴ condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and demanding that Iraq unconditionally withdraw all forces deployed in Kuwait.
- On 25 August 1990 the UN Security Council adopted the resolution 665 with two abstentions (Cuba and Yemen) relative to the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq using shipping to create limited blockades. Moreover it

⁴ UNSC. (1990). RESOLUTION 660 from UNITED NATIONS website::
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/1990.shtml>

authorized the coalition forces, as part of the "operation desert shield" and further measures to the enforcement of the embargo. At the end of August they were 70 warships from members States in use.

- On 28 August 1990 the Iraqi government officially Kuwait declared as province of Iraq, all over Iraq foreign women and children were allowed the departure . Also numerous foreign reporters left the crisis area.
- On September 5, 1990 the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein called to "Holy war" against the presence of the USA on the Persian Gulf and fall of the Saudi Arabian King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud as well
- On 13 September 1990 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 666⁵, worried for the humanitarian status and transport in Iraq and set them under international control foresaw.
- On 14 September 1990 Iraqi soldiers invaded the Western embassies in Kuwait city. The UN Security Council adopted the Resolution 667⁶ condemning the attacks on the diplomatic missions and demanded again the release of all foreign Nationals. France announced the same day that about 5.000 soldiers with tanks, helicopters and about 30 fight jets of type Mirage were about to be moved to Saudi Arabia.
- On 25 September 1990 the UN security Council adopted the Resolution 670, which the maintains the embargo and the air travel ban..
- On October 3, 1990 convicted in Cairo, the Secretary of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) condemn Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and

⁵ UNSC. (1990). RESOLUTION 666 from UNITED NATIONS website::
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/1990.shtml>

⁶UNSC. (1990). RESOLUTION 667 from UNITED NATIONS website::
<http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/1990.shtml>

demanded the immediate retreat of troops and the restoration of the status quo ante.

- On 10 October 1990 the US Congress vote on the alleged killing of newborn by Iraqi soldiers, this had significant influence on the American public opinion and led to a large-scale advocacy of a war. The Saudi Arabian King Fahd and the US Secretary of State James Baker agreed at November 6, 1990 the US command over the troops of Saudi Arabia in case of war against Iraq.
- On November 7, 1990 Willy Brandt demanded the release of 174 foreign hostages in Iraq. In the resolution 678 of the UN Security Council authorized any member State of the United Nations to meet "all the necessary funds for the resolution 660 for its support and performance" and provided the Iraqi government until January 15, 1991 to meet every UN resolutions.
- On December 6, 1990 Saddam Hussein ordered the release of approximately 3.000 still held Western hostages in Iraq. The US President George Bush welcomed this step.
- On 24 December 1990 the Iraqi "President" Saddam Hussein threatened Israel and said that the first goal of an attack will be Jerusalem in case of a Coalition attack.
- On 26 December 1990 the Soviet Union sent two representatives to Baghdad to argue for the return of the 1700 professionals still located in Iraq as well as military officials before the end of the ultimatum.
- On January 2, 1991 NATO decided to ask Turkey permission for the deployment of parts of the allied command Europe mobile forces (AMF) in Turkey. More than 40 fight jets from Belgium, Germany and Italy

- On January 2, 1991 by US official another disclosed, the end of December 1990 from Iraq submitted had been. The proposal offered the retreat from Kuwait to when the United States in return willing, by a attack during the back refrain, foreign troops the region leave would an agreement on the Palestine problem taken dignity and nuclear weapons from the region banished would. Unnamed US official described the offer as "interesting" as it on border renounced and the Iraqi interest in a settlement of the conflict negotiated showed. The offer was immediately from the US government rejected because it conditions for the retreat contained. Different ways a peaceful solution of the conflict were considered, but no realized. The United States persisted sure that the only acceptable freedom conditions the full unconditional retreat Iraq from Kuwait be. Iraq insisted sure that the retreat from Kuwait with a simultaneous retreat the Syrian troops from Lebanon and the Israeli troops from the West Bank, the Gaza strip, the Golan Heights and the Southern Lebanon connected must be. French suggestions, the Iraqi retreat from Kuwait with the convene a general middle East conference to link, failed at the veto the US and UK.
- On 12 January 1991 the Congress of the USA approved the use military force against Iraq. 250 to 183 votes in the House of Representatives and 52 to 47 votes in the Senate authorized the representative of the people, the President to a military presence to enforce the UN resolution 678.
- On 14 January 1991 250 members of the Iraqi "commanded the revolution" voted by acclamation for a war.
- The simulation will take place on **January, 15, 1991** Eastern Standard Time (EST)

Guide Questions

1. Is your country part of the international Coalition?
2. Does your country supports the military actions against Iraq?
3. Does the Iraqi government holds any citizens of your country as hostages?
4. According to International Law the occupation of Kuwait was sustained?
5. According to International Law is the military intervention against Iraq legal ?

Recommend resources

Filmography

20th Century Battlefield: The Battle of Kuwait – BBC