



CVHS MUN XVI



Historical Security Council

All position papers should be sent to our committee's email address:

cvhsmunhistoricalsc23@gmail.com

Position papers must be submitted by January 7th, 2023 by 11:59. If you have any queries or problems, please contact us via email!

Introduction:

Hello, delegates! My name is Evan Zeng and I will be your head chair for the 2023 CVHS Model United Nations Conference for the committee of Historical Security Council. I am currently a junior at Capo and have been a part of MUN for the past 2 years. The class has introduced me to multiple new people, friends, and taught me techniques for debating and public speaking. Outside of MUN, I am a part of CSF, the school Soccer Team, club soccer, and involved with the Super Joey Foundation. I love playing all kinds of sports and love learning how to play new instruments. I look forward to meeting you all at our conference! Have fun and good luck!

Hello delegates! My name is Tyler Bell, and I will be your co-chair for Historical Security Council at your 2023 CVHS Model United Nations Conference. I am currently a senior at Capo and joined the program last year. During my short time in the program, I quickly began to love it. This class is a great skill builder in public speaking, research, and general debate. Outside of Model United Nations, I work at Abercrombie and Fitch in the Mission Viejo Mall. I also like to surf and collect vinyl records whenever I have the time. Anyways, I look forward to our conference and getting to know you all. Have fun and good luck!



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Topic #1: Suez Canal Crisis



Background:

The Suez Canal is an artificial waterway dividing Africa and Asia serving as a trade route between Europe and Asia. It connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean through the Red Sea and by 120 miles of waterway. Originally, France and Egypt held a lot of the shares. However, in protecting the Egyptian government in a civil war, the British bought all the shares of the Egyptian state. Egyptian citizens attacking British troops violated the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty and harmed the alliance between the Egyptian leader then, King Farouk, and Britain. That same year, a coup was set and forced King Farouk to abdicate, placing Gamal Abdel Nasser as the new head.

One of Nasser's goals was to make the Egyptian state as secure and powerful as possible. He first looked towards the U.S. for supplies, however, due to the Tripartite Declaration which restricted how many arms could be sold to Middle-Eastern states, the U.S. declined to support it. Nasser then turned to the Soviet Union which was more compliant and agreed to support Egypt with arms. This new tie between the Soviet Union and Egypt would cut funding from the U.S. and Britain on the Aswan Dam, which was seen as a centerpiece for Egyptian modernization and industrialization. This would worsen ties between Nasser, the U.S., and Britain. In July of 1956, Nasser would nationalize the canal, taking full control of the canal while claiming that the British and French shareholders would be paid their value of shares. Nasser then shut down the canal to Israeli shipping and claimed the seizing of the canal was to fund the construction of the Aswan Dam. This enraged Israel, Britain, and France, as the canal was a focal point of international trade, and planned for an assault on the canal to retake it.



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The assault began in October of 1956 and would see Nasser closing all shipping in the canal, sinking 40 of the ships within it, and also telling troops to move into civilian clothing, fighting the battle while confusing the enemy. This presents Britain, France, and Israel with a problem, fire upon Egyptian civilians and face condemnation, or risk losing the lives of many troops. This caused the terms of a ceasefire to arise, however, no real terms or agreements could be agreed upon, leaving the idea of the cease-fire stalled. The conflict also saw external pressure from the then Cold War superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. The continuation of the conflict would worsen tensions between the superpowers and cause a nuclear war to be prominent. With the UN also giving pressure, solutions were needed to solve the conflict.

UN Involvement:

The United Nations' need for involvement came to fruition weeks prior to the conflict. On October 13th, the Security Council adopted a resolution, Resolution 118, that called on the sovereignty of Egypt to be respected and the operation of the Suez Canal to be barred from the politics of any other nation. Unfortunately soon after this resolution was passed, Israel invaded Egypt, breaking the resolution. Soon after, the United States sponsored resolution 119, in the United Nations Security Council, which called for a cease-fire. But these resolutions were vetoed by both France and the United Kingdom, who were both permanent veto-wielding members. Following the veto, the United States called on the General Assembly. In response to the U.S. actions, the United Nations General Assembly held a session regarding the Suez conflict. This session occurred between November 1st and November 10th, 1956. In this session, the United Nations Emergency Force was created, adopted in resolution 1001, in order to halt the conflict. UNEF called for an immediate cease-fire between the involved parties. Due to the pressures



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exerted by UNEF and threats of being ejected from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, both the French and British began to withdraw forces.

Possible Solutions:

A possible solution could be delegates supporting a side of the conflict. This would allow for the conflict to shift towards one side, possibly having one side defeating the other side. This wouldn't solve the stalemate of the 2 international blocs, however, it could help reopen the canal to international trade again. Drawbacks are the conditions the victor would impose that would favor them, and could lead to more activity by the victors in the region. It could also lead to unequal terms from victors to the losers. Another factor to consider in this option is the toll on resources, lives, and reputation of countries.

Another option would be the continuation of the pursuit of the cease-fire. A cease-fire, in theory, would be the fastest way to achieve peace in the region while also not escalating the conflict between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the Cold War. However, due to the current terms, it isn't likely that Britain, France, Israel, and Egypt will accept the cease-fire. The problem of who controls the canal and even ideas such as who carries the shares could be long-term problems. Delegates should still consider this option even if the option doesn't seem viable.

It is important to remember that the main goal of the countries involved is to reopen the canal. Delegates should consider the possible repercussions of each option and weigh the pros and the cons of each. We must also ensure that the solutions are to induce both short-term and long-term peace in the region while dealing with problems such as ownership of the region and canal. Another factor to weigh in is the shift in international power of countries involved in the conflict. Delegates could also pursue other solutions if conditions and terms would seem better.



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Questions to Consider:

1. Who should have control of the Suez Canal? Should it be governed by the people, as President Nasser believes, or should it be governed by an international body?
2. Why is the United Nations concerned about the Suez Crisis? What International “rules” or regulations did France, Britain, and Israel break that resulted in interference by the United Nations?
3. What measures or actions drew your nation into the conflict? How did this affect your nation, i.e, economically and politically?
4. Was the Suez Crisis a product of recent events or was it a growing issue causing long-term problems? How do your relations with other nations affect this conflict?
5. What steps and measures can be taken into consideration in order to prevent another conflict from breaking out in the region?

Helpful Resources:

AO, Professor Peter Boyce, et al. “The Suez Dispute and the Death of Empire.” *Australian Institute of International Affairs*, 1 Nov. 2016,

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/the-suez-dispute-and-the-death-of-empire/>

“First United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF I) - Background (Summary).” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/past/unef1backgr1.html>.



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[https://www.britannica.com/topic/Suez-Canal.](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Suez-Canal)

"Suez Canal." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 May 2022,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suez_Canal.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suez_Canal)

Suez Crisis and the United Nations Emergency Force I: 1956,

[https://www.lermuseum.org/1946-to-present/1946-1956/suez-crisis-and-the-united-nations-emergency-force-i-1956.](https://www.lermuseum.org/1946-to-present/1946-1956/suez-crisis-and-the-united-nations-emergency-force-i-1956)

U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of State,

[https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/suez.](https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/suez)

"Why Was the Suez Crisis so Important?" *Imperial War Museums*,

[https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/why-was-the-suez-crisis-so-important.](https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/why-was-the-suez-crisis-so-important)