

General Information about Historical Security Council

The 2012 SEMO Model United Nations Historical Security Council - 2003 (HSC- 2003) will simulate the events of the world beginning 5 February 2003. Historically, the key international security concerns at this time revolve around the question of terrorism and its effect on international peace and security, and within this, the idea of rogue nations. Major topics being discussed in 2003 were: Iraq's continuing refusal to fully comply with weapons inspections, including the question of the effectiveness of sanctions and the continuing breakdown in peace and security, among others.

In 2003, George W. Bush was the United States President and Tony Blair was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Saddam Hussein was in power in Iraq. And, overall, the world and the Council continued to face a new era of threats to peace and security in the question of terrorism and terrorists. Our HSC is unique in its topics and in its treatment of those topics. In the simulation, the HSC will preempt history from the time the Council's simulation is assigned to begin. History will be as it was written until the moment the Council convenes. From that moment forward, however, Council members exercise free will based on the range of all the choices within their national character and within the capabilities of their governments.

Effective role-playing for an HSC Member State will not just be a replay of national decisions as they evolved in 2003. Indeed, the problems of the era may not transpire as they once did. Beyond this, it cannot be said that the policy course a government chose in 2003 was necessarily the wisest. While role replays must, by definition, be in character, it is not a sure thing that, given a second opportunity to look at events, any given national government would do things exactly the same way twice in a row. History is replete with the musings of foreign ministers and heads of state pining for "second chances." It will be the job of Council representatives to utilize their countries' national policies and capabilities to solve the problems and issues which may not have had adequate contemporary resolutions. There is almost always more than one alternative in any situation.

In particular, the international community has often chosen not to actively involve itself in regional disputes or political crises where it might have shown greater involvement. The UN itself has often been a bystander to regional or international conflict. Representatives will need to decide what changes, if any, could have been made to the Security Council's posture on the various issues.

While national governments often did not want international "meddling" in what they felt to be national policies or disputes, this in no way lessens the responsibility of Council members to make the effort and find ways to actively involve themselves in crisis solution. This task must, however, be accomplished without violating the bounds of the Member States' national characters. Simulations will often feature regional crises being treated as internal by those involved as well as other crises which are so global in nature as to require UN involvement.

Representatives should approach these issues based on events through the final days of 2002 and into January of 2003, and should do their research accordingly. In studying their role playing assignments, it

is strongly recommended that research be done on these topics using materials from the time period. The world and political opinion has changed since 2003, but none of these changes will be evident within the chambers of the HSC. While histories of the period written more recently will be fine for a general overview, representatives should also peruse periodicals from mid-to-late 2002 to reflect accurately the worldview at that time. Magazines featuring an overview of that year may give a particularly good feel for the international mood in which the simulation is set. Periodicals contemporary to the period, which can be easily referenced in a Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature or The New York Times Index, should provide a much better historical perspective and feel for the times than later historical texts.

The HSC simulation will follow a flexible timeline based on events as they occurred. It is important to note that the timeline can and will be modified by the representatives' policy decisions in the Council. As such, some events that occur in real life past the simulation start date may happen earlier, later, or not at all in the internal simulation timeline. The Secretariat will be responsible for tracking the simulation and keeping it as realistic as possible.