

DAILY

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Complex Questions and Political Problems



Today's Conference

Yesterday's conference completely fulfilled our expectations. Surprisingly, each committee had already worked out good and reasonable resolutions that were quite similar in a few aspects, but also showed contestations which will probably lead to vivid debates today.

There are, however, many new and young participants, who take part in the MUN conference for the first time. Some initially reticent delegates gained more and more self-confidence with the help of other delegates and of friends who were actually no delegates but watched the work of the committees as visitors. Although they had to advocate their country's interests, they showed a very respectful sense of community by listening keenly to every

speaker on the floor.

We hope that every committee will adopt a legitimate resolution for debate which matches the expectations of every delegation. In the General Assembly of tomorrow, the delegations will discuss and, hopefully, we will have one resolution with an intense content.

All teams are excited to reap the fruit of their labour during the conference and cannot wait to follow the final General Assembly with high interest.

"I've attended the committees and I'm delighted to see that everything works out so fine. I'm looking forward to an interesting General Assembly tomorrow, which will hopefully answer my expectations." (Laura Mareski, Member of Admin Team)

Andrew Smith, Address to the General Assembly (summary)

What are "unstable states"?

The term of "instability" is not an objective assessment; there are only few international definitions. In a "failed-state index" many criteria are described, such as armed conflicts, refugees, poverty. However, do the recent demonstrations in Greece make Greece an unstable state?

The index shows countries moving up or down over the years proving countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya having actually moved towards less failure. But countries like Haiti have deteriorated. Consequently, we realize that "instability" it is not an easy definition to work with.

Why is UN interference necessary?

This conference is mainly concerned with this aspect, based on the UN charta, with peace and security as its main objectives. So the idea is to remove threats to life and security, but events within states are a very complex problem. With idea of sovereignty having long been established, it is limited when other countries' rights are being affected. But does this entail physical interference (armed conflicts) or only verbal protests? What justifies intervention?

How can intervention take place?

Armed conflicts are one reason for intervention (e.g. Middle East), but today there are more sophisticated threats to be dealt with (terrorism, climate change,

migration, criminality, drugs, natural catastrophes, political extremism).

From previous interventions the UN has learned that military intervention cannot be the first or the last step. What happens next is important, there must be a plan for the future. Further issues are ending an intervention where the independent future has to be considered carefully and transparency, which is necessary for legitimacy of an intervention.

In the end there are two concrete examples. Afghanistan was formerly a state in a paralyzed condition, without security, a base for international terrorism and drug trade. First there was a military intervention later accompanied by civilian operations.

Haiti is a different example because of the earthquake, environmental problems and an inadequate government, unable to cope with the problems and to provide security.

Mr. A. Smith's conclusions:

- Principles of sovereignty are of great importance.
- States have responsibilities that need to be fulfilled.
- The first act of intervention must be a peaceful one.
- Focus must lie on the regimes but on the peoples.
- Building up a state needs to involve its people.
- Long-term issues and sustainability are needed.
- Legitimacy and offering alternative livelihoods to the people is of great importance.



COMMITTEE "ASIA AND THE PACIFIC"

The Kashmir Issue: Is Impartiality Always The Best Way?

The UN has been active in some operational areas and has already been quite successful there, but there are still places for which it seems difficult to find a solution. The Kashmir dispute is the oldest unresolved international conflict in the world today, which began in 1947 after India and Pakistan became independent.

Both parties claimed Kashmir, which had been free up to that point, for themselves. In the course of events this conflict has resulted in four Indo-Pakistani wars. The deployment of the UN began with the first war, by founding the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan. An observation group was supposed to keep a lid on the conflict. At the same time great emphasis was put on the strategy that any intervention favouring one of the opposing parties or any interference in the armies' orders was to be avoided.

Subsequently the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) could only provide a temporary ceasefire in 1949. Although the Security Council, by its resolution 91 (1951), continued to maintain the ceasefire, the UN could not prevent the following wars.

On 2 July 1972, the „Line of Control“ was defined at which the UNMOGIP is based. On account of the still smoldering disagreement between India and Pakistan about UNMOGIP's mandate and functions, the Secretary-General's position has always been that the Observation Group's mandate can only be terminated by a decision of the Security Council. Despite such an intensive involvement, there are still numerous victims including civilians nowadays. Thus, a peaceful solution is urgently needed.

But is it possible to solve the conflict without prefer-

ring one of the two parties? Perhaps the UN could accept the Kashmir region as an independent state, but to what extent could the UN and its membership states cope with the consequences? This deep-rooted conflict has angered Pakistan and India alike and neither of them intends to give up their interests voluntarily. Might it be possible to find an equitable solution concerning political, cultural and geographical aspects among others?

But to what extent can the needs of the population be taken into account? Moreover, the conflict has intensified considerably in recent years, resulting from the fact that both, India and Pakistan, have become nuclear powers. In addition, China provides support to Pakistan, since the two countries share similar

interests. In view of the fact that 80% of the population are Muslims another difficulty evolved in 2007 when the terrorist organization al-Qaeda declared a holy war in Kashmir.

So, based upon all these problems it becomes an urgent issue whether the UN will be able to realize a peaceful mission in different ways. Certainly, the UN is aware of the circum-

stances of this situation and tries to support this area, but are the current measures efficient enough? Will more steps need to be taken and will it be possible for the UN to sustain its impartiality?

Almost weekly there are attacks and civilian casualties in this area. Something has to be done rather sooner than later.

Kristina Becker

If you want to find out more about this issue, check:

- www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmogip/index.shtml (21 October 2011)
- www.pakun.org/kashmir/history.php (21 October 2011)

Chronicle of Events

- August, 1947: India and Pakistan become independent
- Oktober, 1947: first Indo-Pakistani War
- January 1949: first group of United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)
- July 1949: Karachi Agreement leads to ceasefire
- 1965: second Indo-Pakistani War
- March 1971: third Indo-Pakistani War
- December 17, 1971: ceasefire
- July 1972: Shimla Agreement defining a Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir
- May- July 1999: fourth Indo-Pakistani war



Afghanistan Expertise

It should not be left unmentioned that Mr. Smith, who works for the German Ministry of the Environment presently, inspired us to choose this year's topic. We feel honoured that he was ready for the following interview.



The issue of our GLO-MUN conference this year is "In how far should the UN interfere in unstable states?" Do you think this is a relevant question today and in the future?

I think it's very relevant and always has been. You only have to see what's been happening in North Africa and the Middle East in the last

six months to see what the whole issue [...] means to the international community as a whole. [...]

We know that you have some personal experience in this respect. What exactly was your task during your stay in Afghanistan and would you consider your mission to be a success?

My task was to head off a team that was looking at the drugs issue there. [...] Just now Afghanistan provides about 90 per cent of the heroin which is sold on the streets of Europe. [...] What we were trying to do is to come up with a strategy to address this, both as a crime issue, because clearly it is, but also as a prosperity issue. The reason why Afghan farmers grow opium is not because they're bad people, it's because they need to provide for their families. And that was the only crop that they could grow and make money out of. [...] And it's a strategy which has been embraced by the Afghan government and they're implementing it. At the moment it's still a problem, there are still a large amount of drugs being produced there, but hopefully we've provided the government there with the instruments to address

the problem. [...]

How did people in Afghanistan react to foreign aid?

There was, of course, some suspicion initially. It's very difficult for any country to see foreign forces come in. [...] Once it was particularly clear that it was not just a military intervention but it was also a desire to help the country develop and become prosperous, the suspicion dissipated.

What do you think will the future in Afghanistan be like after the withdrawal of the foreign military?

It will be difficult, that goes without saying, because Afghanistan for a long time has suffered from being largely a failed state. But with the support that we've given it hopefully it has a perspective now [...] It's probably moving in the right direction. So I'm optimistic.

What can the UN do to secure peace and human rights in Afghanistan in the long run?

I think it will continue to do what it's been doing, which is providing support which is designed to give it a sustainable future [...], providing the infrastructure that any functioning economy needs, by helping the institutions of the state that will provide security [...], by ensuring that everybody gets a decent education, including women of course, [and] by providing a health system [...]. I think through providing support for all of those things we will help Afghanistan to become a fully fledged member of the international community.

Thank you very much for answering our questions.



COMMITTEE "GREATER MIDDLE EAST"

The Arab Spring: Are some countries "more equal" than others?

Chronicle of Events

Libya

- February 17, 2011: mass protests due to police violence against demonstrators
- February 20, 2011: oppositional forces liberate Bengasi
- March 17, 2011: UN resolution 1973 to establish no-fly zone, demanding immediate ceasefire
- March 19, 2011: first air raids
- August 2011: oppositional army conquers Tripolis

Syria

- mid March 2011: mass protests
- April 2011: Bloody Friday (75-100 people killed); blockade and attacks of oppositional cities, several people killed; condemnation of Syrian government by UN Human Rights Council
- July 22, 2011: demonstrations of more than 1.2 million people; Ramadan Massacre (140 people killed)

The Middle East has been an omnipresent subject in the news for the last ten months. A revolutionary wave of protests has caught the Arab world. In Tunisia, Algeria, Yemen and many other countries people have taken to the street and demonstrated against acute grievances and for more democracy.

By the end of February two dictators, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak, were toppled in Tunisia and Egypt. In their place a provisional government and a military council took over, trying to fulfil the people's demands. The UN remained in the role of an observer since no external influence seemed to be necessary. But this was about to change with the outlook of an imminent massacre in Libya. The uncompromising storming of the city Bengasi liberated by oppositional forces was about to happen. So the UN Security Council acted immediately and adopted the UN resolution 1973.

Now, seven months later, the question might be posed whether that was a profoundly calculated decision or whether it was a precipitate decision without considering long-term consequences? Doubtlessly, a massacre was successfully prevented and Muammar al-Gaddafi was brought down. But what about the time after M. Gaddafi? Is it justified to intervene in a country without being able to be reasonably sure of the outcome? What should the future government look like which has to unite the different tribes, whose interests could not be more diverse or even opposed to each other? At this point it might be interesting to quote the answer of the UN Special Envoy for Libya, Abdel-Elah Al-Khatib when he was asked, "The conflict has gone on longer than some might

have predicted or hoped for. In what time-frame do you see it being resolved, if at all?", A. Al-Khatib responded, "I cannot really make a prediction. The sides remain far apart on key issues at this stage, distrust is very high, and there is constant fighting, which also affects the environment for talks [...]"¹

But not only the UN decision on Libya should be assessed carefully. The revolutionary wave of the Arab Spring did not stop in Libya, it was carried further to Syria, where in July 1.2 million people demonstrated against the national regime. Again, governmental forces created a bloodbath, killing hundreds of people and encircling whole cities. But on this occasion the UN Security Council did not adopt a resolution against the Syrian government because of a veto of Russia and China. What motives convinced Russia and China to object against UN intervention? To what extent does Syria's strategic geographical position as a "buffer area" between Iran, Iraq and Israel play a role? Is Syria's lack of oil resources compared to Libya's abundance of these supplies of any importance? Or does the UN not want to shoulder the burden of responsibility resulting from the overthrow of the Syrian government?

Does the UN not want to make the same mistakes which were made in Afghanistan and maybe also in Libya by taking actions without knowing the whole extent of the consequences?

Esther Prieb

If you want to find out more about this issue, check:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-13091091>
- <http://www.thenation.com/article/158991/arab-spring>

¹ www.un.org/wcm/webdav/site/undpa/shared/undpa/pdf/DPA%20Politically%20Speaking%20Summer%20Fall%202011.pdf (21 October 2011)



Miscellaneous

Yummy!

Lisa Schroer and Zülal Yologlu are the heads of the catering team and told us something about their job.



Why did you choose to be the heads of the catering team?

We thought it would be a good possibility to show what we can do and how we can help the school to maintain a high reputation. Moreover it is a big challenge.

What was yesterday's favourite meal?

Yesterday, the favourite meal of many GLOMUN participants was potatoes with Sour Cream.

Was there any misfortune?

Yes, there was a problem with the sour cream because first it was oversalted. But then our catering team rescued it and finally it tasted better than before. Another funny incident was that we sang and danced as we cleaned the dishes.

How did you get the ideas for the recipes?

We are cooperating with the Stötzner-Schule (a school which operates small companies, e. g. a catering firm) and they chose the recipes because they have much more experience with cooking for big events. They know what is easy to prepare.

Guess who or what I am

It can be quite exhausting but fun at the same time. Depending on how hard you are trying, you will be spending either much or little time on me.

You, my dear, are a genius! I am indeed a pedal boat. You can find me along the Greenwich promenade near the subway station "Alt-Tegel".

After a long day of discussing at MUN, you will sure want to relax and lean back for an hour or two. Out on the "Tegeler See" (a lake) during sunset in autumn – what else is there to long for?

Did you know?

If you turned all the electrical cables of this year's MUN conference into one long cable, you would have a length of 2.5 km. So you would walk 30 minutes.

Today's Snapshot





Impressions of the Day



IMPRINT:

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QUESTION OF THE DAY



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO BE A DELEGATE OF THIS COUNTRY?



DELEGATE OF SRI LANKA

Vanessa Krah

“I chose it because my friend is from Sri Lanka and then she wanted to pick this country.”

DELEGATES OF INDIA

Paulina Andersson and Ellen Larsson

“Because we think India is a very interesting country with many different religions and cultures, which we don’t have in Sweden.”



DELEGATES OF HOLY SEE

Leonie Gayer and Priscilla Igbokwe

“We chose Holy See because one of us is Catholic and the other one is a Christian, not Catholic. And then we thought it would fit to take it. We think it’s a really interesting country.”



DELEGATE OF UGANDA

André Roskors

“I watched a movie about Uganda, this wonderful country. I saw the problems and I want to do something against these.”



DELEGATE OF AFGHANISTAN

Paul Brauner

“Probably because it was recommended to me by Mrs Brehm and it is interesting concerning UN interventions.”

