

United States National Security Council

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

My fellow Americans, welcome to BUSUN 2008 as delegates to the United States National Security Council. I hope you are looking forward to the challenges that will arise in the next few days! But before we get into that, here's a brief introduction as to who I am.

My name is Jennifer Therrien, and I will be acting as Chair of this committee who, outside the BUSUN world, is President Barack Obama. I am a transfer student from Bowdoin College and this is my first BUSUN conference, so I'm really excited to work with all of you! Besides enjoying being a former MUN delegate, I have chaired the Legal Committee for two years and advised the committee for a third. I am a Science and Society and International Relations double major interested in international bioethics and medical policy formation.

Please take the time to read through this background guide, as it will hopefully help you in your own research. It is only meant to give an overview of the history of the NSC and of some of the issues we may be discussing so that you can come prepared. Please note that this conference will be as much fun as you decide to make it, so take the time to do some extra research and zing your fellow delegates with amazing facts and figures! Naturally, reading this guide is not enough: it is only meant to "guide" your way.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at USNSC@busun.net. I greatly look forward to meeting you all in November!

Good luck,

Jen Therrien
US National Security Council Chair
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Committee History

Created by the National Security Act of 1947, the United States National Security Council (NSC) was formed with the purpose of coordinating official foreign policy with U.S. intelligence agencies, various sectors of the government, the military etc., completely restructuring foreign policy decision making. The Act also created the

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), whose job was to brief the NSC on intelligence matters and provide recommendations on possible actions to be taken by the U.S. government and to carry out directives as mandated by the NSC. The NSC, Central Intelligence Agency, and later, the Defense Intelligence Agency were created after World War II to better prevent a third world war and to counter the growing threat by the USSR when traditional diplomacy seemed to fail. The NSC was originally created to supplement the State Department in informing presidential decision making on issues concerning security and foreign policy.

Currently, the NSC is the main advisory committee to guide presidential action. The council is a crucial part of policy making by the executive branch and shapes the presidential agenda in times of conflict and in evaluating threats to the country.

While there are a few more members in reality, our committee will include the following individuals:

Barack Obama (President of the United States)
Joe Biden (Vice President of the United States)
Hillary Clinton (Secretary of State)
Robert M. Gates (Secretary of Defense)
ADM Michael Mullen (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff)
Dennis C. Blair (Director of National Intelligence)
James L. Jones (National Security Advisor)
Rahm Emanuel (Chief of Staff to the President)
Tim Geithner (Secretary of the Treasury)
Eric Holder (Attorney General)
Janet Napolitano (Secretary of Homeland Security)
Greg Craig (Counsel to the President)
Susan Rice (Ambassador to the United Nations)

When a topic that breaches another government official's jurisdiction is discussed, that official will attend the NSC session in question. Thus, the committee welcomes outside voices and expert opinions in the decision-making process.

The National Security Council Website,
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/nsc/>

Committee Format and Rules of Debate

Committee will be conducted in informal debate, similar to moderated caucus in normal Model UN debate. Speaking times will be proposed either by the Chairman or by the members. The President reserves the right to suspend the debate should such a situation arise as the

entrance of a guest speaker, or the need of members to discuss issues in a more informal setting or write decisions. Rather than UN style resolution writing, the US National Security Council will rely on drafting policy decisions (directives). The President's role is crucial in guiding the decisions and evolving a consensus.

Like the other Crisis Committees, the US National Security Council may release press releases to state or private media outlets, diplomatic communiqués to other states and issue directives calling for specific institutions to act accordingly.

NATO

The North American Treaty Organization (NATO) was established on April 4, 1949 as part of the North Atlantic Treaty, creating a collective military defense alliance to protect member states' freedom by "political and military means." NATO headquarters is located in Brussels, Belgium. NATO was formed with the intent of keeping economic dependence of NATO states and surrounding countries on the West rather than being influenced by the communist East. The original NATO signatories included both the members from the collective military alliance formed in the Treaty of Brussels, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France and the United Kingdom, as well as the United States, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. As of 2009, the organization consists of 28 member states, now including some of the Balkan states. NATO maintains the deployment of approximately 15,000 peacekeeping troops in Kosovo and is facilitating the military transformation of both Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia into more peaceful, safer countries. Bosnia and Herzegovina also has a NATO military headquarters maintaining peace in addition to EU troops. NATO policy concerning the Balkans states the goal of building stability in the region and integrating the Balkans into Europe and has been militarily active in the region since the 1990s.

The Bosnian War from 1992-1995 resulted in Serbian genocide against minority ethnic groups, including Bosniaks and Croats, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although NATO condemned the war, it didn't send troops into the region even though outside states Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro escalated the conflict. In 1995, NATO established the Operation Deliberate Force to initiate an air campaign that resulted in the Dayton Accords, officially ending the Bosnian War in December of 1995 and restructuring ethnic groups' territorial control. During the Kosovo conflict in 1998-1999, NATO became intricately involved in protecting ethnic Albanians from the

oppressive Serbians. Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic sent forces into Kosovo to quell the uprising Albanians in their quest for independence. However, this unjustified military invasion resulted in mass casualties, and NATO reacted by engaging in an 11 month bombing campaign against Yugoslavia. Upon Yugoslavian troop withdrawal, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) was established by NATO, putting peacekeeping troops in the region to help stabilize Kosovo, aid the humanitarian crisis that resulted from the war, and to demilitarize the Kosovo Liberation Army while preventing threats from foreign militias. Today, KFOR is still engaged in Kosovo, even though the region has declared itself an independent nation. KFOR's main goals have shifted to merely help the country along the way to independence, gaining ability to be stable civil society.

NATO's goals in the Balkans still focus on the democratization and liberalization of the region. With outside NGO assistance, NATO supports transitional governments in the Balkan region as they move toward a more Westernized democratic government, meshing these countries with their European neighbors. By building a capitalist economy, these countries can better join international trade. However, it remains unclear how much of this transition is Western control of the region and how much is desired domestically. Due to the longstanding ethnic conflicts in the region, it seems that NATO influence is necessary in order to keep the region stable and to prevent future militarily aggressive actions either against ethnic minorities or neighboring states. While NATO certainly has an agenda of its own for the region, it seems there is no better option for the Balkans if the countries intend on developing into stable sovereign states participating in the international community.

Helpful Resources

- U.S. and NATO goals in the Balkans, <http://www.iacenter.org/warcrime/lfoerstl.htm>
- www.nato.int (http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-EA6C2B58-3F9A0FDB/natolive/topics_1075.htm)

US and Russian Involvement in the Balkans

The countries in the Balkan region include Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. While the United States recognizes the sovereignty of Kosovo, many states still dispute Kosovo's status. Russia, for example, does not recognize Kosovo to be an independent state and believes any recognition of Kosovo as an independent state sets a dangerous precedent for future territory disputes.

Over the past few decades, the United States has been actively supporting the Balkans politically, financially, and militarily, arguably holding a majority of the burden of the region's development. Insofar as the U.S. desires unified and democratic Europe, it is presumably in the U.S.'s best interests to help develop the region. However, the scope of the military and economic support that the United States offers was a key issue in the 2000 election and remains a pertinent question, especially considering recent developments in American military presence abroad. European involvement has arguably been greater, as the region appears to intend to expand its economic union into the Balkans.

Dominating the region's conflicts was the Bosnian War from 1992-1995, in which Serbians in Bosnia and Herzegovina targeted ethnic Bosnians. The conflict started with the tension between communists and democratic interest groups in the country and evolved into an ethnic conflict. The pinnacle event of the conflict was the 1993 Srebrenica Massacre in which 200,000 non-Serbsians were killed by Serbian police and officials. U.S. interests during this time were to develop not only a peaceful and unified Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also to grant freedom to all ethnic groups in the country without forming an oppressive government. The conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina was dire because it destabilized the entire Balkan region and could have sparked additional conflicts, which was counter to U.S. goals of "Europe-izing" the Balkans so that the region could become allied with Western nations rather than with Russia. This included establishing market economies in Balkan states, and thus creating future trade partners, protecting human rights, containing threats to U.S. interests, and building free democracies in politically unstable countries such as Bosnia and Herzegovina. Russia did send stabilization forces to help NATO troops in the conflict, though it desired to be placed in Serbian territory rather than ethnic Croat or Bosniak areas.

Helpful Resources

- http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-B8B1D17D-B1FA27B9/natolive/what_is_nato.htm
- <http://www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=5293>
- http://www.nato.int/cps/en/SID-EA6C2B58-3F9A0FDB/natolive/topics_1075.htm#evolution
- <http://www.cfr.org/publication.html?id=5293>