

Security Council of the Russian Federation

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Здравствуйте и добро пожаловать!

Hello and welcome to BUSUN 2010 as cabinet ministers of the Russian government. Over the next few days, the Russian government will be working together with (and against) the governments of the U.S., China, Brazil, India, and Pakistan in order to tackle and resolve a series of crises and establish world peace. But before that, here is a short introduction to your committee chair.

My name is Riyad Seervai, and over the next three days I will be serving as the Prime Minister of Russia and the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation; that is, Vladimir Putin. I am a sophomore at Brown, and I plan to concentrate in biology and possibly music. This is my second year as part of crisis at BUSUN, and I am really excited to see what lies in store for us this time! I have been participating in Model United Nations as a head of committee and as a delegate for over six years. Aside from Model UN at Brown, I represent Brown as a varsity squash athlete.

Please take the trouble to read this study guide; it is the first and most fundamental step to having a successful and enjoyable Model UN conference. However, crisis committees are special, in that, as most of the committee proceedings are impromptu and depend on crisis staff, the most important thing is to be able to think fast on your feet. Having sound background knowledge of the overall issue at hand is always helpful for this. Bring any maps, figures, and other information you feel might be necessary. Remember that you are representing a specific ministry within the Government of Russia, and you must make sure

that your solutions balance the needs and priorities of your department with those of the government as a whole.

Finally, remember to have fun! BUSUN Crisis committees are the best committees in the world, and there is nowhere else I would rather be. Indulge me! If you have any questions, please email me at crisis.russia@busun.net

Good Luck,

Riyad Seervai

Chair of the Russian Cabinet, BUSUN 2010

crisis.russia@busun.net

The Committee

Before the disintegration of the USSR, the government of Russia existed as the Russian Council of Ministers. In 1991 Boris Yeltsin signed Decree No. 242 in order to reorganize the governing bodies of the RSFSR. The 2004 Reform split the duties of the government among two first deputy prime ministers, six deputy prime ministers, and seventeen ministries. Chapter 6 of the Russian Constitution delineates the main functions of the cabinet. These include drafting the state budget, implementing state and foreign policy, maintaining the rule of law, and upholding basic human rights and freedoms.

The powers of the government are split between the President, who serves as the Head of State and Supreme Commander-in-chief, and the Prime Minister, who is the Head of Government. Together, they hold the highest positions in the government. They are responsible for implementing domestic and foreign policy, with advice from cabinet and federal ministers.

At BUSUN 2010, the Russian Cabinet will have the following federal ministers:

- Dmitri Medvedev: President*
- Vladimir Putin: Prime Minister*

- Sergey Lavrov: Foreign Affairs
- Rashid Nurgaliyev: Internal Affairs
- Anatoly Serdyukov: Defense
- Sergey Shoigu: Emergency Situations
- Alexandr Konovalov: Justice
- Viktor Khristenko: Industry and Trade
- Elvira Nabiullina: Economic Development
- Viktor Basargin: Regional Development
- Yuri Trutnev: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
- Sergei Shmatko: Energy

*These positions will be filled by the Chair and Director.

Committee Rules and Procedure

Crisis committees at BUSUN are unique. First, there are no speakers' lists, and the entire conference will be run using moderated caucuses. However, the moderated caucus has no specific topic or time limit. At the beginning of each session, we will decide on a speaking time, which is flexible and can be varied according to the wishes of the committee. Debate will be suspended in the event of a guest speaker or a crisis situation (this will be quite often).

Crisis committees do not have traditional paperwork. There will be no working papers or resolutions. The key to an integrated crisis is communication between the various cabinet committees and the crisis staff. The Russian Cabinet will do so through three different ways:

- Press Releases:** A press release is generally written in response to a crisis situation or to another press release. Once submitted, it is made public and is visible to all the committees.
- Communiqués:** A communiqué is directed at a specific cabinet and is not made public. It is used to communicate with one specific government exclusively without other governments knowing about

it.

- Directives:** A directive is the committee's way of taking action. It can range from a small action, such as mobilization of foot soldiers, to carpet-bombing another country (Note: The aim of this committee is to establish "peace," and so there will be no carpet bombing allowed...at the beginning of committee.)

All paperwork needs a simple majority to pass. If there are several directives/press releases/communiqués in question simultaneously, the chair will use its discriminatory power to address them in order of relevance to the current situation.

Finally, as this is a crisis committee, we are free to set our own procedure and amend it as we see fit. Depending on how committee is running, we can experiment with various forms of debate until we find the one that best suits the nature of the committee.

Crisis 2010 – The New World Order:

Topic 1: Russia, Ukraine, and Natural Gas

Russia is the largest producer and exporter of natural gas, and the second largest producer and exporter of oil in the world. Russia exports about a quarter of all its gas to the European Union, and nearly 80% of this passes through Ukraine. In addition to the gas it buys from Russia, Ukraine receives a large amount of oil as a payment for this gas transit. This setup between the two ex-Soviet countries has been a recipe for economic and political tensions between the two parties; some go to the extent of calling it a "gas war". In 2009, Gazprom (the largest extractor of natural gas in the world) decided to terminate its supplies of gas to the Ukraine because of outstanding debts in excess of \$1.5 billion and fines in the order of \$450 million. This also completely cut off the supply of gas to Southeastern Europe in

the Balkans. The “Crisis of January 2009” lasted almost three weeks, after which President Putin signed a ten-year supply and transit contract with Ukraine.

There are plans for a new Nord Stream gas pipeline, running under the Baltic Sea, which will supply gas to large parts of Western Europe. This pipeline would completely bypass Ukraine. However, there have been many hurdles to this project. First, critics say that countries in Western Europe do not need more gas, and that this project is too expensive. For example, France now uses nuclear energy to cover 80% of its needs. President Medvedev has said that all the gas volumes have “either been contracted, or have been formalized in binding obligations.” It is essential for Russia to ensure that countries honor these contracts. There also is the environmental question—this pipeline will stir up the toxins lying at the bottom of the Baltic Sea, one of the most polluted in the world.

Another important dynamic in Russia-Ukraine relations is the presence of Russian naval bases in the Crimea, particularly in Sevastopol. Russia’s Black Sea Fleet has been stationed in the city since 1997 under a 30-year lease. Prior to 2010, there was worry that Ukraine would not extend the lease beyond 2017. However, in April 2010, Presidents Yanukovich and Medvedev signed a deal in which extends the lease to 2042 with a 5-year renewal option. In return, Russia now sells natural gas to Ukraine at a discount of approximately 30%.

The important questions to answer here are:

- o How will Russia make sure that Europe still has a high demand for natural gas despite the increasing use of alternative energy sources?
- o Is the Naval Base for Gas Treaty really required? What can be done if Russia refuses to remove its Fleet from Sevastopol, but still charges Ukraine at the normal selling price of gas?

Topic 2: BRIC Relations

The BRIC Nations comprise Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Jim O’Neil of Goldman Sachs has proposed the BRIC Thesis whereby these four nations are predicted to be the four most dominant powers in the world by the year 2050. In June 2009, the four countries met in the first BRIC summit, during which they demanded a greater say in the global markets. The countries refrained from any talk on the dominance of the U.S. Dollar. The final statement of the meeting, however, did not mention two key Russian initiatives, namely a smaller role for the dollar, and a supranational reserve currency. Even though President Medvedev’s did not directly address this concern, his statement led to a slight decline in the value of the Dollar.

Ties within the countries have helped each of the four to progress. India and Brazil are actively seeking permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council. Russia, along with other permanent members, is warming up to such a prospect. Russia also has an active military arms deal with India. The latest proposition is the sale of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov to India by the end of the year.

However, there have been some disputes within the countries dating back to the Cold War. One such case is the Sino-Soviet Border Conflict of 1969. In 2008, the Russian and Chinese foreign ministers completed a comprehensive border survey and reached an agreement, which also involved the Yinlong/Tarabarov Island and half of the Heixiazhi/Bolshoi Ussuriysky Island.

The Russian and Chinese foreign ministers meet in 2008.

Some important questions to ask here are:

- o How can Russia help to increase the value of the Ruble with a simultaneous drop in the value of the U.S. Dollar?

- o How will the entry of new permanent members into the United Nations Security Council affect the current power that Russia holds in the body?
- o What are the present risks posed by the Chinese along the Sino-Russia Border?
- o How do Russian arms deals with India affect the two nations relations with other countries, such as the United States?

Other Topics

Please be familiar with other important topics that are relevant today. One of the most important ones is the condition and fate of Pakistan, the “most important country in the world today.” Another topic of great relevance to Russia is that of the situation in the Caucasus, which involves Chechnya, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Georgia, and the rest of the countries in the region. These are two regions of the world with are extremely crisis-prone, and are certain to arise during the course of committee.

Parting Thoughts

Delegates,

Please remember that crisis committees at BUSUN are like no other. For one, there is no formal procedure, and the committee is free to come up with its own operating protocol. There is no paperwork, except for position papers (which are mandatory, and will be returned to you during committee. The topics mentioned above are of importance to the crisis at hand, but they are not the be-all and end-all of it. ANYTHING can come up in a crisis, even if you are not prepared for it. The best way to approach the committee is to stay up to date with news that relates to Russia in particular, as well as Russia’s neighbors, the BRIC nations, and the other cabinets present as part of the integrated crisis.

During committee, remember that spontaneity is the key to a successful and

enjoyable Crisis experience. Background knowledge is essential, but it serves no purpose if you do not know how to apply it to suit the situation at hand. Quick thinking and intelligent responses go a long way in building credibility within the cabinet and the crisis as a whole.

Finally, remember that BUSUN Crisis committees are intended for delegates to stretch their imaginations beyond the limits that conventional Model United Nations committees restrict delegates to. There is always total fun in total chaos. Look out for it. See you in November. And remember: Two warheads are better than one!