

SECURITY COUNCIL (1948)



CHAIRS: MATEO MIRANDA &
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER TO THE DELEGATES	4
COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION	6
United Nations Security Council	6
The right to veto	8
Double delegation	8
Palestine and the United Nations	9
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	10
Zionism and its foundation	10
First Aliyah	10
Second Aliyah	11
World War I	11
The Mandatory Palestine era	12
World War II	13
MULTILATERAL TREATIES AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UN	15
United Nations Partition Plan	15
CURRENT SITUATION	17
TIMELINE OF EVENTS	18
POSITION OF NATIONS	22
Israel	22
Egypt	23
Transjordan	23
Syria	24
Brazil	24
Iraq	25
Lebanon	25
Saudi Arabia	26
Yemen	26
United Kingdom	26
United States	27
Soviet Union	27
China	27
France	28



Czechoslovakia	28
GUIDING QUESTIONS	28
FURTHER READING	31
BIBLIOGRAPHY	32



LETTER TO THE DELEGATES

Hello, dear delegates!

I am Mateo Miranda, a senior student from the Swiss School of Curitiba, and I could not be more grateful and delighted to have the opportunity to be your chair in this year's Security Council! As someone who has been part of the world of Model United Nations since middle school, and is now headed to his last SMUN, this will for sure be an experience that I will never forget. During all these years of debating and chairing, the most valuable lesson I have learned is to enjoy every second of the experience. At the end of the day, it doesn't come down to who were the ones that won awards, or shouted the most with other delegates. The one important thing you acquire from MUN experiences is the ease to speak and give your opinion on the matter, regardless of it being asked for, or not. That is why, delegates, I urge that all of you take the most out of this event. Don't be afraid to speak, I guarantee you that every single person sharing the committee with you has stuttered when trying to raise a point once during their MUN experiences, and those are the moments that build up who we are, so, enjoy!

My name is Felipe Torres, a senior in the Panamerican school of Bahia, and I will be your co-chair for SMUN 2023. I am grateful to be a part of this committee and I would like to provide you with the best possible experience in this part of your MUN journey.



Since middle school I have been a part of the MUN community participating in conferences all over Brazil and in Latin America as a whole, so I am no stranger to cheering and debating conferences outside of my home turf. With the ample experiences I have gathered throughout the year I hope it can translate to being a valuable asset for both veteran and rookie delegates during this committee session. I would like to make myself available at all times before, during and after the conference for feedback, questions, and doubts.

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION



United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six organs created by the United Nations Charter, in 1945. Nonetheless, its first meeting was only held on 17 January 1946, in London.

Under what is written in the UN Charter, some of the diverse functions and powers of this council are to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations, to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be



taken, for instance. The Security Council has always taken permanent residence in New York, at the United Nations Headquarters. The council has 15 members, 10 of them being rotative, all of them having the right to one vote. The 5 permanent members - China, France, Russia, UK and USA are known as the 'P5', which aside from not being substituted by other countries, have what is known as the veto power, meaning that whenever any of them decides to veto a resolution written by the council, regardless of the previous votes, it is not approved and therefore its clauses do not enter operation.

The main way of operation of this council is by responding to emerging crises that are presented to it worldwide. Its first approach, however, is to suggest that involved parties handle the situation peacefully. In case that does not work, the council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;
- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.



The right to veto

Because of their crucial contributions to the founding of the United Nations, five nations — China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (succeeded by the Russian Federation in 1990), the United Kingdom, and the United States—were thought to continue to play significant roles in maintaining global peace and security.

In case one of these members was not in agreement to a resolution but did not want to vote against it either, that nation could choose to abstain from the voting procedure.

Double delegation

This committee will have 2 delegates representing each country, so there are some rules that must be followed so that the flow of the debate functions smoothly. Each delegation must act as a unit, so in order to request motions and points, both delegates must be in accordance, as if they were one. Only one vote is granted to each delegation, and when the delegation goes up front to speak, the delegates are allowed to go both to the podium and speak, or if it's not of their will, only one delegate can go. For roll calls, both delegates must be inside the committee room.



Palestine and the United Nations

For a country to be a member of the UN, all 5 permanent members must recognize it as a country. Since that was not the case for Palestine, since the US has always argued that Palestine does not have the requirements to be considered a country, there will not be a delegate representing Palestine. Instead, the Crisis Directors will periodically enter the committee to deliver messages representing Palestine's opinions on what the committee is discussing, since this is a problem with its direct involvement.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Israel's founding was the result of a prolonged and complicated history that involved politics, religion, and territorial disputes rather than being an overnight event. Despite Jews having a long history in Israel that dates back thousands of years, the modern pursuit for a Jewish homeland started in the late 19th century with the rise of the ideology of Zionism.

Zionism and its foundation

The term Zionism comes from the Hebrew word *Zion*, a hill in Jerusalem widely referring to the Land destined for the Jewish people in the form of Israel. This ideology was created in the XIXth century by Theodor Herzl, an Austro-Hungarian Jewish journalist and activist, who through his pamphlet "*Der Judenstaat*" (The Jewish state) shared his visions of the need to create a Jewish homeland to protect the Jews from the antisemitism suffered mainly in Europe during that time. Through time, more people became adept to this ideology, and by the beginning of the XXth century, the Zionist movement sought to establish a Jewish state in Palestine, which was under Ottoman rule during that time.

First Aliyah

The First Aliyah (Jewish diaspora), although widely not considered the first immigration wave formed by Jews, because of the early immigration process that



took place between 1840 and 1880 in Palestine, is a major wave of Jewish immigration that was formed by followers of the Zionist ideology and Jews that came mostly from Eastern Europe, which combined formed approximately 25.000 immigrants. This first attempt failed, as the immigrants ran out of funds and often had to return to their places of origin due to hunger and disease.

Second Aliyah

The Second Aliyah occurred between 1904 and 1914, composed by 35.000 immigrants, this time coming especially from the Russian Empire and Yemen towards Palestine, still under Ottoman rule. Differing from the First Aliyah, one of the main reasons for the emigration from Imperial Russia was the continuously growing antisemitism, which was present even in areas such as the Pale of Settlement, a western region of Russia in which the residency of Jews was allowed. Outside of this region in Russia, residency, temporary or permanent, was mostly forbidden.

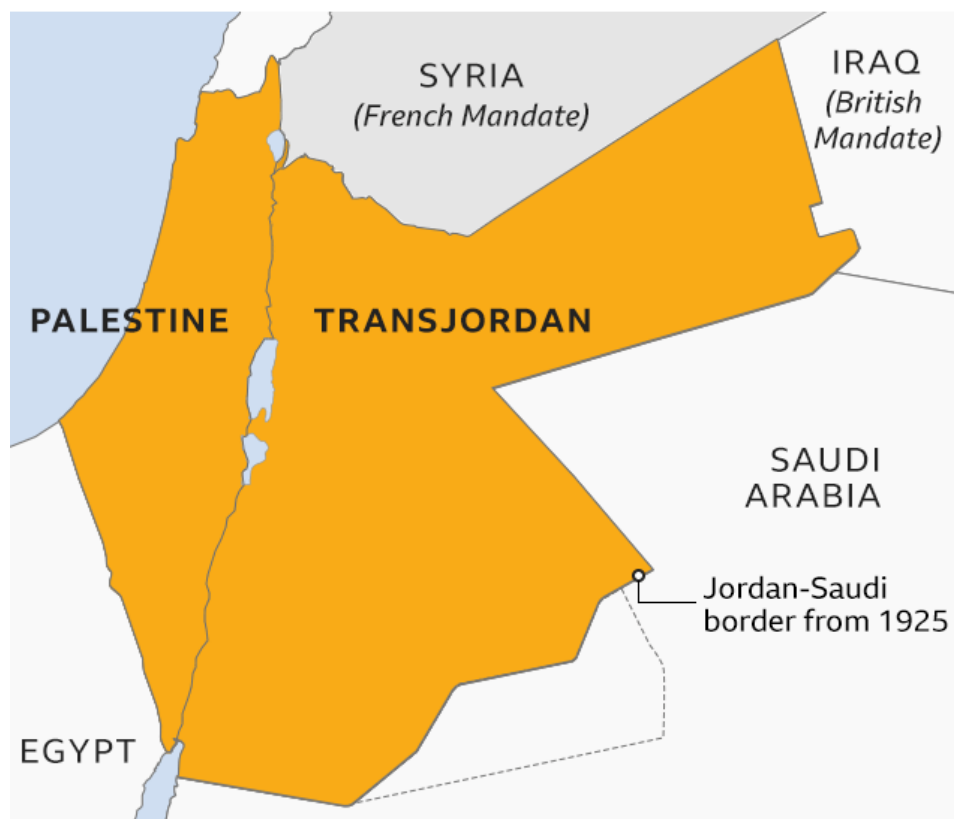
World War I

Because the Germans were battling the Russians, who were seen as the Jews' main opponent during World War I, the majority of Jews supported them. For a number of reasons, including the antisemitic idea of "Jewish power" in the Young Turks movement of the Ottoman Empire, which was centred in Thessaloniki, the city with the highest concentration of Jews in Europe, the British administration sought



Jewish assistance for the war effort. This continuously growing relationship led to the Balfour Declaration, written by Arthur James Balfour. This declaration stated that the British government viewed with good eyes the establishment, in Palestine, of a Jewish home for the people. This is often considered an attempt of ruling the country without Jewish opposition, which worked in Britain's favour.

The Mandatory Palestine era



Between 1920 and 1948, Palestine was under British command after the support shown through the Balfour Declaration. The territory of Transjordan was also



covered by this mandate, but as it wasn't included in the declaration, different rules were applied to it. After the Balfour Declaration, the Bolsheviks took control of Russia, generating a civil war. From 1918 to 1921, a series of mass murders of Jews, better known as pogroms, led to the death of more than 100.000 Jews and displacement of over 600.000 of them, causing more than 40.000 of these refugees to head towards Palestine until 1923, in what is known as the **Third Aliyah**. The periods of 1924-1929 and 1929-1938 marked the **Fourth and Fifth Aliyah**, respectively, and were responsible for more than 300.000 immigrants.

Throughout all of the British mandate, Arab riots took place constantly, such as in 1936, when the Great Revolt, a popular nationalist uprising made by the arabs started, with the intents of dethroning British command and attacking Jews in general, while also demanding Arab independence at the end of the uprising immigration progress in the region.

World War II

The Holocaust, a systematic campaign by the Nazis (National Socialists) between 1939 and 1945 to exterminate everyone of Jewish ancestry in Europe, resulted in the deaths of about 6 million Jews. Children made up one-fourth of those who died. The Jewish communities in Poland and Germany, which were crucial in shaping the pre-1945 Jewish world, almost vanished. Jews lost touch with their family and origins in Palestine and the United States. In early 1940, the Jewish Agency



joined efforts to establish a Jewish army to fight alongside British soldiers. Despite Winston Churchill's efforts, the government opposition and the military itself opposed those plans, demanding that the number of Jews in the army matched the number of Arabs. The Jews present in the Middle East and North Africa also suffered, since this region of the African continent was almost fully under Nazi control, leading to hundreds of thousands of Jews being turned into slaves. Between 1941-1942, the Jewish Agency developed a series of plans in case the Wehrmacht (the Nazi army between 1935-1945) decided to invade Palestine to slaughter the Jewish population.



MULTILATERAL TREATIES AND ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE UN

United Nations Partition Plan



Recommending the division of Palestine into Jewish and Arab governments (along with an international zone covering Jerusalem and Bethlehem), the UN General Assembly accepted the UK's request to entertain and discuss the situation in Israel, creating a new council, UNSCOP (United Nations Special Committee On Palestine) and passing Resolution 181 on November 29, 1947. At a period when Jews made up less than a third of the population and owned less than 7% of the land, the



plan specifically called for a Jewish state to be established on more than half of Mandate Palestine. In 1947, the UNSCOP tried to meet with the Jewish and Zionist representatives, but the Arab Higher Committee boycotted these meetings. Since this period marked the last breaths of British mandate in Israel, in order to try to reestablish its control for the next years, British forces detained Jews trying to enter Palestine, despite several clauses of Resolution 181 suggesting that Britain allowed “substantial” passage from these Jews by February 1948.



CURRENT SITUATION



On the verge of a war due to the tensions raised by Resolution 181, Jewish and Arab forces began to clash. The village of Deir Yassin was invaded by Jews, and on the other hand, the Arab military attacked a Jewish convoy headed for Hadassah Hospital, leaving 78 casualties. On May 14 1948, after the last British forces left Haifa, a coastal city in Israel, David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency proclaimed the establishment of the state of Israel. Immediately after this proclamation, American president and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin recognized the new state. Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and other members of the Arab League rejected the UN's proposed partition of Palestine and proclaimed the Arabs' right to self-determination throughout the entire country. The Arab governments marched their troops into what had, until the previous day, been the British Mandate for Palestine, starting The Arab-Israeli War. Take into consideration that the committee will occur in 1948, briefly after the Israeli Declaration of Independence.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

First Aliyah (1881-1903) :

- Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and Russia begin to settle in Palestine, then under Ottoman rule, as part of the First Aliyah.
- They establish agricultural communities and purchase land from local Arab landowners



Second Aliyah (1904-1914):

- More Jewish immigrants arrive in Palestine, fueled by economic opportunities and escaping anti-Semitic persecution in Europe.
- Jewish self-defence organisations like Hashomer are formed to protect Jewish communities from local Arab attacks.

Balfour Declaration (November 2, 1917):

- The British government issued the Balfour Declaration, expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.

British Mandate for Palestine (1920-1948):

- After World War I, the League of Nations grants Britain the mandate to govern Palestine.
- Tensions between Jewish and Arab communities increase, leading to several violent incidents.

Arab Riots (1920, 1921, 1929):

- Arab riots occur in various parts of Palestine, driven by fears of Jewish immigration and land purchases.

Passfield White Paper (October 1930):

- The British government issues the Passfield White Paper, restricting Jewish immigration and land acquisition in response to Arab protests.



Peel Commission (1937):

- The British-appointed Peel Commission recommends the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with an international administration for Jerusalem.

Arab Revolt (1936-1939):

- Arab rebellion erupts against British rule and Jewish immigration.
- The British respond with force, and both Arab and Jewish paramilitary groups engage in violent acts.

British White Paper (May 1939):

- The British government issued the White Paper of 1939, severely limiting Jewish immigration to Palestine and proposing an independent Palestinian state within ten years.

World War II (1939-1945):

- The outbreak of World War II leads to a reduction in Jewish immigration to Palestine as Britain diverts its focus elsewhere.

Holocaust and Jewish Displaced Persons (1941-1945):

- The Holocaust in Europe results in the genocide of approximately six million Jews.
- Many survivors become displaced persons seeking refuge, with some attempting to immigrate to Palestine illegally



UN Partition Plan (November 29, 1947):

- The United Nations votes in favor of the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem designated as an international zone.
- The Jewish community accepts the plan, but Arab leaders reject it.

Israeli Declaration of Independence (May 14, 1948):

- The British mandate ends, and Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, declares the establishment of the State of Israel.
- Arab countries in the region, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, immediately declare war on Israel, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.



POSITION OF NATIONS

Israel

Israel's position would emphasize its historical and legal right to exist as a sovereign state. It would stress the need for a Jewish homeland, drawing attention to the Zionist movement and the aftermath of the Holocaust. Israel would also highlight its efforts to accommodate Arab populations within its borders and promote religious freedom.

Regarding the Arab-Israeli War, Israel would defend its actions as necessary for survival in the face of multiple Arab nations' coordinated attacks. It would argue that the war was a result of the Arab rejection of the UN Partition Plan and the subsequent declaration of independence. Israel would also maintain that it had a legitimate right to secure its borders and protect its citizens from aggression.

Israel would likely express its willingness to negotiate and seek peace with its neighbors while ensuring its security concerns are addressed. It might advocate for a two-state solution with appropriate security arrangements and recognition of Israel's existence as a Jewish state.



Egypt

Egypt's position would revolve around the Palestinian issue and the importance of establishing a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. It would emphasize that the displacement of Palestinian refugees during the war requires resolution and just compensation.

Egypt would likely assert its claim over the Sinai Peninsula, which it lost during the 1956 Suez Crisis and regained during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. It would advocate for a negotiated settlement over the Sinai and advocate for peaceful coexistence with Israel.

Egypt might stress the need for the recognition of the legitimate rights of all peoples in the region and call for an end to Israeli settlement activities in the West Bank.

Transjordan

Transjordan's position would be closely linked to its historical ties with the West Bank, which it controlled and later annexed during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Jordan might advocate for a two-state solution with a Palestinian state alongside Israel, seeking recognition and support for its historical claims.

Transjordan would likely highlight its role as the custodian of the holy sites in Jerusalem and advocate for their protection and accessibility to all religious groups. It might express its commitment to peaceful coexistence and regional stability.



Syria

Syria's position would focus on the return of the Golan Heights, which it lost to Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War. It would emphasize the importance of restoring sovereign control over the territory and advocate for the rights of the Druze and Arab populations living there.

Syria would support the Palestinian cause and call for the recognition of Palestinian rights, including the right of return for refugees. It might also emphasize the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

Brazil

Brazil's position would certainly revolve around supporting the peaceful establishment of Israel in the area while diplomatically solving the conflicts in the area.

Having in mind that the Brazilian Oswaldo Aranha was president of the General Assembly in 1947 and considered fundamental for the creation of Israel, even being nominated to a Nobel Prize for his acts, Brazil's position is very influential and favorable towards Israel's foundation.



Iraq

Iraq's position would align with broader Arab sentiments, supporting the Palestinian cause and advocating for a just resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It would call for the establishment of a Palestinian state and the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes.

Iraq might emphasize the need for regional stability and condemn any actions perceived as aggression against Arab nations. It would likely advocate for diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Lebanon

Lebanon's position would likely revolve around the issue of Palestinian refugees residing within its borders. It might call for their just and dignified resolution, either through repatriation or compensation.

Lebanon would stress the importance of respecting its sovereignty and call for the resolution of any outstanding territorial disputes with Israel, including the Shebaa Farms area.



Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's position would likely emphasize the need for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace. It would call for a two-state solution, with a sovereign and viable Palestinian state living side by side with Israel in peace and security.

Saudi Arabia might stress its commitment to regional stability and the importance of resolving the Palestinian refugee issue. It would likely advocate for a peaceful resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict through diplomatic means.

Yemen

Yemen's position would likely emphasize broader Arab unity and call for peaceful resolutions to conflicts, including the Arab-Israeli issue. Yemen might express its support for the Palestinian cause and advocate for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

United Kingdom

The UK's position might be historically aware and balanced, acknowledging its historical role in the region, including the Balfour Declaration, and expressing support for a just and lasting peace.

The UK would likely advocate for diplomatic efforts and a two-state solution, addressing the legitimate concerns of both Israelis and Palestinians.



United States

The US position would likely heavily favor Israel's security concerns, while recognizing the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It might emphasize its role as a mediator and advocate for the two-state solution.

The US would likely call for an end to violence and support diplomatic negotiations between the parties involved.

Soviet Union

During the Cold War, the Soviet Union supported Arab states and the Palestinian cause. It would advocate for a resolution to the conflict that recognized Palestinian rights and statehood.

The Soviet Union would likely call for the end of Israeli occupation and support a two-state solution.

China

China's position would likely revolve around supporting the Soviet Union and some of its Arab allies, while not creating a bad image nor interfering directly in the problem. China is one of the few nations that abstained during the voting of the partition plan, so its mask of neutrality while partially supporting the Arab rights is necessary.



France

France's position would revolve around resolving the conflicts between Jews and Arabs in the region diplomatically. Being one of the permanent members of the United Nations, the intervention of France in supporting the peaceful establishment of the Israeli State is expected.

Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia's position would likely revolve around supporting the cause of the state of Israel, following the example given by other western nations that voted in favor of the end of the British Palestine, such as France and the United States.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What were the main causes and triggers of the Arab-Israeli War following the birth of Israel?
2. How did the international community respond to the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli War, and what measures were taken to address the escalating conflict?
3. What were the key military and political developments during the early stages of the Arab-Israeli War, and how did they impact the regional dynamics?
4. How did the involvement of neighboring Arab states affect the course of the conflict, and what were their respective objectives and strategies?



5. What were the humanitarian implications of the Arab-Israeli War, and how did the conflict impact civilian populations and refugees?
6. How can the Security Council promote a ceasefire and de-escalation of hostilities between the involved parties in the Arab-Israeli War?
7. What measures can be taken to facilitate peace negotiations and promote a sustainable resolution to the conflict?
8. How can the Security Council address the issue of territorial disputes and land claims in the context of the Arab-Israeli War?
9. What role can the international community play in supporting humanitarian efforts and providing assistance to those affected by the conflict?
10. How can the Security Council ensure the protection of cultural heritage sites and religious sites during the Arab-Israeli War?
11. What actions can be taken to prevent the spread of violence and extremism in the region in the aftermath of the conflict?
12. How can the Security Council address the issue of arms proliferation and ensure responsible arms transfers in the region to prevent further escalation of the conflict?
13. What steps can be taken to foster dialogue and mutual understanding between the parties involved in the Arab-Israeli War?
14. How can the Security Council collaborate with regional organizations and stakeholders to find a comprehensive and lasting solution to the conflict?



15. What are the prospects for reconciliation and lasting peace in the region, and how can the Security Council support and facilitate this process?



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