



Research Report

Forum: General Assembly First

Issue: The issue of the nuclear capabilities of states in the Middle East

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Personal Introduction

Hi future delegates,

My name is Casper Pachocki, and I will be one of the chairs of the GA 1 for the upcoming edition of CalsMUN (2018). After serving as the deputy Secretary General of CalsMUN 2017 and being a delegate in CalsMUN 2016, I thought it was time to fulfil the duty of being a chair. I have participated in 5 MUN sessions, of which CalsMUN was the most dear to me. I hope to be able to guide you through the GA 1 with my experience, so that you will learn the most and enjoy yourselves.



If there is one advice I could give you, it would be the following: if knowledge and ability aren't enough, be persistent.

Enjoy CalsMUN 2018,

Casper

Hey everyone! My name is Jessica Bonnema and I'm a 16year-old student of the Stedelijk Gymnasium Haarlem. For CalsMUN I'll be the Chair of the General Assembly First Committee.

I am simply fascinated by how MUN works and how everyone can learn so much from it. Ever since I started participating, I haven't missed any conference I could attend and I'm also part of the Secretariat for the conference at my school. This will be my 16th conference of which my 4th as a Student Officer and I'm truly looking forward to the conference. I'm hoping for a productive, but definitely also fun, weekend with all of you.





General Assembly First

The First General Assembly is the committee that can be called the Disarmament and International Security [DISEC], as the name suggests, this committee deals with affairs and disputes that threaten to endanger the stability and security of a region or the world in the general. This committee is also a committee of the real United Nations, or to be more specific: it is a sub-committee of the General Assembly. On the United Nations website, its main topics are described as the following:

“The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.”



Issue: The issue of the nuclear capabilities of states in the Middle East

General Introduction

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic effects. The dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare—in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—about 22,000 reportedly remain in our world today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge.

The United Nations has sought to eliminate such weapons ever since its establishment. The first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 established a Commission to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among others. The Commission was to make proposals for, inter alia, the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes. The resolution also decided that the Commission should make proposals for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”

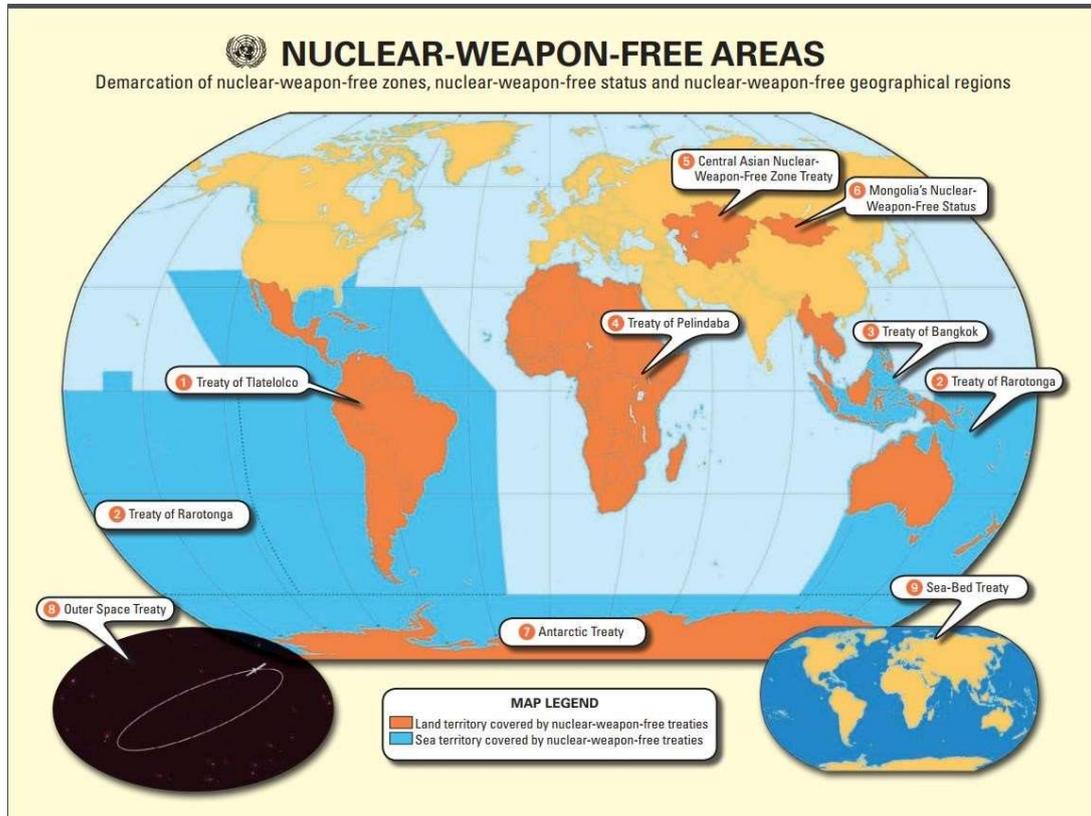
While major countries such as the US and Russia have access to nuclear weapons, they are more or less controlled by multiple treaties. They undergo inspections of the UN regularly. Countries like Iran and Pakistan have nuclear capabilities and use these for energy production, as Iran states that the purpose of its nuclear program is the generation of power and that any other use would be a violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, of which it is a signatory, as well as being against Islamic religious principles. Iran claims that nuclear power is necessary for a booming population and rapidly industrialising nation. It points to the fact that Iran's population has more than doubled in 20 years, the country regularly imports gasoline and electricity, and that burning fossil fuel in large amounts harms Iran's environment drastically. Furthermore, Iran argues that nuclear power makes fairly good economic sense. Building reactors is expensive, but subsequent operating costs are low and stable, and increasingly competitive as fossil-fuel prices rise. These claims have been echoed by Scott Ritter, the former UN weapons inspector in Iraq. Roger Stern, of Johns Hopkins Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering, agrees "Iran's claims to need nuclear power could be genuine".

Nevertheless, the UN is trying to disarm all Nuclear Weapon States, but has its focus on the Middle East. As stated earlier, Western states can be more easily inspected and controlled. Another important part of disarming Iran, is the possibility of starting a



nuclear arms race between countries surrounding Iran. If Iran is 'allowed' to have nuclear weapons, why cannot Israel and Pakistan have them as well?

Another aspect is that of Western oppression. To states in the Middle East, not being allowed to have nuclear capabilities feels like their independence is taken away, which is why they oppose the treaties so strongly.



General Information

- There are eight sovereign states that have successfully detonated nuclear weapons. Five are considered to be nuclear-weapon States (NWS) under the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In order of acquisition of nuclear weapons these are: the United States, Russia (the successor state to the Soviet Union), the United Kingdom, France, and China. Since the NPT entered into force in 1970, three states that were not parties to the Treaty have conducted nuclear tests, namely India, Pakistan, and North Korea. North Korea had been a party to the NPT but withdrew in 2003.
- Israel is widely believed to have been the sixth country in the world to develop nuclear weapons, but has not acknowledged its nuclear forces. It had "rudimentary, but deliverable," nuclear weapons available as early as 1966. Israel is not a party to the NPT. Israel engages in strategic ambiguity, saying it would not be the first country to "introduce" nuclear weapons into the region, but refusing to otherwise confirm or deny a nuclear weapons program or



arsenal. This policy of "nuclear opacity" has been interpreted as an attempt to get the benefits of deterrence with a minimum political cost.

- Former Soviet Union territories such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus could have leftover nuclear warheads, although most of them have probably been sent back to Russia.
- Iran - During the shah's government, Iran had plans to build a nuclear power plant with American help. This program came to a standstill by the Islamic Revolution, after which Mahmoud Ahmedinejad resumed this. Iran is suspected of working on a nuclear weapons program and would have enough uranium to produce at least one atomic bomb. In 2015 Iran reached an agreement with the international community on openness regarding the nuclear program, in which a large part of the sanctions was lifted in 2016. Israel, a number of Arab states and the right wing of American politics are sceptical about the agreement and believe that the lifting of the sanctions only strengthens the power of radical elements in Iran and leads to Iran only giving partial openness and secretly still develops nuclear weapons.

Previous attempts to solve the issue

A number of multilateral treaties have since been established with the aim of preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, while promoting progress in nuclear disarmament. These include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests In The Atmosphere, In Outer Space

And Under Water, also known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which was signed in 1996 but has yet to enter into force.

A number of bilateral and plurilateral treaties and arrangements seek to reduce or eliminate certain categories of nuclear weapons, to prevent the proliferation of such weapons and their delivery vehicles. These range from several treaties between the United States of America and Russian Federation as well as various other initiatives, to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Possible solutions

Possible solutions could include:

- Improved treaties, concessions and better rules and regulations for possessing nuclear capabilities.
- More efficient sanctions, proper punishments for countries unwilling to stop nuclear misuse.



Military intervention, resorting to the last possible solution, violence to stop nuclear misuse.

Major organizations/countries involved

Organisations

United Nations (UN) – seeks to eliminate nuclear weapons

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - to encourage development of peaceful applications of nuclear technology, provide international safeguards against its misuse, and facilitate the application of safety measures in its use.

Countries

United States of America – has roughly 4000-4500 nuclear warheads in military stockpile, biggest nuclear state in combination with Russia, is a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS)

Russia - has roughly 4000-4500 nuclear warheads in military stockpile, biggest nuclear state in combination with the USA, is a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS)

France – has nuclear weapons in its arsenal, is a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS)

China - has nuclear weapons in its arsenal, is a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS)

United Kingdom - has nuclear weapons in its arsenal, is a Nuclear Weapon State (NWS)

India – has nuclear weapons in its arsenal, but has no sanctions because of cancelled nuclear activity, “As long as the world is constituted as it is, every country will have to devise and use the latest devices for its protection. I have no doubt India will develop her scientific researches and I hope Indian scientists will use the atomic force for constructive purposes. But if India is threatened, she will inevitably try to defend herself by all means at her disposal.” – former Prime-Minister of India

Pakistan – has nuclear weapons in its arsenal, the uneasy relationships with India, Afghanistan, the former Soviet Union, and the energy shortage explains its motivation to become a nuclear power as part of its defence and energy strategies. Pakistan has repeatedly stressed that it will give up its nuclear weapons only when other nuclear armed states do so, and when disarmament is universal and verifiable. It rejects any unilateral disarmament on its part.

North-Korea - has nuclear weapons in its arsenal, has not signed any treaties on nuclear armament. Is accused of using nuclear capabilities for future warfare and tests its arsenal frequently.



Timeline of related events

August 1942

Manhattan Project established in US

The US sets up the Manhattan Project to develop the first nuclear weapon. It eventually employs more than 130,000 people and costs US\$2 billion (\$25 billion in 2012 dollars).

16 July 1945

US conducts first ever nuclear test

The US government tests its first nuclear weapon, code-named "Trinity", in New Mexico. Its yield equals 20,000 tonnes of TNT. The date of the test marks the beginning of the nuclear age.

6 August 1945

US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima

The US detonates a uranium bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima, killing more than 140,000 people within months. Many more later die from radiation-related illnesses.

9 August 1945

A second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki

The US explodes a plutonium bomb over Nagasaki. An estimated 74,000 people die by the end of 1945. Little can be done to ease the suffering of the victims who survive the blast.

24 January 1946

UN calls for elimination of atomic weapons

In its first resolution, the UN General Assembly calls for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and sets up a commission to deal with the problem of the atomic discovery.

29 August 1949

Soviet Union tests its first nuclear bomb

The Soviet Union explodes a nuclear weapon code-named "First Lightning" in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. It becomes the second nation to develop and successfully test a nuclear device.

17 February 1958

UK disarmament campaign formed

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in the UK holds its first meeting. Its iconic emblem becomes one of the most widely recognized symbols in the world.

1 December 1959

Nuclear tests banned in Antarctica

The Antarctic Treaty opens for signature. It establishes that "any nuclear explosion in Antarctica and the disposal there of radioactive waste material shall be prohibited".

13 February 1960



France tests its first nuclear weapon

France explodes its first atomic bomb in the Sahara desert. It has a yield of 60–70 kilotons. It later moves its nuclear tests to the South Pacific. These continue up until 1996.

30 October 1961

Largest ever bomb test conducted

The Soviet Union explodes the most powerful bomb ever: a 58-megaton atmospheric nuclear weapon, nicknamed the “Tsar Bomba”, over Novaya Zemlya off northern Russia.

5 August 1963

Partial Test Ban Treaty opens for signature

A treaty banning nuclear testing in the atmosphere, outer space and under water is signed in Moscow, following large demonstrations in Europe and America against nuclear testing.

16 October 1964

China conducts its first nuclear test

China explodes its first atomic bomb at the Lop Nor testing site in Sinkiang Province. In total, China conducts 23 atmospheric tests and 22 underground tests at the site.

14 February 1967

Latin America becomes nuclear-free

A treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons in Latin America, the Treaty of Tlatelolco, is signed at Mexico City. Parties agree not to manufacture, test or acquire nuclear weapons.

1 July 1968

Non-Proliferation Treaty is signed

Under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, non-nuclear-weapon states agree never to acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear-weapon states make a legal undertaking to disarm.

18 May 1974

India conducts first nuclear test

India conducts an underground nuclear test at Pokharan in the Rajasthan desert, codenamed the “Smiling Buddha”. The government falsely claims it is a peaceful nuclear test.

12 June 1982

A million people rally for disarmament

One million people gather in New York City’s Central Park in support of the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament. It is the largest anti-war demonstration in history.

6 August 1985

South Pacific becomes nuclear-free



The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty is signed at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. The treaty prohibits the manufacturing, stationing or testing of nuclear weapons within the area.

30 September 1986

Israel's nuclear programme revealed

The Sunday Times publishes information supplied by Israeli nuclear technician Mordechai Vanunu, which leads experts to conclude that Israel may have up to 200 nuclear weapons.

10 July 1991

South Africa joins Non-Proliferation Treaty

South Africa accedes to the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The government claims to have made six nuclear weapons and to have dismantled them all.

15 December 1995

Southeast Asia becomes nuclear-free

The nations of Southeast Asia create a nuclear-weapon-free zone stretching from Burma in the west, the Philippines in the east, Laos and Vietnam in the north, and Indonesia in the south.

11 April 1996

Africa becomes a nuclear-free zone

Officials from 43 African nations sign the Treaty of Pelindaba in Egypt establishing an African nuclear-weapon-free zone and pledging not to build, test, or stockpile nuclear weapons.

1 June 1996

Ukraine becomes a nuclear-free state

Ukraine becomes a nuclear-weapon-free state after transferring the last inherited Soviet nuclear warhead to Russia for destruction. Its president calls on other nations to follow its path.

8 July 1996

World Court says nuclear weapons illegal

The International Court of Justice hands down an advisory opinion in which it found that the threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to international law.

24 September 1996

Total nuclear test ban is signed

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty opens for signatures at the United Nations. China, France, the UK, Russia and the US all sign the treaty. India says it will not sign the treaty.

27 November 1996

Belarus removes its last nuclear missile

Belarus turns its last nuclear missile over to Russia for destruction. It joins Ukraine and Kazakhstan as former Soviet republics that have given up all their nuclear arms.

May 1998



India and Pakistan conduct nuclear tests

India conducts three underground nuclear tests, its first in 24 years. One is a thermonuclear weapon. Later in May, Pakistan tests six nuclear weapons in response to India's tests.

9 October 2006

North Korea conducts nuclear test

The North Korean government announces that it has successfully conducted a nuclear test, becoming the eighth country in the world to do so. It provokes international condemnation.

27 March 2017

Nuclear ban treaty negotiations begin

At the United Nations, the overwhelming majority of the world's governments begin negotiations on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

7 July 2017

UN adopts nuclear weapon ban treaty

Following weeks of intensive negotiations, two-thirds of the world's nations vote to adopt the landmark UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Key terms

Nuclear proliferation - is the spread of nuclear weapons, fissionable material, and weapons-applicable nuclear technology and information to nations not recognized as "Nuclear Weapon States" by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT. Proliferation has been opposed by many nations with and without nuclear weapons, the governments of which fear that more countries with nuclear weapons may increase the possibility of nuclear warfare (up to and including the so-called "countervalue" targeting of civilians with nuclear weapons), de-stabilize international or regional relations, or infringe upon the national sovereignty of states.

Disarmament - is the act of reducing, limiting, or abolishing weapons. Disarmament generally refers to a country's military or specific type of weaponry. Disarmament is often taken to mean total elimination of weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear arms. General and Complete Disarmament was defined by the United Nations General Assembly as the elimination of all WMD, coupled with the "balanced reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments, based on the principle of undiminished security of the parties with a view to promoting or enhancing stability at a lower military level, taking into account the need of all States to protect their security."



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