Baylor University High School Model United Nations

Fall 2009 Conference

International Atomic Energy Agency
Background & Preparation Guide

_____, Chair
_____, Rapporteur
_____, Rapporteur

Dear Delegates,

I am pleased to welcome you to the 2009 Baylor University Model United Nations High School Conference.

This guide will help introduce you to the topics listed below. However, this guide should simply work as a platform for your own personal research. It would be in your best interest to familiarize yourselves with the current operations and issues that are underway with the IAEA. The IAEA is the major international proponent for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Seeing as the IAEA plays such a huge role in the international nuclear world, it also is charged with the duty of making sure that member states adhere to the protocols and regulations that have been established by the IAEA. While trying to make sure that nuclear warfare is not a possibility, the IAEA also safely promotes energy and science advances in the nuclear field. The IAEA is a plenary-size committee, and with its 144 members that means the delegates participating in this committee will be able to fully delve into the issues that the IAEA is faced with today. The IAEA is one of the most important agencies because of the heightened concerns of a possibly nuclear future. Cold War tensions proved to be capable of producing vast amounts of nuclear weapons. The nuclear programs in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Iran also produce tensions that could lead to hostility. The IAEA faces profound challenges, which must be presented by you, the delegates.

The topics under discussion for the IAEA at the 2009 Conference are:

1. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Effect on the Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
2. The Iranian Nuclear Program and Compliance with International Agreements

Considering the current importance of each issue in the global spectrum, it would be very beneficial to the delegates to make sure that the everyday happenings involving these issues be documented and considered when working on the topics. The research and importance of involvement in current news is detrimental not only to the competition itself, but it also greatly contributes to the wider mission of Model United Nations by spreading awareness of global problems and their possible solutions.

Sincerely,

_____, Chair

Baylor University High School Model United Nations 2009

History and Structure of the International Atomic Energy Association

History

The International Atomic Energy Association was created in 1957, due to the fears and discovery of nuclear energy. Nuclear energy is a controversial technology, for it can be used as a weapon or constructive tool. President Eisenhower's address, "Atoms for Peace" was given to the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 8th 1953. His speech helped create the IAEA Statute. The Statute, which 81 nations approved in 1956, developed the outline of the agency's work: nuclear verification and security, safety and technology transfer.

The agency struggled to assert itself after its birth, but the IAEA created a laboratory in Seibersdorf, Austria. The purpose of the lab was for various scientists to collaborate on global nuclear research. Following the opening of the lab in Austria, the agency signed an agreement with Monaco and the Oceanographic Institute. The agreement helped pave the way for the creation of the agency's Marine Environment Laboratory. However, the agency still seemed to be irrelevant until the Cuban Missile crisis in 1962. The governments of the US and USSR sought nuclear arms control and the IAEA led the way. The agency's concern grew as countries developed their nuclear capacity and technology. Yet, the IAEA's Statute was inadequate with preventing proliferation. Thus, the agency was supported by nations seeking legally binding agreements and safeguards to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was signed in 1968. "The NPT essentially freezes the number of declared nuclear weapon States at five (USA, Russia, UK, France and China). Other states are required to forswear the nuclear weapons option and to conclude comprehensive safeguards agreements with the IAEA on their nuclear materials." (David Fisher pg.1). The NPT would be accepted by most key industrial countries and many developing countries. However, nuclear power became more technologically advanced and more commercially available. Nuclear energy became more attractive as oil prices fluctuated. But the demand for nuclear power declined in most Western nations, especially due to the 1986 Chernobyl accident. Thus, the IAEA as an agency became less relevant yet again.

As it became apparent that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea violated its NPT safeguards agreement and the agency discovered Iraq's weapons program, the adequacy of IAEA safeguards were being severely questioned. However, with the accident at Three Mile Island and the disaster at Chernobyl, governments around the world decided to strengthen the IAEA's role in enhancing nuclear safety. The IAEA played a pivotal role during the Cold War, as it talked with both the US and USSR in eliminating their nuclear weapons programs. Fortunately, as the Cold War ended, the danger of a global nuclear conflict subsided. The IAEA also helped avert the threat of nuclear proliferation in some successor states of the former Soviet Union. The UN General Assembly voted to make the NPT permanent in 1905 and also approved a test ban treaty in 1996. However, nuclear activities by various militaries around the world are

still beyond the scope of the IAEA's range. Yet, it was accepted that the Agency could verify the peaceful use or storage of nuclear material and fissile material from dismantled warheads. The agency could also test the safety of former nuclear test sites in Central Asia and the Pacific.

Currently, the agency is dealing with new nuclear threats, such as nuclear *terrorism. However, as an independent international organization, the agency's* relationship with the UN is regulated by special agreement. The IAEA reports to the UN General Assembly annually and in certain cases to the Security Council, with regards to non-compliant states and matters pertaining to international peace and security. Two policy-making bodies govern the IAEA, the Board of Governors and the General Conference. The Board of Governors is composed of 13 appointed members and 22 members that are elected by the General Conference. The Board members must be experts pertaining to atomic energy. The Board only meets every 5 years, but they present almost all of the policy work that is done at the IAEA. Yet, they also make recommendations to the General Conference on budget proposals for the IAEA. The General Conference meets annually as well to approve the requests and policies that are passed by the Board of Governors. Each of the 144 member states is represented at the GC. The General Conference provides a forum to debate the topics and legislation that is produced by the Board of Governors. The IAEA works with member states and its partners to provide security, safety and peaceful technologies globally.

Topic

I. Revising the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the effect on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Background

The classic example of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), nuclear weapons are one of the greatest threats to global peace and security in the twenty-first century. Nuclear weapons were first developed as part of the Manhattan Project and were used by the United States to bomb the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki leading to the deaths of approximately 220,000 civilians, with half perishing on the day of the bombings. The devastation caused by these bombings forced Japan to surrender in World War II for fear of further nuclear attacks. The bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first and only time that nuclear bombs have been used intentionally against the population of another country.

While all types of war and weapons can be viewed as a threat to peace and security, the greatest of these threats are weapons of mass destruction. While a gun and a bullet can kill one man, and a traditional bomb may kill thirty soldiers, a single weapon of mass destruction, like a nuclear bomb, can kill tens of thousands of people in a single explosion while turning the environment into a wasteland that will be uninhabitable for generations. Recognizing this threat, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons (NPT) was drafted and opened for signature on July 1, 1968, and subsequently received over 189 signatories. One of the primary purposes of the PT is to not only stop the production but also the distribution of nuclear weapons. The treaty demands that countries possessing WMD must progress towards disarmament while simultaneously halting development on technology that could lead to the creation of additional WMD.

Under the NPT, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United States, and the United Kingdom) are considered "nuclear weapons states (NWS). However, since the acceptance of the NPT other countries have established nuclear capabilities. These states in possession of nuclear weapons today are still considered non-nuclear weapons states according to the NPT. The NPT is broken down into eleven articles, with Article I specifically stating that each nuclear-weapon state will not transfer any nuclear weapons or devices directly or indirectly to any non-NWS.

Article II states that non-NWS should not seek out technology allowing them to construct nuclear weapons from NWS and furthermore not to develop nuclear weapons. However, some economically prosperous non-NWS have expressed interest in developing their own technology to produce nuclear energy and weapons within the past decades. Such a designation has been a point of contention between the permanent five NWS, which control almost all of the existing nuclear technologies and non-NWS. This prohibition on non-NWS from developing nuclear capabilities has lead to countries such as India and Pakistan to refuse to ratify the NPT and has forced others to withdraw to develop their own peaceful and military programs. Non-NWS such as; Pakistan, Iran, India, North Korea, and Israel have all funded programs for the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in their countries with some developing military nuclear programs for defense. Today, an increasingly large number of states desire such an opportunity in order to establish defense measures in the event of another global conflict. The leaders of the world must work hard to balance the needs and concerns of both NWS and non-NWS in order to prevent any conflict that could possibly lead to a global nuclear war, that could potentially eliminate all human life from the face of the earth.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

In 1957, the United Nations set up the IAEA in order to handle the concern of the development of nuclear technology and energy on an international level. The IAEA has three areas in which it works: nuclear verification and security, nuclear safety, and technology transfer. It is important to ensure that countries using nuclear technology are using it for the right reasons. The IAEA works to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Nuclear verification inspectors visit sites in countries that have internationally agreed that their energy sites are being used peacefully. This inspection and process is known as nuclear verification. By signing the NPT, countries must allow weapons inspectors from the IAEA to make visits every few years to check up on their promise not to develop nuclear weapons.

The IAEA also assists the international community, and specifically the Security Council, in the disarmament of nuclear weapons. Disarmament is when a country reduces the quantity of weapons in its possession. The IAEA Board of Governors reports directly to the Secretary General of the United Nations as well as the Security Council when they are asked to inspect and verify specific countries.

Discussion Questions

It is important to consider the following questions when writing the position paper for your country: Is my country a Nuclear Weapons State or a Non-Nuclear Weapons State? Is my country part of the NPT? What is the position of your country towards military spending and the development of nuclear sources of energy? What is your country's position on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction? Does your country have nuclear weapons? Has your country signed any other international or regional agreements concerning nuclear non-proliferation besides the NPT?

II. The Iranian Nuclear Program and Compliance with IAEA Agreements

Introduction

A substantial degree of controversy revolves around the current identification of the Iranian nuclear program, an obstacle exacerbated by differential claims in the international community and from Iranian officials. While historically the Iranian government commits to a peaceful development of nuclear energy technology, many international bodies and states remain skeptical of such motivations and critically question the Iranian program. Though originally the Iranian government initiated its nuclear development with the assistance of Western nations, the transition from the Western-favored government of the Shah to the institution established after the Iranian Revolution of 1979 disrupted such cooperation. The subsequent governmental structure led by Ayatollah Khomeini and his successor Ayatollah Khamenei has frequently criticized Western (and particularly U.S.) policies, actions which contributed to the cooling of relations between such parties. However, the stalled Iranian nuclear program was revived in the early 1990s, with assistance from external partners, such as Russia and China, both of whom helped Iran progress in the development of a Bushehr I, Iran's first nuclear power plant, which is anticipated to become functional in 2009.

While IAEA reviews typically sanctioned such activity, controversy surrounding the Iranian program emerged in 2002 with the discovery of two alternative nuclear sites not disclosed by the government. While debate regarding Iran's compliance continued, the situation culminated in two United Nations Security Council Resolution in 2006 (1696 and 1737), which demanded the immediate suspension of Iranian enrichment programs and eventually endorsed the imposition of sanctions on Iran. Subsequent

reviews within the UN over the next few years resulted in the expansion of such sanctions, specifically with UN Security Council Resolution 1803 in 2008.

However, in spite of the definitive statements endorsed by the UN through such Security Council action, the IAEA as an institution appears reluctant to conclusively indict Iranian nuclear efforts as a violation of international stipulations. An official report released by the Director General of the body in February of 2009 acknowledged, "contrary to the decisions of the Security Council, Iran has not suspended its enrichment related activities or its work on heavy water-related projects." Though, ultimately the IAEA recognizes the inability to derive any substantive conclusions, "as a result of the continued lack of cooperation by Iran in connections with the remaining issues which give rise to concerns about possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme." In the absence of both such transparency and an Iranian implementation of Additional Protocol (as suggested by the Security Council), IAEA actions remains primarily deliberative in nature.

Iranian Perspective

Iran publicly maintains a consistent compliance with international agreements, such as the NPT, establishing acceptable parameters for nuclear activity and development programs. Statements issued by the Iranian government indicate all domestic research efforts regarding nuclear technologies represent benign attempts to develop nuclear power capabilities. Through such advancements, the government hopes to reform its infrastructural capacity, specifically through the availability of abundant and comparatively inexpensive electrical energy. Such an expansion remains essential due to both economic realities and social patterns within the country.

The demographic composition of Iran maintains a proportionate relationship to the economic growth of the country and is typified in significant urbanization within most of the region. Modern census reports confirm such a phenomenon and provide statistical data which indicates the percentage of the Iranian population who inhabit urban areas has steadily increased from 31.4 percent in 1956 to around 68 percent in 2008. Since much of this urbanization occurred within the capital city of Tehran (which contains over seven million residents), the infrastructural potential of the state has been substantially strained in providing public services, a pressure the Iranian government suggests necessitates the employment of nuclear power.

Independent of such economic justifications, Iranian officials acknowledge the nation's signing of the NPT of 1968 and continue to publicly endorse both the goals and regulations contained within the agreement. The Iranian government supplements such a legal obligation with a reference to the prohibition of nuclear weapons in *shari'a* (Islamic law). In 2006, Mohammad Mehdi Zahedi, Iran's Minister of Science, Research and Technology, issued the statement, "Islamic doctrine does not allow us to produce mass destruction weapons or nuclear ones and the Iranian state is based on that principle." Such a comment conforms to earlier declarations by Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who issued a *fatwa* against the "production, stockpiling, and use of

nuclear weapons" in 2005. As such, Iran claims to possess both an international legal obligation and religious dictate to refrain from the development of hostile nuclear capabilities and offers such motivations as evidence of the peaceful purposes of nuclear technology within the state.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The NPT as established in 1968 and endorsed by all but four internationally recognized sovereign states (India, Pakistan, Israel, and North Korea) exists as the most prominent multilateral agreement regulating the exchange and development of nuclear technology. Iran signed the treaty in the 1968 and ratified it in 1970, under the ruling Shah government, and as such remains accountable to reviews by the IAEA which attempt to ensure compliance with the parameters of the document. Specifically, the treaty functions through the designation of three particular pillars relevant to international nuclear development: non-proliferation, disarmament, and allowing the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The first section primarily encompasses the interactions between states, and attempts to regulate both the bilateral exchange of nuclear technologies and the actual employment of hostile nuclear devices. Such a goal operates through the identification of five nuclear weapons states (NWS): The United States, Russia, The United Kingdom, France, and the People's Republic of China. The treaty then restricts the actions of parties within such a category from providing other non-possessing states with either nuclear technologies or devices and prohibits a NWS states from attacking non-NWS states with nuclear weapons.

The last two pillars attempt to facilitate a sustainable peace by endorsing an environment conducive to trust and cooperation rather than hostile nuclear competition. Such a goal occurs through a prioritization of disarmament and the acknowledgement of the peaceful potential for nuclear technologies—specifically within the energy sector. As such, the third pillar condones both the transfer of nuclear technologies between states and domestic nuclear research, conditional upon the developing state providing evidence the nuclear advancement exists as an exclusively peaceful action. Most controversial discourse regarding the treaty occurs within the third pillar, as an objective determination of a state's peaceful intentions remains difficult to ascertain.

Conclusion

International debate regarding the genuine intentions of the Iranian nuclear program exists as one of the most controversial yet imminent topics within global political discourse and substantially influences the interactions of various states. While the ideological dichotomy between many Western nations and the Iranian Republic dictates much of the dispute, a hesitation by the Iranian government to cooperate with international bodies legitimizes many of the suspicions surrounding the state's nuclear ambitions. However, ultimately a lack of tangible and substantive evidence about Iran's nuclear research precludes many potential policy alternatives by the international

community, as an accurate assessment of Iranian motivations remains impossible. As such, the majority of multilateral negotiation relevant to the topic must at least peripherally address possible ways to solicit cooperation from the Iranian government as a prerequisite to the facilitation of more conclusive action towards approaching a compromise.

Relevant Questions

What international action, if any, has your country taken in addressing nuclear proliferation (include both bilateral negotiations and global agreements, such as the NPT)? Does your nation identify with any regional blocs or possess any significant trading partners which might influence the character of its nuclear policy? How might your state's domestic energy climate influence potential international policy alternatives directed towards the development of nuclear technologies?

Bibliography

IAEA. Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1835 (2008) in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Rep. no. GOV/2008/59. November, 2008.

IAEA. Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement and relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007), 1803 (2008) and 1835 (2008) in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Rep. no. GOV/2009/8. February, 2009.

Singh, Sonali and Christopher Way. "The Correlates of Nuclear Proliferation: A Quantitative Test." The Journal of Conflict Resolution. Vol. 48 No. 6. December 2004.

United Nations. Security Council. Resolution 1835. 2008.

United Nations. Security Council. Resolution 1803. 2008.

United Nations. Security Council. Resolution 1747. 2007.

United Nations. Security Council. Resolution 1696. 2006.