VMUN 24'

UNGA

Cold War

Freeze Date : April 21, 1984

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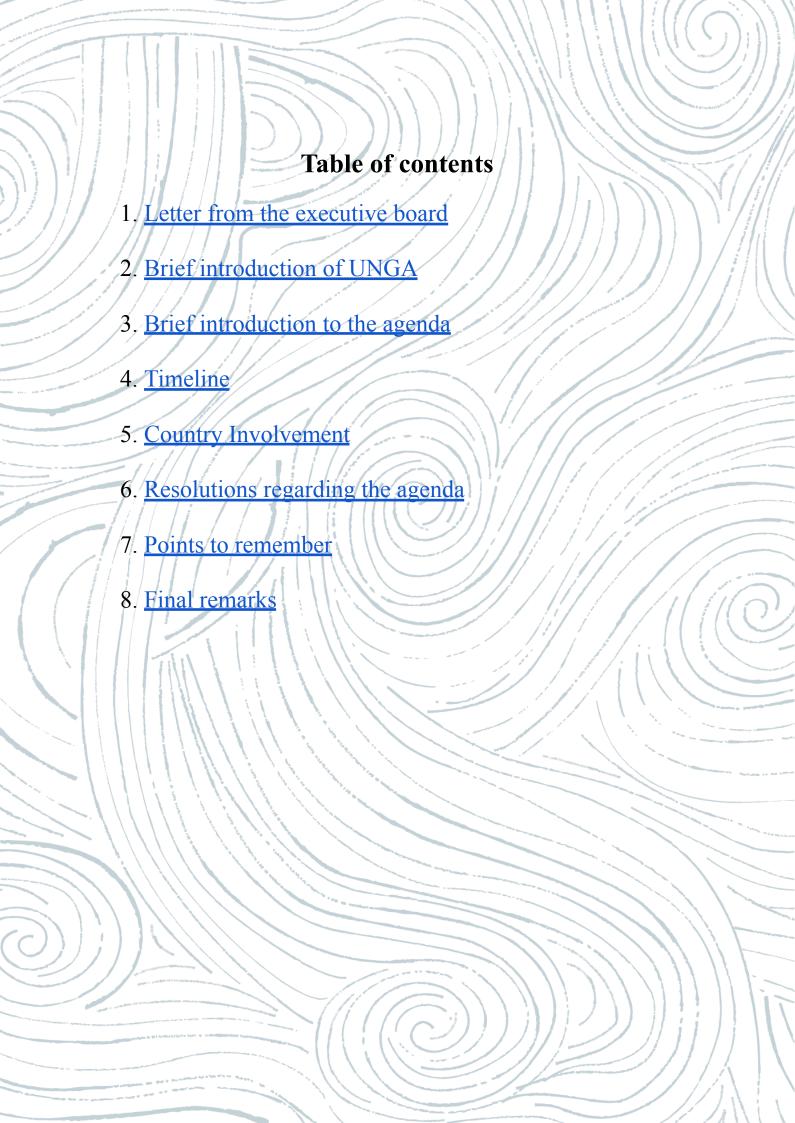
Dear delegates,

As the Executive Board of the United Nation General Assembly, VMUN 24', we would like to extend our warmest welcome to all of you. We are extremely glad to have you as a part of this committee as we truly believe your participation in this conference will bring productive and riveting debates on the agenda, "The Cold War."

With a freeze date set on April 21st 1984, we expect delegates to be well read on past matters and thorough on any preceding events leading up to this point. This background guide aims to furnish you with information, offering a comprehensive overview of the topic at hand and enhancing your preparedness for conducting your own individual research. Albeit it is important to note that this guide should serve as just a foundation for your research, and it is not intended to be the sole source for navigating the conference successfully.

Unlike other conventional committees, the United Nations General Assembly addresses a wide range of complex issues that are more challenging to resolve compared to economic, financial, security, or humanitarian dilemmas. We, as the executive board, expect that the delegates try their best to acquire as much understanding as possible and to be thorough and well-versed in the history of the Cold war and WW2 history too in general.

As your executive board we will do our best to provide each delegate their best possible MUN experience. If you have any further doubts, please feel free to contact any of the executive board members and we will assist you. We wish you the best of luck and hope to see all of you on the 2nd and 3rd of August for VMUN 2024!

Sincerely,

 Mithil Anend   Anusha   Alan Prabhu
 (Chairperson)   (Co-Chairperson)   (Vice-Chairperson)

For any issues such as misspelled names, wishing to be reallotted, etc, feel free to contact us privately, or at:

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Brief introduction of UNGA:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), established in 1945, is the main policy making organ of the UN. Comprising all 193 Member States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion on international issues covered by the UN Charter, with each member having an equal vote.

The Assembly is empowered to make recommendations to States on international issues within its competence. Some its other powers include:

- Making recommendations on international peace and security, including disarmament.

- Discussing questions related to international peace and security, except those currently addressed by the Security Council, and making recommendations on them.

- Recommending peaceful settlement of disputes that might impair friendly relations among countries.

- Appointing the Secretary-General on the Security Council's recommendation.

- Electing non-permanent members of the Security Council.

- Approving the UN budget.

Brief introduction to the agenda:

The Cold War was a prolonged geopolitical, ideological, and military rivalry between the United States and its allies in the Western bloc, led by NATO, and the Soviet Union and its allies in the Eastern bloc, led by the Warsaw Pact. It began shortly after World War II and lasted until the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 but our background guide will contain a brief summary of the events that occurred until April 21st, 1984.

As of April 21, 1984, the Cold War was characterised by intense ideological, military, and economic competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. This period saw ongoing proxy conflicts, nuclear arms race escalations, and global ideological struggles. Both superpowers engaged in diplomatic manoeuvres, propaganda campaigns, and espionage activities for strategic advantages. The era included crises like the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, alongside phases of détente in the 1970s. The geopolitical landscape was defined by a bipolar world order, where U.S. and Soviet actions heavily influenced global politics, economics, and security.

During the Cold War until April 21, 1984, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) played a pivotal role amidst global tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. It served as a forum where both superpowers and their allies engaged in diplomatic battles to sway international opinion and gather support for their respective ideologies and policies. Despite the frequent deadlock in the Security Council due to veto powers wielded by the US and USSR, the General Assembly provided a platform where every member state had an equal vote, allowing for symbolic resolutions that reflected global sentiments.

Key areas of UNGA involvement included decolonization efforts in Africa and Asia, where newly independent nations sought recognition and support. Human rights became a significant issue, with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 marking a milestone. Peacekeeping efforts, authorised by the UNGA, aimed to resolve conflicts like the Suez Crisis, though these initiatives were challenged by Cold War rivalries.

Disarmament and arms control discussions were frequent but hindered by mutual distrust and the arms race. Despite these challenges, the UNGA remained a critical platform for dialogue, attempting to bridge the ideological divide and promote international cooperation amid the intense geopolitical competition of the era.

In summary, the Cold War until April 1984 was marked by ideological confrontation, military brinkmanship, and geopolitical manoeuvring, shaping global affairs and security policies for decades.

Timeline:

1945-1950

The Cold War began in the aftermath of World War II, as tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union escalated. The Yalta and Potsdam conferences set the stage for the division of Europe. Winston Churchill's "Iron Curtain" speech in 1946 and the introduction of the US containment policy marked the beginning of ideological and geopolitical conflict. The Truman Doctrine and Marshall Plan in 1947 aimed to curb Soviet influence. The Berlin Blockade of 1948-1949, which led to the Berlin Airlift, intensified hostilities. The formation of NATO and the Soviet Union's first atomic bomb test in 1949, along with the communist takeover of China, solidified the bipolar world order.

1950-1955

The Korean War erupted in 1950 when North Korea, backed by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea. The United States and United Nations forces intervened, leading to a bloody stalemate. In 1951, General Douglas MacArthur was dismissed for advocating the use of nuclear weapons against China. The US tested the first hydrogen bomb in 1952, escalating the arms race. Stalin's death in 1953 triggered a power struggle in the Soviet Union. The Korean War armistice was signed in 1953, and the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 increased American involvement in Vietnam.

1955-1960

The mid-1950s saw a brief thaw in Cold War tensions. The Warsaw Pact was formed in 1955, countering NATO. The Geneva Summit signalled a temporary easing of US-Soviet relations. Khrushchev's 1956 Secret Speech denouncing Stalin and the subsequent Hungarian Revolution, which was brutally suppressed, highlighted internal Soviet challenges. The launch of Sputnik in 1957 ignited the space race. The Eisenhower Doctrine aimed to contain Soviet influence in the Middle East. The Berlin Crisis began in 1958, and the Cuban Revolution in 1959 brought Fidel Castro to power, aligning Cuba with the USSR.

1960-1965

The early 1960s were marked by high-stakes confrontations. The U-2 incident in 1960 heightened tensions. The failed Bay of Pigs invasion in 1961 and the construction of the Berlin Wall symbolized the deepening divide. The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 brought the

world to the brink of nuclear war. The Limited Test Ban Treaty in 1963 was a step towards arms control, but Kennedy's assassination shocked the world. Khrushchev's ousting in 1964 and the Gulf of Tonkin incident escalated US involvement in Vietnam, leading to large-scale troop deployments by 1965, while the Soviet Union supported North Vietnam.

1965-1970

The late 1960s saw intensified US involvement in Vietnam and growing anti-war protests. The Cultural Revolution in China further complicated global politics. The Six-Day War in 1967 affected superpower dynamics in the Middle East. The crushing of the Prague Spring in 1968 and the signing of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty highlighted the ongoing ideological struggle. The Nixon Doctrine and Vietnamization policy in 1969 marked a shift in US strategy. The Apollo 11 moon landing demonstrated US technological prowess amidst the space race.

1970-1975

The early 1970s were characterized by a mix of détente and continued discord. The US and USSR signed the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreements in 1970, aiming to curb the arms race. US-China relations began to improve with Henry Kissinger's secret visit in 1971. Nixon's visits to China and the USSR in 1972 led to the SALT I and Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The Paris Peace Accords in 1973 ended US involvement in Vietnam. The Yom Kippur War the same year intensified Middle Eastern conflicts. Nixon's resignation due to Watergate in 1974 and the fall of Saigon in 1975 marked significant political shifts. The Helsinki Accords in 1975 aimed to improve East-West relations through human rights agreements.

1975-1980

From 1975 to 1980, the Cold War entered a phase of renewed tensions and strategic conflicts, despite efforts towards détente highlighted by the Helsinki Accords. Jimmy Carter's presidency emphasized human rights in US foreign policy, yet geopolitical rivalries intensified. A critical event was the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, aimed at bolstering a faltering communist regime against Afghan mujahideen insurgents. The US, along with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, supported the mujahideen through covert operations like Operation Cyclone, escalating the conflict into a proxy war. The Afghan conflict became a pivotal battleground in the global struggle against communism, draining Soviet resources and contributing to the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union. This period underscored the

enduring ideological and military competition between the superpowers, shaping the geopolitical landscape of the late Cold War era and setting precedents for future US foreign policy strategies in conflicts of ideological significance.

1980-1984

From 1980 to April 1984, global dynamics shifted dramatically amidst Cold War tensions and regional conflicts. The period began with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, prompting increased US support for Afghan mujahideen insurgents. The conflict intensified as the US sought to undermine Soviet influence, marking a key battleground in the broader Cold War struggle. Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions continued globally, with the Iran-Iraq War erupting in 1980 and lasting throughout the early 1980s, drawing in regional and international actors. The election of Ronald Reagan as US President in 1981 signalled a shift towards assertive anti-communist policies and military build-up, heightening tensions with the Soviet Union. The period also saw advancements in arms control negotiations, such as the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START), amidst ongoing ideological and military confrontations between East and West.

Country Involvement:

SOVIET UNION

During the Cold War, the USSR, or Soviet Union, engaged in a prolonged ideological conflict with the United States. Spanning from the end of World War II, this era saw a fierce rivalry between communism, advocated by the USSR, and capitalism, promoted by the USA. Both nations embarked on massive military buildups, triggering an arms race and the development of nuclear arsenals. The USSR led the Eastern Bloc, which consisted of countries in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world that aligned with the communist ideology. The Soviet Union's intention was to spread communism globally and establish socialist states that were politically and economically aligned with Moscow. This bloc served as a counterbalance to the Western Bloc led by the United States and its allies, which promoted capitalism and democracy.

USA

During the Cold War, the USA emerged as the leader of the Western Bloc, countering the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc's communist ideology. Spanning from the aftermath of World War II, the USA vigorously defended capitalist principles and democratic governance. This commitment included substantial military interventions and support for allies, exemplified by the Truman Doctrine which aimed to contain communism through economic and military assistance to nations resisting Soviet expansion, such as in Greece and Turkey. The USA also engaged in a significant nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union, leading to vast nuclear arsenals and the doctrine of mutually assured destruction (MAD). Diplomatically, the USA formed alliances like NATO to strengthen its global position and utilized international organizations to counter Soviet influence.

AFGHANISTAN

During the Cold War, Afghanistan became a pivotal battleground where the Soviet Union intervened to support a communist government established through a coup in the late 1970s. This sparked intense resistance from Afghan factions known as the Mujahideen, who received substantial military and financial support from the United States, Pakistan, and other Western and regional allies. The Mujahideen employed guerrilla warfare tactics, utilizing hit-and-run ambushes, sabotage, and unconventional strategies suited to Afghanistan's rugged terrain. These tactics allowed them to evade direct confrontation with the Soviet military, inflict significant casualties through asymmetric warfare, and maintain local support

networks. Soviet military involvement led to extensive casualties and widespread destruction in Afghanistan. However during the late 1970s, Afghanistan's military situation did not suggest gaining power over the Soviet Union. Instead, Afghanistan experienced internal turmoil and instability following political coups and the rise of the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA)

CHINA

China's involvement in the Cold War was marked by a complex interplay of strategic manoeuvres, ideological shifts, and geopolitical calculations. Initially allied with the Soviet Union under communist ideology, China's relationship soured in the 1960s due to ideological differences and strategic rivalries, leading to a split that intensified global tensions within the communist bloc. Seeking to counterbalance Soviet influence, China pursued a policy of rapprochement with the United States in the 1970s, culminating in President Nixon's historic visit in 1972. This alignment aimed to bolster China's global standing, modernize its economy, and strategically position itself amidst the superpower rivalry. China also played a role in the global nuclear arms race, developing its own nuclear capabilities in 1964, which added another layer to Cold War tensions. While not extensively involved in proxy conflicts, China provided support to various communist movements and regimes in Asia and Africa, further complicating global dynamics. Throughout the Cold War, China navigated a path of diplomatic manoeuvring to enhance its influence, secure its sovereignty, and promote its vision of communism.

UK

The United Kingdom played a crucial role throughout the Cold War, making significant contributions across military, diplomatic, and strategic arenas. Militarily, the UK maintained its own nuclear deterrent and supported NATO's defense against Soviet threats in Europe with ballistic missiles and nuclear submarines. The UK was pivotal in forming NATO and negotiating arms control agreements, aiming to ease tensions with the Soviet Union. British intelligence agencies collaborated closely with allies in a strategic manner to gather intelligence on Soviet activities and counter espionage efforts. Economically, the UK provided aid and engaged in trade agreements to bolster Western-aligned nations. Overall, the UK's comprehensive engagement underscored its commitment to Western security, its influential role in global diplomacy, and its strategic efforts to confront Soviet influence during the Cold War.

FRANCE

During the Cold War, France played a significant and independent role on the global stage. Emerging from World War II, France sought to regain its influence and sovereignty. France

also developed its own nuclear deterrent, conducting its first atomic bomb test in 1960, which bolstered its status as a major nuclear power. Politically, under President Charles de Gaulle, France withdrew from NATO's integrated military command in 1966 to assert greater independence in defense and foreign policy decisions, while also engaging in European integration efforts like the formation of the European Economic Community (EEC) to strengthen Western Europe against Soviet influence. Interestingly, France pursued a balanced approach between the United States and the Soviet Union, participating in peace initiatives and playing a diplomatic role in reducing Cold War tensions, particularly in Europe and its former colonies. Overall, France's strategy during the Cold War focused on maintaining sovereignty, promoting European unity, and asserting its influence in global affairs amidst the superpower rivalry.

JAPAN

Japan played a pivotal role in the Cold War primarily through its strategic alliance with the United States, which included hosting American military bases and receiving economic aid crucial for its post-war reconstruction and rapid industrialization. This alliance positioned Japan as a key ally against communist expansion in the Asia-Pacific region. Economically, Japan emerged as a global economic powerhouse, benefiting from technological transfers and access to Western markets facilitated by its alliance with the US. Japan experienced movements against American military presence which influenced its pacifist post-war constitution that renounced the right to wage war and restricted military activities to self-defense. Despite not engaging in military retaliation, Japan's Cold War involvement underscored its transformation into a major economic player and strategic partner in the global balance of power.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany played a critical role in the Cold War as a democratic state aligned with the Western powers since its establishment in 1949. It became a key member of NATO, contributing significantly to the alliance's defense against Soviet expansionism. West Germany also rebuilt its armed forces and hosted NATO military bases, including American troops, as a deterrent against Soviet aggression in Europe. Politically, West Germany navigated tensions between East and West, engaging in diplomatic efforts such as the New Eastern policy, aimed at improving relations with East Germany and the Soviet bloc. Integration into Western institutions like NATO and the EEC demonstrated West Germany's commitment to Western defense and economic unity, shaping its role as a stabilizing force in post-war Europe amidst Cold War tensions.

EAST GERMANY

East Germany, officially known as the German Democratic Republic (GDR), emerged as a Soviet-aligned socialist state in 1949 under the leadership of the Socialist Unity Party (SED). It played a pivotal role in the Cold War as a member of the Warsaw Pact, hosting Soviet troops and maintaining strict state control over its citizens. The construction of the Berlin

Wall in 1961 symbolized its efforts to prevent emigration to the West and enforce ideological conformity. Domestically, the GDR's regime suppressed dissent through state-controlled media and education. Diplomatically, East Germany acted as a proxy for Soviet interests in international arenas. During the 1970s, The GDR continued to enforce ideological conformity through state-controlled media and education, while economically it struggled with inefficiencies under central planning.

Resolutions regarding the agenda:

Resolution 112 (1948)

This resolution addressed the escalating conflict in Vietnam, where French colonial forces and Vietnamese nationalists were engaged in a bitter struggle. The UNGA called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and urged all parties to pursue peaceful negotiations, emphasising the importance of sovereignty and self-determination for the Vietnamese people.

Resolution 377 (1950)

Known as the "Uniting for Peace" resolution, it provided a mechanism for the General Assembly to act when the Security Council was deadlocked due to the veto power of its permanent members. This allowed the Assembly to recommend collective measures, including the use of armed force, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Resolution 1514 (1960)

This landmark resolution, also known as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, marked a significant step towards decolonization. It asserted the right of all people to self-determination and demanded the end of colonialism in all its forms, influencing numerous countries in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean to achieve independence.

Resolution 2792 (1971)

Focused on the Palestinian question, this resolution reaffirmed the rights of the Palestinian people as stipulated in UNGA Resolution 194, including their right to return to their homes and live in peace. It condemned Israeli settlement activities in Palestinian territories and called for the implementation of measures to safeguard the rights of Palestinian refugees.

Resolution ES 6/2 (1980)

In response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, this resolution condemned the military intervention and called for the immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops. It highlighted the principles of non-intervention and the sovereign rights of nations, urging member states to support Afghanistan's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Points to remembers:

Procedure: The goal of establishing procedural guidelines in any committee is to guarantee a better-organised and effective discussion. The UNA-USA Rules of Procedure will be adhered to by the committee. The Executive Board will adhere to the Rules of Procedure fairly strictly, but the major focus will be on discussing the agenda. Therefore, it is advisable that delegates not limit their remarks because they are unsure about the protocol.

Role of the Executive Board: The debate will be facilitated by the Executive Board's appointment. The debate's course and flow will be determined by the committee. Since the delegates make up the committee, they are allowed to voice their opinions and take a stand on any topic without restraint. However, the Executive Board may propose questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points of time to further debate and test participants.

Nature of Source/Evidence: This Background Guide is intended only for research purposes and should not be used to substantiate assertions made during the conference. The following sources are allowed as evidence or proof to substantiate comments made during formal discussion.

United Nations: Records and conclusions from the UN or any associated UN organisation are considered reliable evidence in favour of a proposition or defence.

Multilateral Organisations: Records from global institutions such as the International Criminal Court, the OIC, NAFTA, SAARC, BRICS, EU, and ASEAN may also be used as reliable sources of information.

Government Reports: These reports can be utilised in the same way as State Operated News Agencies reports and, in all cases, can be refuted by another country.

Final Remarks:

As we conclude our background guide for the upcoming Model United Nations conference, we hope it has been an informative and inspiring resource, illuminating the intricate issues we will address in our diplomatic simulations. This guide serves as a foundation for your MUN journey, encouraging you to build your understanding, explore various perspectives, and develop innovative solutions.

Within the UN General Assembly, you'll have the unique opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue on some of the most pressing global challenges. Your role in this simulation is not just to represent a country, but to embody the principles of diplomacy, cooperation, and global citizenship. Remember, the UNGA is where every voice matters, and each resolution passed here has the potential to inspire real-world change.

As you prepare, we encourage you to delve deeper into the topics, critically analyse the implications, and engage in thoughtful debates. Consider the historical context, understand the diverse viewpoints, and strive for resolutions that reflect both ambition and practicality. The collaborative spirit you bring to this assembly will be crucial in shaping comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

Wishing you all success and a truly transformative Model United Nations experience. May this conference be a testament to your dedication, creativity, and commitment to making a difference in the world.