



Historical Security Council 1982

Isabella Ochoa - Lucia Rengel

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Committee Background

The Security Council (UNSC) is a United Nations organ responsible primarily for maintaining peace and international security. Currently, it consists of fifteen members, five of which are permanent members (United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom) and ten non-permanent members—which are elected by the UN General Assembly every two years. The organ was founded on October 24th, 1946 through the United Nations Charter which dictated the creation of six main organs. The UNSC's headquarters are located in New York City.

The Security Council has four objectives:

- 1) Maintain international peace and security
- 2) Develop friendly relations among nations
- 3) Cooperate in solving international issues and incentivizing respect of human rights
- 4) Be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations

These objectives are fulfilled through the **powers** that the UNSC yields, which are the following:

In the situation that a problem is brought to the UNSC, it may:

- Put forth principles to an agreement between the nations involved;
- Carry out investigations and mediations;
- Execute a mission;
- Appoint special envoys;
- Request the Secretary-General to aid the conflict to reach a settlement.

In the situation that the conflict escalates to hostilities, it may:

- Establish ceasefire directives to help de-escalate the conflict;
- Expedite a military observant or peacekeeping force to aid conflict de-escalation and allow the nations to reach a peaceful settlement.

If the situation escalates even further, it may:

- Enforce economic sanctions, weapons embargoes, financial penalties/restrictions, and travel bans;
- Cut diplomatic relations;
- Establish blockades;
- Take collective military action.

This latter part of the UNSC's powers may be executed only if there is a threat to international peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression per article 39 of the UN Charter.

Any issues of international concern regarding peace may be brought up to the UNSC to attempt to find a resolution to it. Nations that are not members of the UNSC or the UN may be invited to discuss an issue that involves it. However, its participation is limited to solely debating and not voting during the voting procedure.

Committee Overview

The Historical Security Council works in a similar fashion to the Security Council, the only obvious exception is that it recreates the debate of a particular year. In this case, the debate will be simulating the 1982 UNSC. Given that this committee is a simulation of 1982 UNSC, no information after this year will be valid for use during the debate, obviously. As implied by its name, it is a recreation of what would have happened during that year in the UNSC.

Normally computers would not be allowed in the historical security council, however, throughout the debate, computers will be allowed for research and informational purposes only, as it will facilitate the discussion and allow delegates to be prepared.

For the voting procedure on substantive matters, ??? affirmative votes, including the concurring votes of the permanent members, are required. Additionally, no decision can be made if one of the permanent members is absent from the meeting and abstains from voting. It is necessary to note that a party to a dispute must abstain from voting.

Committee Resources

- [The UN Charter](#)
- [The UN Human Rights Declaration](#)
- [The Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council](#)

This document, although not necessary, can be helpful in getting to know the committee and its rules. Supplements 1-3 are especially useful for reading as they pertain to the council's rules and procedures before and during 1982.

Topic 1: Falklands war

Background Information

Falklands

The British controlled the Falklands before the war, since 1690 when a navy captain first landed on it. Later the Spanish took control and in the mid-19th century, the newly independent Argentina claimed the islands, saying they inherited the land from the Spanish crown. Later British troops landed on the Falklands and re-claimed it from the Argentinians. It became an official British colony. As Argentina asserted its sovereignty over the islands (Las Malvinas).

The Falklands war

March 19th, 1982 Argentinian scrap metal workers arrive in the Falklands illegally, at Leith harbor on board the transport ship ARA Bahía Buen Suceso and raised the Argentinian flag. This move started the conflict in the Falkland islands between the U.K and Argentina.

It was a 10-week battle, with a total of 904 casualties, between the two sides and 3 Falklanders who lost their lives. On April 2, 1982, the Argentinian invasion begins, shortly after the governor surrendered and the UN passes resolution 502. On June 14, the British attacks are successful and the Argentinian forces surrendered.

Main Positions on the conflict:

Position 1: The British Crown and Government

The British government run by Margaret Thatcher so the occupation of the Falkland Islands as an invasion of British sovereignty which resulted and the government dispatched naval task forces. The crown in the government argued that the Falkland Islands had been a crown colony since 1841 and that most people who inhabited the islands since the 19th century were British settlers who supported strongly British sovereignty. The British did not impose sanctions neither declared war although the Falkland Islands were declared a war zone.

Position 2: The Argentinian Government

Argentina occupied the Falkland Islands which was followed by an invasion of South Georgia. Argentina argued that the territory in the islands were Argentinian territory and the Argentine government characterized a military action that was meant to reclaim the territory. The Argentinian government did not declare war.

Guiding Questions

- Who was benefiting from the crisis?
- What nations were involved and what role did they play?
- How much importance did the US and USSR bear in this crisis?
- What measures should the UNSC have taken to avoid further conflict?
- What measures could the UNSC take to avoid further catastrophe in the Falklands?

Topic 1 Resources

- <https://www.thehistorypress.co.uk/articles/the-falklands-war-a-chronology-of-events/>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=asy0sRI_gc4
- <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/brief-history-falklands-war-180976349/#:~:text=Britain%27s%20presence%20in%20the%20Falklands,the%20are%20under%20Spanish%20control.>

Topic 2: US embargo over Libya

Background Information

Us embargo

The president (Regan administration) decided to order an embargo over the oil from Libya. Embargo caused economical loss for Libya since around 15% of the oil was bought by the United States.

Main Positions on the conflict:

Position 1: Libya

Throughout the 1980s Libya's growth was mostly influenced by their oil exporting qualities, Libya exported 15% of their oil to the United States even though for the United States of those more quantity it really supported and helped the further growth of the economy of the third world nation Libya. The US embargo over Libya affected the economy in that state Libya's annual oil revenues dropped from \$21 billion to \$5.4 billion. This meant a severe laugh in the growing economy of Libya and therefore problematics inside of the nation

Position 2: United States Government

The United States government how do you believe that by entertaining autonomic relations with Libya for the exportation of oil their administration was supporting world terrorism, this was due to the fact that the regime of the leviathan revolutionary Muammar Gaddafi under the impression of the US national security team was a contribution to terrorism. The US lowered their Libyan oil imports to around 3%. The United States also believed that the Libyan administration had ordered the assassination of president Reagan and senior officials of the government. Do you have defended its actions by refereeing to a national security issue and protection of the president.

Guiding Questions

- How much importance did the USSR bear in this crisis?
- Who was benefiting from the crisis?
- What nations were involved and what role did they play?
- What measures were taken by the United Nations to prevent further consequences?

Topic 2 Resources:

- <https://www.nytimes.com/1982/02/26/world/us-decision-to-embargo-libyan-oil-is-reported.html>
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1982/03/11/us-bans-imports-of-libyan-oil/ffe43260-12dc-4612-9e64-adf5afed3424/>

Topic 3: The Lebanese civil war

Background Information

Before 1982

In the mid, 1970s the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) established its presence in Lebanon. Where they established military training centers and across-the-border attacks engaging with civilians in northern Israel.

1982

Following the assassination attempt on the Israeli ambassador in London, the Israeli attacked the PLO on Lebanese grounds on June 4, 1982. The PLO responded to the attack by launching rockets, and artillery at Israeli ground. Israel retaliated by sending troops to Lebanon on a mission (operation peace for Galilee). The Israeli troops overran the PLO, and in the process, they destroyed Syrian installations and reached Beirut (June 9). The PLO surrendered and retreated to Tunisia by September of that year. On September 16, Israel and Lebanon became allies, and the Christian phalangist forces took charge of going into refugee camps and evacuating the remainder of the PLO. September 24, there was a massacre of 400,000 Palestinian civilians, this event led to the first protest on the war in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Main Positions on the conflict:

Position 1: Government

The first position that was mainly active in the conflict was the government which was supported by the Lebanese armed forces, the Lebanese Kataeb Party as well as the Syrian social nationalist party in Lebanon, and the Armenian revolution federation in Lebanon also

known as Tashnag. The government had support of the United States of America And they are national troops. The government was mostly confirmed of people who we're part of either a Sunni Muslim or Christian religion they were in favor of a government mostly run and influenced by the elites of the Maronite Christian community. Since the government was mostly confirmed of a Christian majority population there was a very large religious based government.

Position 2: Oposition

The opposition was confirmed by the Najjdeh Party which directly translates to the rescuers or helpers, these were supported by the progressive Socialist Party of Lebanon, the Lebanese Communist Party and the independent Nasserite Movement Also known as Al-Morabitoun. The opposition had a big support from the Soviet Union and the United Arab Republic. Clear position was the best majority of the Muslim population which also had been greatly influenced by the subject union ideologies and the Communist Party.

Guiding Questions

- What was the role of the USA and the USSR in the conflict?
- What measures should the UNSC have taken to avoid further conflict?
- What measures could the UNSC take to avoid further catastrophe in Lebanon?
- Who was benefiting from the crisis?
- What nations were involved and what role did they play?

Topic 3 Resources:

- <https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-terms/the-lebanon-war-1982#:~:text=Following%20the%20attempted%20assassination%20of,Operation%20Peace%20for%20the%20Galilee.%E2%80%9D>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Lebanese-Civil-War>
- <https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/168/lebanon-war-1982>

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