



GOMUN

VIETNAM WAR



COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Security Council, often referred to as the 'UNSC,' is a critical component of the United Nations, tasked with maintaining international peace and security. Composed of fifteen member states, including five permanent members with veto power, the Security Council plays a central role in addressing global conflicts, responding to crises, and promoting diplomatic solutions. This brief overview explores the structure, functions, and significance of the UNSC in the realm of international affairs.

Chair introductions

Andrej Dunaj

Hello! My name is Andrej (Andrew for those who cannot speak Czech) and I will be chairing HSC along with my wonderful co-chair Adam. I am 18 years old and study at Gymnázium Omská. I have some MUN experience behind my back. I am a great fan of chaos and fierce debates, so please read this study guide well and do your own research. My other hobbies include doom scrolling through my phone and playing video games. Since this GOMUN will probably be my last, I truly hope we can have a very fruitful and exciting debate.



Adam Voženílek



Hello dear delegates! My name is Adam, and I will be guiding you throughout this conference with my dear co-chair Andrew. I am 19 years old; I study at Gymnázium Omská (the school organizing the conference) and I enjoy reading, learning and following politics. Naturally, MUNs became a great interest of mine. In my time attending a lot of conferences, I have gained friends, great experiences and have learned what you do not learn about in schools. I think we have such an amazing topic, so excited for what points and strategies you will bring, it will be a blast!

Topic: THE VIETNAM WAR

TOPIC OVERVIEW

Preceding the events of the Vietnam War is the colonization of Vietnam by the French government. French and European missionaries were visiting Indochina as early as the 16th century, welcomed by natives for their knowledge and connections to European suppliers of modern technology. In 1664, the French East India Company was established, in order to compete with other European colonial powers in the region of Indochina. Whenever there was violence used against French nationals, France used its power to expand in Indochina, including Vietnam. Overtime, the French have established control over Vietnamese land, spreading Catholicism and selling imported goods from France. They have greatly contributed to the development of Vietnam, such as building railroads to major cities, bringing electricity, and improving life in Hanoi and other big cities. In 1887, in the aftermath of their victory against China in the Sino-French war, France officially formed French Indochina, a colony made from areas of today's South and North Vietnam and the Kingdom of Cambodia. Later on, they also added Laos as a result of the Franco-Siamese war, which concluded in 1893.



Japan has been expanding into East Asia since the first Sino-Japanese war in 1895. Followed by another victory in the Russo-Japanese war, they

have become a world power. Japan have gained significant benefits in Manchuria. To protect their possessions, an army security force was dispatched there.

During World War I, Japan limited themselves to seizing German possessions in China and East Asia. When China sought to reclaim their territory, Japan issued the Twenty-one Demands in 1915. It was their attempt to increase their influence in the region. The demands called for granting special concessions in Manchuria, railway and mining claims in Shandong province and the mining base in central China, and access to coastal areas such as harbors or islands. Furthermore, Japan delivered an ultimatum, which China had to concede to (negotiations followed). This moment in history only brewed a bad relationship between the two.

In 1919, the security force in Manchuria was officially established as the Kwantung army and became one of the strongest fighting forces in East Asia. Despite it being under the Tokyo governance, it often acted on its own or even against it. To protect Japanese influence in the area, there was support from the Kwantung army towards the governor of Manchuria, Zhang Zuolin. However, he did not satisfy all demands the Japanese wished for, which led to a plan. Eliminating Zhang Zuolin and taking control over Manchuria.

In 1928, the Kwantung army assassinated Zhang Zuolin in a train explosion. His son, Zhang Xuelian, entered Manchuria secretly and claimed Manchuria. This has weakened the Japanese position. In 1931, the Kwantung army decided to act again. Another explosion followed on the South Manchuria Railway, afterwards called the Mukden/Manchuria incident. Using this as an excuse (putting the blame on the Chinese military), the Kwantung army forces have occupied Manchuria successfully. This act was committed without the green light from Tokyo, and a day after, the Japanese government ordered to “contain the situation in Manchuria”. They tried again in a League of Nations conference; however, the Kwantung army rejected any kind of peaceful retrieval. This led to Japan losing their seat in the League of Nations. Later on, Manchuria became a puppet state called Manchukuo.

The Vietnamese were more and more frustrated by the colonialism by France and the invasion by Japan. These events led to the founding of a national front organisation “Viet Minh” (its full name translating to “League for Vietnam's independence”) by Ho Chi Minh (this name being a pseudonym, translating to “the bringer of light”). Nationalist movements like this were in the country since the beginning of the 20th century, however, they have struggled to fight against French colonialism. Ho Chi

Minh's political career does not start in 1941, as his first involvement was in the creation of the French Communist Party in 1911 (as he lived in Paris). In 1923, he took part in a training of the organization Comintern (short for Communist International). This organization was created in Moscow by Lenin himself to spread ideas of a worldwide revolution and a communist world. He also founded the ICP (Indochinese Communist Party) in 1930, which strived for complete independence for the states of French Indochina. Finally, in 1941, Viet Minh was founded as a Vietnamese revolutionary force. This organization saw both nationalistic and communist political stand points but was open to anyone who supported the independence of Vietnam. Viet Minh was also heavily influenced by the ICP.

During World War II, the French government was hit by their ongoing conflict with Nazi Germany. Their capitulation resulted in a weaker authority in Vietnam. The Japanese forces pressured the French colonial government, and they had no choice but to let them in Vietnam to control the Chinese-Vietnamese border. Further agreements were made, and the French administration in Vietnam continued on, because of a lack of resources for a complete takeover. The two cooperated with each other, as France had engaged in a policy of coexistence.

This has attracted the attention of the United States of America. At first, Washington backed the French regime to defend their position in the East Indies, as the relationship between Japan and the US was tense. This tension was only amplified by the attack on Pearl Harbor. Japan was successful in a run of attacks in the Philippines (occupation of the capital), Singapore, the Dutch East Indies (Indonesian islands today), etc. However, these early Japanese victories did not last long, and after Japan was forced to defend, they lost the battle of Saipan (July 1944), which brought pressure from US bombers closing on the Japanese capital.

Japan also claimed that France started to support the Allied forces in East Asia, so they started removing French officials in power in Vietnam. All military forces were disarmed, while political figures were arrested. Vietnam became a part of the Japanese colony in East Asia, controlled by a puppet government.

In July 1945, an ultimatum from the United States of America was issued. Demanding unconditional surrender, Japan did not agree, which led to the famous usage of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrendered.

Viet Minh used this opportunity to gain power in Vietnam, and in the second half of 1945 began seizing villages and cities controlled by Japan. This was assisted by the removal of French military forces by Japan, and after the nuclear bombing, Japan completely moved out of Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam as independent, however, France did not acknowledge this. French forces with the help of British occupation forces moved into Cochinchina (an area in South Vietnam) and established their power there. At first, the two sides wished for a peaceful resolution.

The two sides cooperated with each other, but both wanted to change the current situation. Hanoi wanted complete independence, while France wished for the same power pre-World War II. The first course of action by France's colonial government was their intention to proclaim Cochinchina as an autonomy. This was discredited by Viet Minh, and as negotiations between the two did not follow through, a French attack marked the beginning of the First Indochina War.

In November 1946, French naval vessels bombarded the port city of Haiphong. This led to several civilian casualties. Ho Chi Minh responded with attacks to now controlled Haiphong and Hanoi in December of the same year, which is generally considered as the beginning of the First Indochina War.

Despite the numbers of soldiers heavily favoring Viet Minh, weapon shortages made it much more difficult for them to compete. France also had better artillery, air support and supply lines, unmatched for Viet Minh. Their soldiers also lacked sufficient training. Viet Minh had to establish a strategy, which would play in their favor. They retreated to remote areas, such as mountains or jungles, to train and defend against French forces in an unfriendly environment for the attackers. Viet Minh was also gathering political support from lower class citizens, such as intel and food. After the preparation of soldiers in remote areas, they launched surprise attacks on French positions which were not as strong, while avoiding decisive battles. This way French forces were slowly bleeding, until Viet Minh was ready to attack in all its glory. In the first two years (1947-48), France quickly established control over major cities, while Viet Minh retreated. They also attacked Viet Minh's leadership base in northern Hanoi, but despite heavy losses for Vietnam, they were unsuccessful. Viet Minh also started cooperation with Laos, where they moved both men and supplies, while the Soviet Union and People's Republic of China started military support to North Vietnam in 1950.

In 1953, with no obvious victor, France decided to fortify an old Japanese airstrip close to the Laos border, to prevent Vietnamese transit of soldiers. This was in Dien Bien Phu, a city surrounded by a mountainous jungle, which led to French forces feeling this area would be easily defensible against French forces. Viet Minh, aware of this strategic move, understood their attack had to be from the tops of mountains surrounding it. It was no easy feat to move thousands of soldiers there, but locals helped the soldiers with supplies and labor. In March 1954, artillery built upon the tops of mountains started bombarding the airstrip, starting the Battle of Dien Bien Phu. France asked for help from the United States, however, President Eisenhower refused to involve America in the war without the support of London. By early May, Viet Minh launched one final attack, which led to France surrendering.

On the 8th of May, the topic of Indochina was first brought up during the Geneva Conference of 1954 (prior to that, the fallout from the Korean war was discussed). The first step towards peace was taken by the French, who proposed a ceasefire along with the release of POWs. Two days later, the North Vietnamese delegation took that suggestion one step further, by advocating for independence and sovereignty of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and asking for the inclusion of the Pathet Lao and Khmer Issarak representatives in the conference. Most crucially however, the North Vietnam delegation proposed a temporary partition of Vietnam. This however did not please the delegation of South Vietnam. Two days after the suggestion was made, South Vietnam rejected it with the US reaching a similar position the following day.

Behind the scenes, the western powers were discussing a possible US military intervention in the area. An agreement has been reached between the US and France, that if the Geneva Conference failed to deliver an acceptable peace deal, Eisenhower would seek the approval for military intervention from the Congress. Later on however, it became apparent that even across the West this move would be very unpopular. The US then began to consider that maybe the newly created Indochinese countries should be supported instead of French colonialist policies.

At this point, the French policy has changed. Back in Paris, Pierre Mendes France, an anti-war radical, took over as prime minister after a vote of no-confidence towards the previous government. Prior to his victory, he recognised Vietnam as "a fully independent and sovereign state". The new French government broke the agreement with South Vietnam and started secretly discussing a possible partition of Vietnam with the

Chinese delegation, whose position was that a ceasefire was necessary, the three new nations should be treated separately, and both Vietnamese governments are recognized. The first suggestions of the partition along the 17th parallel appeared during a meeting between the new prime minister along with his advisers on Indochina.

On the 16th of June, Ngo Dinh Diem was appointed as the prime minister of South Vietnam. Diem was strongly against the partition of Vietnam. Instead, South Vietnam proposed “a ceasefire without a demarcation line” and that the country should be closely monitored by the UN until the results from the general elections are confirmed.

All parties present at the Conference agreed that reunification elections were needed, but no one could agree on the details. The US suggested elections under UN supervision, which was rejected by the Soviet delegation, which argued that a commission with an equal number of communist and non-communist members was necessary.

In the end, the parties finally managed to come to a consensus. The partition line was to be at the 17th parallel, with a DMZ 3 miles wide (4.8km on each side) and with free movement of the population between the DMZ for 300 days. French forces were to regroup south of the line and Viet Minh to the north. The elections were to be held in July 1956, two years after the ceasefire. An International Control Commission (ICC), composed of India, Canada, and Poland, was placed in charge of supervising both the ceasefire and the elections. Separate accords were signed in relation to Cambodia and Laos.

After Diem completely took over South Vietnam, it became apparent to the western powers that they did not choose good, but rather a lesser evil. Diem was a Roman catholic (despite most Vietnamese people being Buddhist), anti-communist, nationalist and a conservative. In 1955, he launched the “Denounce the Communists” campaign, where suspected communists and members of the opposition were arrested, imprisoned, tortured or even executed. In 1956, he put out a land reform, where he took away land from large rice farmers and put it up for purchase for the poor. By 1960 this reform stalled, as many of his supporters were large landowners.

In May 1958, North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao forces seized the transportation hub at Tchepone (In southern Laos, near the DMZ) and in July, a series of fights with the Royal Lao Army across the border took place. In May 1959, Group 559 was established to maintain and upgrade the Ho Chi Minh trail. The Ho Chi Minh trail became active in August 1959.

In 1960, North Vietnam also introduced military conscription for adult men.

In September 1960 Ho Chi Minh's health was on the decline, and he was replaced by Le Duan as the leader of Viet Minh. Not long after, North Vietnam gave an order for a full scale coordinated uprising in South Vietnam against the government. In December of the same year, the Viet Cong was created to unify all anti-government (including non-communists) insurgents in South Vietnam. Support for the Viet Cong was mostly out of frustration to Diem's reversals of Viet Minh land reforms in the countryside.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world a new major crisis was playing out - the Cuban Missile Crisis. Kennedy believed that after multiple American defeats in the fight against communism (failed invasion of the Bay of Pigs, construction of the Berlin Wall), it was important to stop a communist victory in Vietnam. Kennedy, however, did not want to deploy US troops in large numbers due to subsequent political fallout, so he had to hope in eventual defeat of Viet Cong by South Vietnam itself. South Vietnam, however, was quite incompetent at this task. The US tried to send advisers and a small number of troops (only to train up the South Vietnamese forces), but the guerilla war was still successful for the communist north.

After the Battle of Ap Bac (2nd of January 1963), it became apparent that the situation would not get much better. Many policymakers in the US even thought that Diem would make a deal with the communists due to his military incompetence. The situation further escalated in May when Diem ordered nine unarmed Buddhists protesting to be shot down. After a series of anti-Buddhists raids across the country in August, the population had enough. On November 2nd, 1963, Diem was overthrown and executed by some of his generals. South Vietnam thus entered a period of extreme political instability. Different military governments came and went, while the North viewed each one as an American puppet.

On the 2nd of August 1964 USS Maddox allegedly fired upon and damaged multiple torpedo boats that were stalking it in the Gulf of Tonkin. Two days later, a second attack was reported in the same area. The second attack led to Operation Pierce Arrow (a bombing campaign) and most importantly the congressional approval of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution on August 7th, which granted President Lyndon B. Johnson (Kennedy's ex-vice-president) the power to take all necessary measures to repel attacks on the US army.

Following an attack on a US Army base in Pleiku, the bombing campaign intensified with hopes that North Vietnam would cease support for the Viet Cong. The most notable bombing campaign was Operation Rolling Thunder, which targeted North Vietnamese air defenses and industrial infrastructure with a million tons of missiles, rockets and bombs. Critical infrastructure, such as the Ho Chi Minh trail, was also targeted in neighboring Laos and Cambodia. Massive bombardment was also carried out on the Pathet Lao forces to prevent the collapse of the royal government in Laos.

After the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, North Vietnam began expanding the Viet Cong and upgrading their military equipment. With this change, Group 559 was tasked to expand the Ho Chi Minh trail under constant bombardment by the US. The war has shifted into the final phase of North Vietnam's plan. The Viet Cong started to implement conventional warfare tactics (with success), however it was still not strong enough to capture and hold major towns and cities.

On the 8th of March 1965, 3 500 US Marines were deployed in South Vietnam, which marked the beginning of the American ground war. By December, this number had increased to 200 000. The initial assignment was the defense of the Da Nang Air Base. However, the leading figures of the US military were schooled in offensive warfare and were convinced that the US should take the fight to the Viet Cong. Lyndon B. Johnson approved this change of plans. Washington then asked allies to contribute troops to the war effort. Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, the Philippines, and South Korea agreed. Canada and the UK however, declined.

In the following 2 years, the US mounted complex search and destroy operations, with debatable success. Despite this, the war became defined by small unit engagements, at which the Viet Cong excelled despite the number and equipment advantage the US had. 66 percent of all engagements up to this point in the war were planned Viet Cong attacks.

In late 1967, preparations were underway for the Tet Offensive, a series of attacks on major cities in South Vietnam. The PAVN lured American forces away, and the offensive began on the 30th of January 1968. Over 100 cities were attacked by over 85000 troops. The US and South Vietnam were both initially shocked, but after some time it was clear that the offensive was a complete tactical failure. Most cities were taken back after a few weeks. Second and third waves of the offensive were subsequently launched, demonstrating that the Viet Cong was still capable of fighting. However, by the end of 1968 it was clear that Viet Cong was not in a good

position - the insurgents held almost no territory in the South and recruitment dropped by over 80%, resulting in a drastic decrease in guerilla operations. North Vietnam then dropped the concept of large-scale offensives in favor of small unit attacks.

On the 10th of May 1968, peace talks between the US and North Vietnam began in Paris. Negotiations stalled for 5 months, until Johnson gave orders to halt the bombing of North Vietnam. Despite that, negotiations fell through, as Lyndon B. Johnson's time in office was up. He was replaced by Richard Nixon, who claimed to have a plan to end the war.

After stepping into office 1969, Richard Nixon began troop withdrawals. His plan was to build up the army of South Vietnam so that it could take over its defense. This plan became known as "Vietnamization". Nixon also tried to convince the Soviet Union that he was capable of doing anything to end the Vietnam war by sending a squadron of B-52s loaded with nuclear weapons (madman theory). Nixon however still sought to ease global tension by communication. This series of actions did not work, as the Soviet Union continued to supply North Vietnam.

On the 16th of March, the My Lai massacre happened, which saw 347 unarmed old men, women and children killed by the US armed forces. Some of the women and children as young as 12 were raped. The massacre became public knowledge in November 1969, which caused global and domestic outrage for the United States

Following the drastic drop of support among the public, the morale of US forces plummeted. Open refusal to engage or to carry out orders began to emerge in this period. Units ordered to go on patrol would sometimes go into the countryside and relay false coordinates and reports. Drug usage spiked - 30% percent of troops regularly used marijuana and 10-15% used heroin.

In 1970, American troops were withdrawn from border areas and were less than half than what they were in 1969. The South Vietnamese country started taking over military operations. The same year, Nixon announced the withdrawal of an additional 150 000 troops, reducing the total number of American troops in Vietnam to 265 500. This trend continued through 1971, when Australia and New Zealand withdrew their troops. Another wave of American withdrawals followed, further reducing the number to 156 800 by January 1st, 1972, then promising to reduce that number again down to 69 000 by the 1st of May.

Before that however, North Vietnam prepares another large-scale conventional warfare assault. On the 30th of March the Easter Offensive was launched.

KEY TERMS

Viet Minh - Formed by Ho Chi Minh in January 1941, it is a political movement heavily influenced by the Indochinese Communist Party (despite it being mainly nationalist). The main goal of Viet Minh was to overthrow both the French and Japanese imperialists (the long name for Viet Minh meaning "The Vietnam Independence League").

PAVN - The People's Army of Vietnam was first established in 1944 in order to create a main military unit fighting the French and Japanese invaders. Later on, it was popularly called the North Vietnamese army. This army not only fought for North Vietnam, but also supplied and helped the Viet Cong.

Viet Cong - The military force of the National Liberation Front. The organization had both guerilla and regular troops (however, mainly known for its guerilla soldiers) on the side of North Vietnam fighting in the south, against both Vietnamese and American soldiers.

Napalm - A mixture of a gel and a flammable substance. This mixture burns at over 800°C and is very sticky due to the gel part of the mixture. Developed (1942) and first used (1944) by the US during WW2. Used in the Korean war and even more so during the Vietnam war. Over 300 000 tonnes of napalm bombs were dropped on Vietnam by 1972.

Defoliants - A substance which causes the leaves of plants to fall off. Used by the US between 1961 and 1971 to prevent Viet Cong soldiers from hiding equipment under the leaves or being able to feed off the crops. Caused widespread destruction and poisoning of the ecosystems - over 20% of South Vietnamese jungles were destroyed (official US figure).

"Domino Effect" - A theory that was first proposed during the Eisenhower administration, which states that if one country becomes communist, those around it will follow.

Guerilla warfare - A form of unconventional warfare waged by groups such as rebels, partisans, armed civilians, etc. These groups don't engage in an all-out war, instead focusing on raids and attacks on crucial targets.

Ho Chi Minh trail - A series of paths running through Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, which North Vietnam used to transport various resources, such as weapons or food. It was originally a series of dirt roads, improving over time.

Pathet Lao - Under its official name the Lao People's Liberation Army, was a communist political movement formed in 1950 (it was first formed in 1945, however, it was established as a non-communist one). It helped

the Viet Minh in the First Indochina War and the Vietnam War, fighting against anti-communist forces of France and South Vietnam.

TIMELINE

1664 - The French East India Company was established, as France was trying to gain colonial power in East Asia

1887 - France establishes French Indochina as a colony.

1911 - Ho Chi Minh is involved in the creation of the French Communist Party.

1923 - Ho Chi Minh takes part in the Comintern.

1930 - Ho Chi Minh founds the ICP (Indochinese Communist Party)

1940 - France surrenders to Nazi Germany. Later on, Japanese military forces invade French Indochina and occupy Vietnam, cooperating with already existing French bases

1941, May - Ho Chi Minh founds Viet Minh.

1945, March - Japan remove French troops and officials from Vietnam

1945, August - Japan surrenders and moves out of Vietnam, France begin to reestablish their previous colonial rule

1945, September - Ho Chi Minh declares an independent North Vietnam

1946, November - France attacks the port city of Haiphong, starting the First Indochina War

1950 - The PRC and the Soviet Union start supporting North Vietnam by sending military forces,

1954, March - May - The Battle of Dien Bien Phu takes place, as French troops are forced to surrender. During this, in late April, the Geneva Conference starts taking place.

1954, April - US President Dwight Eisenhower states that the fall of French Indochina and the victory of communists could create a “domino effect” in neighboring countries

1954, July - The Geneva Accords establish North Vietnam and South Vietnam, and stipulates elections to take place in two years time (these elections never happen)

1955 - Ngo Dinh Diem, a catholic nationalist, emerges as the leader of South Vietnam with backing from the USA.

1958, May - Military forces of North Vietnam and Pathet Lao start a series of fights with the Royal Lao Army.

1959, May - North Vietnamese forces start building a supply route through Laos and Cambodia to support their guerilla forces in the south, the supply route being later called the Ho Chi Minh trail.

1959, August - The Ho Chi Minh trail becomes actively used.

1960, December - The National Liberation Front (NLF) is established with support of North Vietnam in the south, it is a movement for an independent Vietnam. The US starts calling the military forces of NLF as Viet Cong.

1963, January - The Battle of Ap Bac takes place, won by Viet Cong. There are serious doubts about Ngo Dinh Diem's rule.

1963, November - Ngo Dinh Diem, the ruler of South Vietnam, and his brother are assassinated by his own generals due to his unpopular catholic ruling despite most of the population being Buddhists.

1963, November - John Fitzgerald Kennedy, the president of the United States of America, is assassinated and replaced by Lyndon B. Johnson.

1964, August - US warships USS Maddox and Turner Joy are destroyed in the Gulf of Tonkin by North Vietnamese torpedo boats. These warships were collecting intelligence. Following this incident, the US Congress passes the Gulf of Tonkin resolution.

1965, March - US Marines were deployed in South Vietnam, marking the beginning of the American ground war.

1968, January - North Vietnam starts the Tet Offensive.

1968, May - Peace talks take place in Paris between North Vietnam and the US.

1969, January - Richard Nixon becomes the President of the United States of America.

1969, March - My Lai massacre takes place, almost 350 civilians killed.

1970 - American troops are withdrawn from border areas, as it decreased by half of its size in the previous year.

1972, April - Nixon authorises increased bombing of PAVN troops in South Vietnam and B-52 strikes against North Vietnam. The US begins sending warships and aircraft.

1972, 7th of April - The UNSC takes place, in order to accomplish peace and justice in the region.

PAST ACTION

1954, Geneva conference - Intended to settle outstanding issues from the First Indochina War. Prior to the conference, both Cambodia and Laos were given independence, but France chose to keep Vietnam which sparked a guerilla war led by Ho Chi Minh. After the French withdrew, it was decided that Vietnam would be divided at the 17th parallel until 1956 when democratic elections would be held under international supervision.

1968, Talks between the US and North Vietnam in Paris - After halting bombardment of most of Vietnam (except areas near the demilitarized zone), Lyndon B. Johnson offered to hold peace talks and Hanoi accepted, however they did not lead anywhere since Hanoi demanded to stop all of the bombing and the US demanded de-escalation in South Vietnam. After the US finally agreed to stop the bombing, it was too late and Johnson was replaced by Nixon.

COUNTRY POSITIONS

Democratic People's Republic of Korea - An ally of North Vietnam, financially aided the war effort. Relations between the two stagnated after 1968, since North Korea had condemned North Vietnam for entering peace negotiations with the US.

French Republic - Colonised the entire Indochina region, briefly lost its grip during WW2, regained control of the region after Japan's capitulation in the war, gave independence to the Kingdom of Laos and the Kingdom of Cambodia in 1953, lost control of Vietnam in 1954 in the aftermath of the First Indochina war. In support of South Vietnam.

Japan - Colonised parts of East Asia in the 19th and 20th century, gained power in Vietnam during WW2. After their capitulation, some Japanese soldiers fought for North Vietnam in the first Indochina war. They support Vietnam's independence rather than French colonialism.

Kingdom of Laos - Gained independence from France in 1953. They were invaded by North Vietnam to establish the Ho Chi Minh trail, which was later bombed by the US, declared itself neutral in 1962 with 14 countries promising to respect its neutrality, a civil war breaks out and the Pathet Lao takes control of the Ho Chi Minh trail and other regions of Laos (heavily bombed by the US), the royalist government of Laos (supported by the US) is still in charge.

North Vietnam - Under the official name Democratic Republic of Vietnam, seeking to unify Vietnam under the communist rule of Viet Minh, actively uses the Ho Chi Minh trail to supply the Viet Cong, has attacked other neighboring countries to create and then maintain the Ho Chi Minh trail.

People's Republic of China - After the Chinese civil war concluded, the PRC recognised the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1950, and sent military aid to North Vietnam until 1975 (with a temporary drop after 1968), totalling just under 2 million firearms.

South Vietnam - Under the official name of Republic of Vietnam, first established under the French Union in 1954. Seeking to unify Vietnam under its rule, supported by the US and France, trying to defend itself from the spread of communism and supporting a western political standpoint.

Soviet Union - Influenced Ho Chi Minh at the Comintern, which led to the founding of the ICP and Viet Minh. Just as the PRC did, the Soviet Union also sent supplies and vital information to North Vietnam. The

Soviet Union also tried to persuade North Vietnam into de-escalating the conflict. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union supported North Vietnam afterwards.

The Commonwealth of Australia - Alarmed by the spread of communism across southeast Asia, Australia sent military advisors to South Vietnam which was followed by troop deployment in 1965.

The Khmer Republic - Cambodia, After a military coup in 1970, the government requested North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops to leave the Khmer Republic, North Vietnam responded by waging war and putting communist officials (Khmer Rouge) into high posts in the occupied regions.

The Kingdom of Thailand - Closely monitored the conflict due to its proximity, third largest provider of troops to South Vietnam, actively participated after the US fully committed to sending troops.

The Republic of Cuba - As a communist country, Cuba fully supports North Vietnam by sending aid and recognising the involvement of the US as unjust.

The Republic of India - India was one of the few non-communist countries that was supporting North Vietnam and condemning US deployment in the area.

The Republic of Korea - Second largest provider of troops to South Vietnam with 350 000 troops. One of the main reasons South Korea happily offered troops is to gain favor with the US. Park Chung Hee continued Syngman Rhee's policy of sending South Korean troops to fight in Vietnam so American troops can stay to protect South Korea in case of an attack from the north.

The Republic of Philippines - Ally of South Vietnam, deployed 10 000 troops mostly for humanitarian aid.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Supported French colonial rule in Vietnam, One of America's strongest allies at the time. Help in the war mostly consisted of supplying weapons, however there were a number of Royal Air Force missions flown from bases in Thailand against targets in Laos and North Vietnam.

United States of America - Supported Vietnam during WW2, due to their ongoing war with Japan, later supported South Vietnam to prevent the spread of communism through Indochina, deployed troops in Vietnam in 1965 with the start of Operation Rolling Thunder. Relentlessly bombarded the Ho Chi Minh trail.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

- Should Vietnam be unified? Under what rule?
- Should some newer methods of waging war be considered war crimes? (For example, napalm)
- Should countries be punished for violating the neutrality of Laos?
- Should guidelines for foreign military involvement be refurbished?

CONCLUSION

We would like to dedicate some of the conclusion to establish the situation we will be debating in. It is the 7th of April 1972. North Vietnam has begun the Easter offensive with great success so far. 3 days ago, Nixon authorized increased bombing of troops and US aircraft and warships began attacking SAM sites north of the DMZ.

Please keep in mind that the study guide provides the bare minimum and that each delegate should do their own research on the topic to represent their position accurately.

See you all in November!

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This is the end of this document.