

Hilton 2021

Suez Canal Crisis

Committee Overview

Crisis committee is a very unique opportunity in Model UN in that it is like no other committee. Instead of focusing on currently pressing issues, Crisis will focus on historical events. As a member of this committee, you will be a historical figure during the Suez Canal crisis (instead of representing a country like a usual committee). Crisis is also very unique because most of our time will be spent in moderated and unmoderated caucuses and we will be moving at a much faster pace than a regular committee. You will be assigned a historical figure to play as during committee; prior to committee you will prepare by studying the issue and how your figure would like to see it resolved. Then you will use this to write a story arc on what you intend on achieving by the end of committee. During committee you will get crisis updates from your chairs, and as a committee you will use joint decisions, crisis notes, personal powers and portfolio powers to help achieve your specific arc. For those who are new to the committee we linked an article to help better explain the procedures and actions for the committee.

<https://bestdelegate.com/the-guide-to-research-and-preparation-for-model-un-crisis-committees/>

Chairs

Rex Eidlin | rexanthonyeidlin@gmail.com

My Name is Rex Eidlin, I am a senior at Pittsford-Mendon High School, this is my fourth year doing MUN and my first time chairing. Besides Model UN I play football and competitively ski. I also like to cook.

Django Paine | djangopaine@gmail.com.

My name is Django Paine, I am a Junior at Pittsford Sutherland Highschool and this is my third time chairing. When I'm not chairing model UN committees I participate in Scouts and Robotics, and play Drums and the French Horn. Looking forward to a great committee.

Bobby McCann | rmccann@mcqstudent.org

My name is Bobby McCann, and this is my first time chairing but my third year in Model UN. I am a Junior at McQuaid Jesuit Highschool where I row crew and help out as leader of the MUN Club. In my free time, I like to play piano, read philosophy, and go skiing.

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Background

The Suez Canal Crisis occurred in 1956 and involved Egypt, Israel, the United Kingdom, France, and also indirectly included the United States and the Soviet Union. Israeli, French, and British forces invaded the Sinai Peninsula after the Egyptian President, Nasser, nationalized the Suez Canal. The canal was previously owned by the French and British Suez Canal Company.

The canal was strategically important for Britain and France and was used to move troops and oil. In 1955, petroleum shipments made up two thirds of Europe's transported oil. Prior to the nationalization, the US and Britain had withdrawn financial assistance to Egypt, which would have helped build the Aswan Dam on the Nile River. They likely did this due to Nasser's critiques of Western imperialism and skepticism of Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union. By nationalizing the canal, Nasser hoped to use toll money for the construction of the dam.

Once the invasion occurred, the United Kingdom and France received pushback from the US, USSR, and the United Nations. The aggressors plan was for Israel to invade the Sinai Peninsula, and then the United Kingdom would intervene to "restore order." The UK, however, invaded while the Israelis were still forty miles away, giving away the whole operation. Despite the retaliation of Egypt's civilians, militias, and army, Britain and France dropped paratroopers into the Sinai and took control of the canal.

The US, under Eisenhower, threatened to tank Britain's economy by selling their pound sterling bonds. Britain and France withdrew their forces in December of 1956 and Israel in March of 1957.

The conflict led to international humiliation for France and the UK. Some historians say that the crisis marks the UK's decline as a global power. It also led to Israel's ability to ship through the Straits of Tiran and the conditions for the Six-Day War between Egypt and Israel. During the crisis, the Soviet Union threatened Great Britain and France with missile attacks, thus making them appear as defenders against imperialism. Meanwhile, the USSR was putting down the Hungarian Rebellion, and their influence in the region was greatly increased by the conflict. As a result, Eisenhower was compelled to ask Congress for the power to "check aggression" in the Middle East, and for 200 million dollars to give in aid. This was a major turning point in the Cold War for both powers.

Additionally, the United Nations established the United Nations Emergency Force to help deal with the crisis. Lester B. Pearson of Canada pushed for its establishment and would later win a Nobel Peace Prize for it. In Britain, Prime Minister Anthony Eden resigned.

Throughout the crisis, the French were battling the Algerians, who were fighting for their independence from colonial rule. Nasser was aiding the Algerians throughout their war for independence. This, along with the nationalization made the French feel even more cut off from their colonial influence. Meanwhile, the Israelis felt threatened by the Egyptian-Czechoslovak arms deal between Egypt and the Soviet Union. This accelerated hostilities between Israel and Egypt. Syrian-Egypt relations became closer as Israel was a common enemy. They would go on to form the United Arab Republic in 1958.

Despite being closed for a decade following the Six-Day War between Egypt and Israel, the canal remains a necessary shipping route. Around 300 million tons of goods are transported annually.

How does Arab Nationalism contribute to growing hostilities between Egypt and Israel? What factors would make Egyptian Civilians fight French paratroopers? How do Cold War influences affect the decisions made by the UK, Egypt, France, and Israel? How is this a major turning point in the Cold War? What alliances shift throughout the conflict?

Sources:

<https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/suez-crisis>

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/guest-bloggers/martyr-city-egyptian-civilians-fought-british-paratroops-1956-suez-crisis-m.html>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/why-was-the-suez-crisis-so-important>

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Positions

Gamal Abdel Nasser: Egyptian President

Anthony Eden: Prime Minister of the UK

Allen Dulles: Director of the CIA

Dwight D. Eisenhower: President of the United States

Lester Pearson: Canadian External Affairs Minister

Nikita Krushchev: First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

Ivan Serov: Head of the KGB

Guy Mollet: French Premier

Moshe Dayan: Chief of Staff of the Israeli Defense Forces

Gerald Templer: Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Senior Military adviser to Eden

David Ben-Gurion: Prime Minister of Israel

Egyptian News Reporter

Voice of the Arabs Reporter: Radio Station through which Nasser spread messages of unity. Important for the Jordanian riots.

French News Reporter

British News Reporter