



UNSC

UNSC(1948)Background Paper:Topic A

Committee: UNSC(1948) (United Nations Security Council)

Topic: Establish a democratic system in south Korea(1948)

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Secretariat note: all delegates that are participating in these committee must make two position paper one for topic A and one for topic B

Letter to delegates:

Hello fellow delegates welcome to SPISMUN 2026. I'm Patricio López Cordero and I'll be your moderator this SPISMUN, and Maricela Bersosa Guerra will be your director for the UNSC(1948) committee. We are honored with the privilege of being your chair.

In this MUN you'll have the opportunity of learning, participating and debating with other delegates trying to solve worldwide problems and challenges. Furthermore this committee will be centered around Korea's democratic ignorance and avoiding problems with the USSR and China.

As your Chair we expect you to give your all even though this isn't the easiest topic, don't be afraid to express your opinions and thoughts. Work with the other delegates to form solutions and action plans. If you have any questions be sure to ask during the MUN or gmail. Good luck delegates.

History of committee

The UNSC was established in 1945 at the end of World War II with the purpose of having peace and security. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. It is empowered to impose binding obligations on all 193 UN member states to maintain international peace and security. Since 1945, the UN has assisted in negotiating more than 170 peace settlements that have ended regional conflicts. Originally the committee had 15 members 10 of which were chosen for a 2 year period and with 5 being permanent members : China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The UNSC has various branches but one of the most important ones is the United Nations Military Staff Committee. Their purpose is to provide and advise the UNSC on all things related with the military forces. before moving to its permanent headquarters in New York City. the UN charter expanded the council with 15 members adding no more permanent seats. The original eleven members of the Security Council were the United States, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Republic of China (Taiwan), and five permanent members. The UN General Assembly elected six nonpermanent members to two-year terms.

History Of the topic

Korea was controlled by Japan for 3 decades since they threatened to obliterate them and they were forced to worship Japan and everything Korea related was banned. As a course of WW2 Japan needed more manpower and used Koreans as a main export of power and took the military from Korea to fight under Japanese ruling. After the loss of Japanese power, Korea was free at last. As a consequence of their conquest failing in WW2. In 1946 Korea was reigning under the USA ruled with a democratic government style and the USSR ruled by a communist regime after Japan left the

land behind. But the president Truman in charge of the US government didn't want to govern South Korea's territory. But because he didn't want to make it seem like abandonment. At that time the US government didn't feel the necessity to govern the Korean territory, so President Truman only implemented a few laws and a poorly established governmental body. And since both congress and the president didn't focus on south korea the people felt a lack of support and nationalism.

in 1947 the US government sought an opportunity to leave Korea. They proposed to the UN that they should make Korea an independent country. The UN followed through the advice and decided to make both (US government and USSR) sign a document where they agreed to establish an election. After a long discussion, the US signed the document without hesitation but on the other hand, the USSR since they didn't want to give up land. So as a result, only the southern territory of Korea was named an independent. They established a Republic governmental system and named themselves the Republic of South Korea. The newly elected president implemented American customs, traditions, and the governmental system, since he thought it was the better way of making the nation happy. That's how the Republic of Korea became independent for its second time. In 1947 due to the cold war pressure and rising and in a way to stay with power, president Syngman Rhee started a dictatorship because they didn't have strong democratic institutions, the US military supported and his regime is continuing to today.

Introduction to the topic

In May the UN registered a number of 25% of the nation's citizens who didn't vote nor register their ballots. With the lack of the country's community support in this election many doubt the legitimacy of the election. Syngman Rhee won the presidency and under his new ruling he has been transforming the nation into a dictatorship by arresting thousands of citizens without justification and also killing thousands who rise upon him and were in disagreement with his style of government. His change of his political view was on the arrival and internal and external pressure of the cold war and that most of the country has political division with communism; He is able to do this due to weak democracy rules and the current US government supports, these is big concern for the UN as most of the population believes that a reelection must be implemented as the citizens are not satisfied with their current president due to his lack of communication with the population of South Korea.

Additionally, the lingering effects of decades of Japanese occupation, followed immediately by the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, have created an atmosphere of ideological tension throughout the peninsula. This has resulted in heightened suspicion among citizens, with accusations of communist sympathies frequently used to justify arrests or silence opposition. Economic hardship, lack of infrastructure, and the devastation left by foreign occupation have further contributed to widespread unrest.

Given these circumstances, South Korea stands at a crucial crossroads. The UN must determine how to support the development of a legitimate and stable democratic system without further escalating tensions in the region or provoking conflict with the USSR and China. Delegates will be tasked with balancing the need for human rights, fair governance, and peaceful self-determination while navigating the geopolitical realities of the early Cold War.

Key players:

- **United States:** The United States has been one of South Korea's most important allies for decades; they have a relationship reinforced by the presence of U.S. troops on the Korean peninsula and their military presence and style of government.
- **South Korea:** South Korea Influences its unique history as a former aid recipient that successfully transitioned to develop a democratic country to assist other nations in strengthening their own democratic systems.
- **Republic of China:** Supported making South Korea a democracy because they were against communism. They agreed with the US and wanted Korea to have free elections. China thought a democratic South Korea would help keep peace and stop the spread of communist ideas,
- **Soviet Union :** The Soviet Union didn't want the UN to control elections in Korea. They didn't let the UN enter the North and instead helped create a communist government there with Kim Il-sung as the leader. The USSR wanted to keep North Korea as its ally and stop the U.S. from having too much power in Asia.
- **United Kingdom:** Supported the UN and the U.S. in helping South Korea become a democracy. The British wanted to stop the Soviet Union from spreading communism but also avoid war.
- **France:** France agreed with the United States and other Western countries. They supported South Korea becoming a democracy and didn't want communism to spread. France also wanted peace in Asia and thought that helping South Korea would make the world more stable.

UN ACTIONS:

The United Nations got involved in Korea after World War II, helping the country become independent and democratic. In 1947, the UN created the UNCTCOK (United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea) to organize free and fair elections across all of Korea. However, the Soviet Union didn't allow the UN to enter the North, so the elections only happened in the South, these did not result as the UN was planning due to the fact that the South Korea political leader Syngman Rhee has been involved in various conflicts with the population of the country affecting not only the people but the political stability of the country and the future of it , The UN seeks to establish a new leader for South Korea due to the actions of Syngman Rhee against the population of South Korea, also its ideology of a new political system as dictatorship is not following the vision that the UN has set for the future of South Korea and its own people.

As tensions continue to rise, the UN is increasingly worried that the political situation in South Korea may escalate into deeper internal conflict or create opportunities for foreign influence during a highly sensitive period of the Cold War. Ensuring that South Korea develops strong democratic institutions, respects human rights, and reflects the will of its citizens has become a priority for the international community. Because of this, delegates must consider how the UN can support a peaceful transition of power while maintaining stability in the region and preventing further division on the Korean peninsula.

Current status

The current situation in South Korea is marked by deep political differences within the country and strong external pressure resulting from the early rise of the Cold War. President Syngman Rhee is

increasingly abandoning democratic norms, ruling the nation through strict and authoritarian policies, and ordering the arrest of citizens who disagree with him under accusations of being “anti-communist.” This has created a climate of fear and repression, limiting open political participation and weakening the country’s already fragile democratic institutions. At the same time, the United States continues to influence key national decisions based on its own strategic interests, since South Korea is still new to democratic governance and lacks experience functioning as a fully independent state after decades of foreign occupation. These internal tensions, combined with foreign involvement, have made it difficult for the population to freely express their opinions or organize politically. Strikes, demonstrations, and protests are strictly forbidden and quickly suppressed, leaving citizens with very limited channels to voice dissatisfaction and increasing concerns about the nation’s political stability and future direction.

Questions

1. How does the division of Korea affect my country?
2. Did my country support the UN actions done in Korea, and what's my country’s relation with South Korea?
3. How did Japan's ruling influence the way Korea governs and ethics?
4. How did the UN establish a democratic and fair election?
5. What's my country’s stand or opinion in democracy?

UNSC(1948)Background Paper:Topic B

Committee: UNSC(1948)

Topic: How to avoid future conflicts with the USSR and China

Written by: Maricela and Patricio

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Director: Maricela Berssoza

Introduction to the topic

After World War II, avoiding fights between the world's strongest countries became one of the biggest challenges in Asia. To stop future conflicts with the USSR and China, South Korea needs to focus on stability, communication, and cooperation instead of military actions. When Japan left Korea in 1945, the peninsula was divided at the 38th parallel: the USSR took control of the North, and the United States took control of the South. This division was supposed to be temporary, but because the U.S. and the USSR could not agree on how to reunify Korea, the split became deeper and more permanent.

From 1945 to 1948, both countries tried to work together, but their meetings failed because they disagreed on how Korean elections should be organized. The USSR refused to accept elections run by the United Nations, saying they would only help the U.S. As a result, in 1948 two separate governments were created: South Korea, led by Syngman Rhee, and North Korea, led by Kim Il-sung. Both leaders said they were the real government of all Korea, which caused even more tension.

During 1947 and 1948, small battles, border attacks, and uprisings happened often along the 38th parallel. Each side blamed the other for starting violence, and both strengthened their armies with help from their allies. The USSR supported North Korea with weapons and training, while China, now controlled by the Communist Party, began to play a bigger role in the region. These alliances made the communist influence in East Asia stronger and reduced the power of the United States in the area.

By 1948, Korea had become a very tense and dangerous region where the interests of major powers were clashing. Because of this, preventing another big conflict became extremely important for South Korea and for the United Nations.

Key players

United States: By 1948, the United States did not yet use tensions between China and the USSR to its advantage, because those tensions had not fully developed. At this time, the U.S. was mainly focused on stopping the spread of communism and supporting governments that opposed Soviet influence. In Asia, the U.S. watched the Chinese Civil War closely and supported the Nationalist government against the Chinese Communist Party. The U.S. also backed South Korea to prevent the USSR from gaining control of the entire peninsula.

South Korea:South Korea did not help the USSR and China avoid fighting each other; rather, North Korea's invasion of South Korea led to a conflict between the US-backed South and the Soviet/China-backed North.

China:By 1948, China was still in the middle of the Chinese Civil War between the Nationalists (Kuomintang) and the Chinese Communist Party. The communist side had strong relations with the USSR, which offered political and material support. China and the USSR did not yet have a formal alliance, but they shared similar goals in expanding communist influence in Asia. Their cooperation was mainly focused on winning the civil war, not on preventing conflicts elsewhere.

USSR:The USSR initially helped China avoid a fight by providing crucial support during the Chinese Civil War, such as handing over Japanese equipment in Manchuria and sending military advisors.

UN ACTIONS

In 1948, the United Nations Security Council recognized that several important actions have already been taken to prevent future conflicts with the USSR and China. After World War II, one of the first steps was the creation of the United Nations itself in 1945, designed to give countries a place to talk, solve disputes peacefully, and stop global tensions from turning into war. The UN Charter encouraged diplomacy, cooperation, and respect between nations, which helped reduce misunderstandings during the early Cold War. Another action was the establishment of the Security Council's permanent members, including the United States, the USSR, and China, which allowed these major powers to communicate directly and address their concerns through formal meetings instead of military threats. The UN also supported international commissions in Asia, such as those supervising elections and political transitions in Korea and other regions, to reduce conflict and promote stability. During these years, many countries also took part in post-war reconstruction programs that encouraged collaboration instead of rivalry. All these actions helped create a more stable environment and gave the international community tools to prevent tensions between the USSR, China, and other nations from growing into open conflict.

Current status

The current status in Korea shows increasing tension as the major powers continue to disagree about the peninsula's future. The USSR rejected the US and UN plan for national elections, arguing that the proposal did not represent all Koreans. This rejection deepened the political divide and made it harder to create a unified government. At the same time, the United States feared that communist influence from the USSR and China would spread across Asia, especially as both countries supported movements aligned with their ideology. South Korea also struggled because it was not recognized by the USSR or China, which increased mistrust and made the region even more unstable.

Border clashes along the 38th parallel have grown more frequent as Cold War tensions rise. These incidents increased partly because the USSR has continued to support North Korea with military training and advice, giving the North more confidence to challenge the border. South Korea's situation with China remains unclear since China is still in the middle of its civil war and has no fixed foreign policy toward the peninsula. Additionally, the end of USMAGIK aid left South Korea with weak defense, limited equipment, and an unprepared army, making the borders more vulnerable and encouraging North Korea to push harder.

Questions

1. To what extent should the United Nations intervene when a country denies access to election monitoring?
2. How did the alliance between North Korea, China, and the USSR limit U.S. influence in East Asia during this period?
3. What diplomatic strategies can the UN implement to reduce the risk of nuclear escalation between major powers involved in the Korean conflict?
4. In what ways did the start of the cold war affect south korea democratic opinion and relation with Non democratic east Asia countries?

Quorum

1. United States
2. Soviet Union
3. United Kingdom
4. France
5. Republic of china
6. Canadá
7. India
8. Brazil
9. México
10. Australia
11. Egypt
12. Irán
13. Turkey
14. Argentina
15. Belgium
16. Norway
17. Czechoslovakia
18. Poland
19. Greece
20. South Korea

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