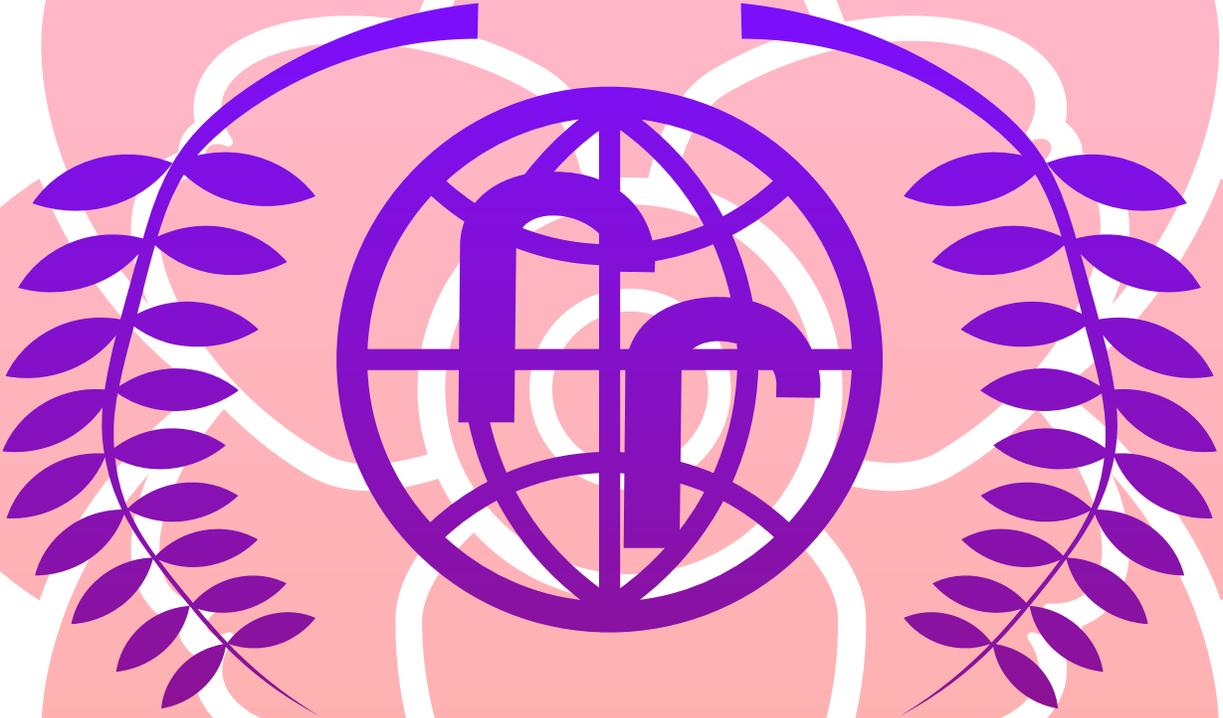


Saturday, November 17th, 2018

John Jay High School Model United Nations Conference V



JJMUNC Delegate Guide for DISC

Russian Interference

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Delegate Guide

A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRS

Dear Delegates,

We're incredibly excited to have you on DISEC for JJMUNC VI! We've been spending a huge amount of time preparing for this conference for the last few months, and we're terribly enjoyed to be sharing it with you today.

This year on DISEC we're going to be investigating Russian meddling across the globe particularly on the mysterious attacks on former Russian spies in England and Vladimir Putin's fetish for killing those he sees as traitors.

Overall, we think that everyone is going to have incredible fun this year on DISEC and that things should get pretty... interesting.

Your Chairs,

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INTRODUCTION

DISEC, the Disarmament and International Security Committee, is one of the United Nations committees responsible for overseeing the maintenance of international security. While DISEC does not have the raw power of the Security Council, it does have a significant role in overseeing the continuation of peace and working to end warfare. In JJMUNC this year, DISEC will be attempting to develop a resolution to increasing threats to international security coming from the Russian Federation.



OVERVIEW

The Russian Federation, largest of the seventeen nations formerly part of the Soviet Union, has been the source of increasing interference in international affairs and security.

In early 2014 Russia annexed Crimea, creating a referendum for residents to vote on that showed an

overwhelming consensus to join Russia. Critics however, pointed out that more people voted for the referendum than actually live in Crimea, suggesting that Russia rigged the referendum.

The Russian government is also accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential election in the United States and supporting the Republican nominee, Donald Trump, with fake news distribution and hacking the Democratic National Committee under the alias "Guccifer 2.0".

Most recently, former Soviet spies have been dropping dead of mysterious poisonings. Many of these spies formerly worked with Vladimir Putin before they defected around the collapse of the Soviet Union. Vladimir Putin is well known for his hatred of defected spies and many analysts suspect that he personally ordered these attacks in order to get retribution on his former comrades.

Critics of Vladimir Putin claim that he is returning Russia to an age of Oligarchy or Autocracy, similar to how it was before the collapse of the Soviet Union.



QUICK BRIEFING

Over the past few years, Russia has been interfering to an ever-greater degree in international affairs across the planet. Russia has interfered both blatantly (such as in Crimea and Syria) as well as quietly, with accusations ranging from the poisoning of former spies to interference in the 2016 presidential election in the United States. This increasing interference has now come to the attention of DISEC.

At the same time as Russia has become increasingly active globally and more and more disruptive in international affairs, there have been mysterious attacks at embassies of the United States in both Cuba and China. Staff at the embassies have been seriously and suddenly falling ill without anyone visibly harming them. Scientists believe that the weapons are a form of microwave weapons, a technology only usable for such attacks by a handful of advanced nations, including the Russian Federation. As of yet, the source of these attacks is unknown, but many in the US intelligence community strongly suspect Russia.

PROBLEM

Spreading from its heart in Moscow, the Russian Empire gained rose to incredible heights towards the end second millennium. Under the rule of Peter the Great, Russia became an increasingly Western power, expanding trade and modernizing to cope with the swiftly changing world.

Overarching the careful yet quick modernization and expansion of the Russian Empire were the czars and the nobility, a powerful oligarchy that extended its tentacles through every aspect of the Russian Empire.

This oligarchy continued a tradition established with the invasion of the Mongol Golden Hoard in the 1300s; even as the Russian Empire rapidly shifted towards modern technology its government and policies remained inexplicably tied to the past.

In 1918, the Russian Empire collapsed, replaced by a revolution of the people that lead to the formation of the Soviet Union. Led by seven leaders from 1918 to 1991, the Soviet Union made itself into a world power, becoming the second nation to develop nuclear weapons in 1949.

At the same time, the Soviet Union advanced the tenants of Communism, entering into a Cold War with the plethora of Western Nations that advanced Capitalism and the free market. The Soviet Union developed a world-class intelligence agency, the KGB, to quietly advance its interests in small democracies on its borders, within its own borders, and far abroad in world powers such as the United States.

While the Soviet Union *did* develop incredible technologies in order to combat and threaten the West, these technologies did not filter down to its common citizens,

in line with its embedded oligarchic roots. In essence, while the Soviet Union was a world-power it was simultaneously a third world country.

The resentment of the Soviet people, and the better instincts of Mikhail Gorbachev, led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991. The Soviet Union was divided into seventeen smaller nations. The largest of these, the Russian Federation, inherited much of the Soviet infrastructure and technology.

By the end of the 1990s, one of the former leaders of the KGB, Vladimir Putin, had begun to develop his political career. Most analysts believe that Putin dreams not of making Russia better, but of returning it to its Soviet heritage.

Over the past few years, Putin has begun pursuing an incredibly aggressive agenda of Russian expansion and power. In early 2014 he annexed the Crimean peninsula, claiming that its people were predominantly “Russian” and wanted to be part of the Russian Federation. In order to back up this claim, a vote was held in Crimea, and although only a handful of the total population claims to have actually voted, more people than actually live in Crimea voted to become part of Russia, leading many to suspect that Russia rigged the referendum.

In 2016, during the American presidential election, a massive burst of fake news was distributed via the Facebook and Twitter social media platforms, with intelligence authorities and social scientists alike identifying the perpetrators as agents of the Russian government.

Even worse, a combined report of all seventeen of the United States intelligence agencies found that the Russian government had hacked the Democratic National Committee and released information under the alias “Guccifer 2.0” via the website WikiLeaks.

Furthermore, a great swath of Russian agents have been indicted for interference in the election over the past two years, although a formal report of the Russian interference has not yet been issued to the United States Congress by Robert Mueller, the special consul appointed to investigate to interference.

Social scientists also noted a concerted effort on the part of the Russian military to divide people, with attempts to divide and inflame citizens on both sides of the political spectrum.

Overall, Russian interference into democracy, if true, would prove to be a serious threat for Democracy around the globe, and should be concerning to all democratic member states of the United Nations.

As these tactics seemed to have also occurred in Crimea, and given Russia's oligarchic history, it seems likely that it regularly interacts with the electorates of foreign nations in the previously described manner. These actions threaten the very nature of the world order and the relative peace that has been maintained since the end of the Cold War twenty-seven years ago.

If this constant interference into democracy and land issues were the only problems that Russia was perpetrating, it would be bad enough and a serious cause for alarm throughout the world. But in addition to this interference, former Russian spies have been coming to mysterious and tragic deaths.

In the last two years a number of attacks have occurred on former Russian spies living in the West, including the recent murder of Sergei Skripal, who had been living in the United Kingdom for years after working as a double agent for Britain. It is suspected by many analysts that Vladimir Putin personally ordered that the attack be carried out because of his completely and other hatred for traitors to Russian

intelligence and his fetish for playing a real-world game of “whack-a-mole” with former agents.

And making matters even worse are the mysterious attacks on agents of the United States working in embassies in Cuba and China. Ambassadors recall hearing sounds and suddenly becoming sick, upon medical examination they are found to have suffered permanent acute neural damage.

Scientists claim these injuries are similar to what would be expected from microwave weapons. Microwave weapons are incredibly advanced weapons that fire microwave radiation at targets, causing immediate and permanent damage. For such well tuned microwave weapons, only a handful of nations are suspect, primarily Russia.

If it is true that Russia is behind the usage of microwave weapons on United States ambassadors it would mark a remarkable move by a nation that was open to decreasing its arms a mere decade ago.

And these secret actions are not part of some hidden plan either; Russia has dedicated itself to developing nuclear missiles capable of hitting any point on the planet with such speed that a preemptive attack would become a potentially winnable scenario.

These actions would merely advance the not so secretive agenda of Russia to return to its old position as a great world power and to making its president, Vladimir Putin, feel as though his nation that has been forced to put on a farce of democracy can finally reveal itself as the disgusting, domination-aspiring oligarchy that it truly is to the remainder of the world.



All in all, it would appear to an observer that Russia is working to reestablish its Soviet Empire and to restore fear of itself in the hearts of men. From alleged and known interferences in the international stage, to an increasingly strong oligarchy being forged around Vladimir Putin, the Russian Federation seems to be embracing its backwards and antidemocratic past.

Many nations are rightfully rightfully terrified by this sudden rise in Russian efforts to achieve supremacy. The other former member-states of the Soviet Union are particularly terrified, as they still remember and abhor the Soviet times, and have, for the most part, embraced the democracy of the West.

Thus today it seems that Russia is set to repeat its history and vale once more Eastern Europe in its cold and dark iron curtain that was so recently swept aside like the morning mist by the light of the West.

COMMITTEE FOCUSSES

Because of increasing global interference by the Russian government, in both suspected and known cases, delegates will have to decide what actions can be appropriately and reasonably taken in order to quell and prevent any future actions negative to the peace and stability of the international order.

Because of Russia's increasing interference in the world, smaller nations are increasingly forced into positions where they feel threatened and terrified of annexation or significant interference.

But in order to counter this highly unfortunate feeling, the United Nations will have to take significant action against Russia. This seeming simple proposition may prove to be incredibly difficult to successfully execute for three reasons.

The simple matter of deciding whether Russia is to blame for any of these incidences is certainly at issue, let alone whether or not some action should be taken, and what sort of action should be taken if one is indeed necessary. Furthermore, the matter of national sovereignty is at stake; if Russia cannot take these actions, does that mean that it is not able to act as a nation ought to be able to?

In essence, the problem facing DISEC is threefold: to, if not determine, estimate the truth, to decide how best to protect the international community from dangerous and unlawful interference, and how to uphold the sovereignty and dignity of the Russian Federation while doing so.

If Russia is guilty of endangering the international order through these actions, there is evidence for global concern over its interference. A modern arms race could be devastating to the world, and if Russia has expansionistic plans, the rest of the world will need to address this issue immediately.



In the end, this DISEC committee will have to consider and plan how to respond to these aggressive acts, and how to do it, and while the United Nations is known for making difficult decisions, it is not quite as well known for reaching perfect compromises on key issues.



QUESTIONS

- I) What is the best way to deal with increased aggression in Eastern Europe?
- II) Is it appropriate to request economic embargoes against Russia?
- III) What retribution will Russia have in store for nations that act against the interests that it appears to be attempting to fulfill?
- IV) Should Crimea be returned to Ukraine?
- V) What actions should be taken to prevent election interference?
- VI) Is Russia to blame for the spy killings? If so, what actions should it face?



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General Information

POSITION PAPERS

Position papers should address the majority or all of the questions laid out in the "Questions" section of this packet in a clear and succinct multi-paragraph essay that has an introduction, a thesis, and a conclusion.

The format of each position paper is up to each individual delegate's discretion—we welcome you to surprise us—so long as it seems appropriate for a formal position paper.

The only thing that we do ask, however, is that position papers do not exceed more than two pages (a double sided sheet of paper, traditionally known as a "leaf," **does** count as two pages).

Delegates should incorporate information both from the delegate guide and their own research into their position papers. The sources for this information should be cited in a bibliography with MLA citations. Please note that the bibliography **does not** count towards the two page total limit for the position paper.

Finally, please remember to email your position paper in PDF format to your chairs by midnight on Thursday, November 15, 2018.



KEY RESOLUTION COMPONENTS

Any resolution passed by DISEC must be by necessity be certain not to offend nor harass Russia or her allies in such a manner that retribution could become an issue.

However, the resolution must be absolutely certain to take action to defend the world at large, as a weak resolution simply will not suffice to prevent future instances of Russia acting aggressive towards the rest of the world.

Essentially, what we are looking for, is a perfect compromise among the delegates. This goal is intentionally difficult, but we look forward to seeing your innovation.

In addition, all resolutions should have perambulatory clauses and operative clauses as is typical in most Model UNs.