

An SMUN 2016 Publication

TORCH

Monday, 20 June 2016

Issue No. 4

PRESS ARTICLES

Get the latest reports hot off the press from **Asahi Shimbun**, **FOX News**, **Russia Today**, **The Onion** and **The Times**!

THE LATEST

This final compendium features stories from Day 3 and Day 4 – the intensity of the Crisis simulation during committee session 5, the *Retro Arcade* Socials, and the incredible Closing Ceremony with Prof. Mahbubani.

MEET THE TEAM

Press Director Mitchell and USG (Outreach) Ephraim share their thoughts on the end of SMUN 2016 and how the magazine will be passed on to the next generation of TORCH-bearers.





Contents

- 4** TORCH ISSUE 4
- 5** PROF MAHBUBANI: "HOLD ONTO YOUR YOUTHFUL IDEALISM!"
- 13** WHEN THE MEDIA TREATS MUSLIMS AS A FACELESS, UNDIFFERENTIATED MASS – REFLECTIONS POST-OIC DEBATES
- 16** PRESS ARTICLES
- *The Imperial Japanese Army Fails to Make Phase 2 of War Plans*
 - *Imperial Japanese Army Successfully Take Singapore on the 99th Day!*
 - *APEC Debates at Length, but Fruitfulness is Debatable*
 - *OIC: Hajj and Mecca - A Breeding Ground for Terrorism?*
 - *SOCHUM: Increasing Threat of the Mentally Unstable, and Radical Muslims*
 - *OIC: Will There Ever Be Harmony Within the Islamic Region?*
 - *SPECPOL: Countries Striving Hard to Reach Consensus on Mining Issue*
 - *UNSC: The Situation in Kosovo, Interview with the Russian Delegate*
 - *DISEC Dissects - Resolution by Resolution*
 - *NATO Discusses Matters on Collective Security*
- 31** INTERVIEW WITH CRISIS DIRECTOR, SOON HAO JING



33 CRISIS

- *UNSC's CRISIS with ISIS*
- *APEC's Crisis (I): Winner of US Presidential Elections Revealed to be a Trump Copycat, Canadian PM Considering Building a Wall across US-Canada Border*
- *APEC's Crisis (II): American Delegate Defends President Holm's Actions, Faces Abandonment and Mockery from Council Members*
- *APEC's Crisis (III): President Holm Revealed to be Experienced Fortune Teller, Performance in Polls Skyrockets*
- *CRISIS in NATO: "Thanksgiving Turkey is Not for Roasting" Despite Emergence of ISIS Links*
- *NATO CRISIS: Relations between Turkey and ISIS*
- *OIC Soap Drama Unfolds*
- *CRISIS - Plenary: Anti-ISIS Coalition Marches Onwards*
- *Plenary CRISIS: Iraq is Attacked!*

47 A KISS TO SEAL THE DEAL?

48 SOCIAL NIGHT 2016: A PARALLEL PORTAL INTO THE WORLD OF ARCADE

50 QUOTED AT SMUN 2016

51 INTERVIEW WITH USG OUTREACH

53 A TINY TRIBUTE



Torch Issue 4

ART AND DESIGN

Directors (Publications & Design)

Koh Han Yi
Lam Mei Shuen

Directors (Photography)

Sim Zhi Ming
Shaun Tay

EDITORIALS

Press Director

Mitchelle Ang

Press Editors

Sophie Ang
Tan Deyi

Press Director (At Large)

Ivan Hong

MANAGEMENT

Under Secretary-General (Outreach)

Ephraim Tan

Director (Marketing & Media Management)

Dana Chang

CONTRIBUTORS

Asahi Shimbun

Christine Loh
Ho Kah Yee
Tanay Palekar

Fox News

Buddy Ng
Nigel Wong
Ter Yi Ting

Russia Today

Asjad Al Mamoon
Elizabeth Fong
Ip Chun Wing

The Onion

Abhishek Dash
Ang De Ren
Anish Bhattacharyya

The Times

Ooi Zi Jing
Tao Jiang
Wong Jun Mei



Prof Mahbubani: “Hold onto your youthful idealism!”

BY OUTREACH DIRECTORS



The SMUN 2016 Closing Ceremony was headlined by Guest of Honour, Professor Kishore Mahbubani. He has been a distinguished Singaporean public servant, holding senior appointments as Singapore’s Ambassador to the UN, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and even President of the UN Security Council. He is presently Dean at the National University of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

Prof Mahbubani spoke on why the UN remains a critical organization in international affairs – first, in moving the global community towards peace, second, in redistributing power and protecting smaller countries like Singapore, and third in ensuring Rule of Law and developing international law. He dealt deftly with questions interrogating UN’s purpose in the contemporary international landscape, and reminded detractors that their cynicism towards the UN’s was borne of the UN’s



very own design. ***“The dark secret about the UN is that the P5, especially the US, insists that the UN remain weak!”***

Having shared about the structural weaknesses of the UN, Prof Mahbubani encouraged SMUN delegates to hold onto their idealism – of entering the organization, and bettering it from within. He pointed towards positive world-changing contributions of the UN, achieved in spite of its inherent limitations. He also highlighted how organizations like ASEAN have fulfilled similar functions regionally, as Singapore continues to play a pivotal role in this shift of power Eastward.

*Prof Mahbubani also canvassed the range of questions – from USA’s upcoming presidential race, to the ISIS “crisis”, even the current South China Sea tensions closer to home. The sharing was underscored by the critical work undertaken by his generation, through IGOs like the UN and ASEAN. But he stressed that this recognition of past contributions should be accompanied by the view that the next generation could achieve so much more. **“My generation built ASEAN, its time for your generation to protect it”.***

We have transcribed extracts of Prof Mahbubani’s illuminating address and subsequent Q&A below. Any misquotations or mistakes are the authors’ own.

For more of Prof Mahbubani’s perspectives on the UN, ASEAN, Singapore’s development and international politics, do visit his website at <http://mahbubani.net>

Prof Mahbubani on the 3 Big Contributions of the UN:

It has really changed history... If you read the UN Charter – it really is a beautifully drafted document – especially Articles 2(3) and 2(4)¹, you will see how that aim of avoiding World War 3 has been achieved. In the course of the past century, millions in the world have died from inter-state conflict. These conflicts are on a smaller scale today. You wake up, you still read about them, but most are insulated from it. Singaporeans are insulated. *(applause)*

Singapore is one of the smallest states in the world. Any student of history will tell you that small states always occupy a precarious position, seeing as larger neighbors may overtake them. Today, with the UN and the international infrastructure, smaller states don’t need to worry unnecessarily about being invaded. What’s remarkable about our world today, is that compared to 100 years ago, when there are great shifts of power, you would be worried about the potential fallout and conflict that ensues. Today we don’t need to worry about that. For instance it may appear that with China’s growing military dominance, there may be a potential war in the South China Sea. But this would probably never occur on similar scale or impact, unlike wars of the 1920s and 40s – all because of the UN principles and rules put in place.

¹ **UN Charter Article 2(3)** All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered; **Article 2(4)** All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.



The UN has spread tentacles of international law in so many areas, all over the world. Let's return to the example of the territorial claims in the South China Sea – one that many of you read about when you pick up the newspapers. While the tensions will continue, my prediction is that there will be no war at all. Everyone talks about resolving this issue, and they refer to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS – ratified by virtually every country, only USA is the major exception). The fact that virtually every country can agree on principles of UNCLOS is a huge leap forward. And this is a movement towards consensus brought about by the UN institution.

Prof Mahbubani on the Challenges that the UN Faces, and Addressing Perceptions of it as a Weak Institution:

The Anglo-Saxon media is brilliant at rubbishing the UN, specifically when they complain about how inefficient it is. Yet not one of them dares to report the dirty secret that the UN is not weak by accident... but that the UN is weak by design.

This weakness is designed by the P5 who occupy permanent seats in the UN Security Council (UNSC). In theory, the UN's 193 Member States run it, but the reality is that 5 unelected dictators run the UN. And this is never reported in the media! (*applause*)

Also when it comes to selecting the UN Secretary-General (Sec-Gen) – who has to fulfill many roles including the role of Chief

Administrative Officer of the UN and its many bodies – the criteria is skewed by these P5 countries! In Singapore, our principles of leadership are clear – you should be strong, smart, dynamic, courageous, and a visionary. But if you have any of these qualities you are disqualified from UN Sec-Gen race. They only look for one qualification – is the candidate spineless? If he is then he qualifies.

John Bolton, former US Ambassador to the UN, himself said to then US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that America's choice for a candidate was simple, he or she should not only be from an allied country, but he or she should also be weak. Sashi Tharoor, an Indian lawmaker and former UN Official whose candidacy for Sec-Gen was ended by an American veto has shared this perspective also, "the five permanent members have the great power of the negative vote (veto). A candidate who is acceptable to a majority but attracts a veto is dead in the water".²

If the P5, especially US, insists on this election process – how do we expect to have a robust and strong organization? If you want a strong UN, pick a strong CEO, simple! Unfortunately the Anglo Saxon media hardly ever reveals this. Instead of blaming the UN, the media should be blaming the USA.

² "I believe the candidate's vision is important, and that is why I took the trouble to spell out mine," said Sashi Tharoor. "But at the end of the day, the SG [secretary-general] race is neither about vision nor about the most relevant résumé, language skills, administrative ability, or personal charm. This is a political job, and the decision to select an SG will be a political one, made principally by the P5." <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/11/14/the-race-for-u-n-secretary-general-is-rigged/>



Prof Mahbubani on the Future Prospects of the UN:

Is there a solution to the problems that the UN faces? There is one – very simple at that – which I hinted at in my previous remarks. Western policy towards the UN just needs to change. They need to switch from wanting a weak Sec-Gen to actually electing a strong Sec-Gen (by not vetoing the vote for strong Sec-Gen essentially).

But of course the big question is – can we persuade the US to change the policy, especially when it is already deeply ingrained in the US State Departments. This seems very hard to change.

My answer, is yes, this position can be changed. Then President Bill Clinton has shared with me, that if the US assumes she will be number one forever, then surely, the US can continue to do whatever she wants, especially in relation with the UN and not care about the opinions from the rest of the world. But, if we can think of a world, where US is no longer number one, then, surely, it would be in the Americans' national interests to support multilateral organizations and solutions which will then make the world a safer place. Implicitly, what he was saying was that this revised American position would constrain the next number one – China.

So Bill Clinton was being very honest, that USA is no longer number 1 in today's international landscape, but number 2. *(applause)*

Unfortunately, if any American politician in the US speaks about the possibility of the US becoming number 2, he or she would have died a political death. It is remarkable that in a land that preaches free speech, you cannot talk about these things.

But with America's unsaid national interests changing, I think it is possible to persuade the US to change its policy in the UN. This of course would be more possible, if Bill Clinton's wife, Hilary Clinton, becomes president. *(applause)*

Even if Trump becomes President, *(laughs)* his hands will be tied by America's many domestic institutions. Specifically, he may not be able to raise a wall on America's border, he may not be able to raise tariffs against China, but his position does come with a lot of general power against the rest of the world.

Ultimately there is a greater recognition that the world is a smaller world; a small global village where you need a strong council. All the crises we are facing – global warming, pandemics (SARS, Zika), terrorism, etc., you can see that the next wave of problems are all global and interconnected. We should all come together to strengthen relations, and I hope your generation will learn and do better than mine.



Delegates' Q&A with Prof Mahbubani

Prof Mahbubani on UN and specifically UNSC Reforms:

Q: In light of what you have shared, how should the UNSC be reformed so that it can better carry out the mandate of the UN in securing international peace and stability?

A: The UN is definitely a work in progress. And sometimes the progress seems to long (laughs). It almost seems to be a Never-Ending Working Group on the UNSC. If you read my book "The Great Convergence", I detail the 7-7-7 formula for UNSC Reform. Instead of the P5 and 10 elected members, we should have 7-7-7 representation instead. In brief, first we should have 7 Permanent Powers which reflect the contemporary power structures – US, China, Russia, EU, Brazil, Nigeria and India. Second the UNSC should house 7 Semi-Permanent Powers – each power representing a region from the next 28 strongest states. The reason why is simple, we need a balance of power between the new P7 and the world; for example China balanced by Japan, South Korea, USA balanced by Mexico, Canada, etc.

UNSC must change its composition to reflect the real power dynamics. UK and France for instance, should leave. They do not dare use their veto anyway, not when their stance is different from the USA or the EU anyway. Their heyday colonial power has waned. There is no more real power in their veto and they are almost 2nd

class members within the P5.

Ultimately all we can do now is be patient and soldier on in reform.

Q: What are the chances of India becoming a permanent member within the UNSC?

A: Of all the countries aspiring to be part of permanent member of UNSC, India is definitely the number one new inclusion. (*applause*) Look at today's powers, number one is arguably the US or China (depending whose perspective you adopt), but number three is clearly and effectively India. In Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, India has the 3rd largest economy in the world. And India is the only country, which has the power to defy the P5.

If India announced that it were no longer bound by UNSC resolutions, then the P5 would be rendered nugatory. P5 would not be able to do anything about India's refusal to abide by international rules. In contrast, if Brazil or Nigeria (other candidates advocating for a permanent seat) attempted the same, they would be sanctioned by the current P5.

The key is power in international affairs. Do you have the power to do things, or stop things from happening? Even if India does not have power now, its power will continue to grow. (*applause*)

Q: Seeing as how resolutions are not legally binding, what are the true powers of the



UN? Does this IGO (Inter-Governmental Organization) revise its structure – where other UN bodies besides the UNSC can make internationally-binding decisions?

A: I believe I have answered this in my address earlier – recall the 3 contributions of the UN. On another note, the only international organization that has the power to make decisions that are mandatory and binding on every country in the world is the UNSC. It is a powerful body. For instance, the reason why Iran changed its nuclear policy is because UNSC imposed sanctions.

In contrast, the UN General Assembly bodies have the primary function of expressing international norms – specifically points-of-view as parliament. Their role is not to pass mandatory legislation (which compels a country to act or stop acting in a certain way). When UNGA resolutions are passed, they are accepted voluntarily since they reflect current international practice or what countries agree should be. Therein lies the difference, and that's the specific use of a UNGA resolution vis-à-vis a UNSC resolution (although the former is not binding in the narrow legal sense).

Prof Mahbubani on the American Presidential Elections and its Global Impact:

Q: With the US Presidential race marked by 2 very clear ideologies, what do you think will be the effect Trump's presidency – if he should win – on the UN itself?

A: (*laughs*) The honest answer is that nobody knows! American presidential candidates have

a perfect record of walking away from the campaign promises. Bill Clinton has said over and over again, unlike his predecessor George Bush Sr., he will not coddle the butchers of Beijing (in reference to the 1976 Tiananmen Incident). One year after his election, I was personally present at Blake Island, Seattle, where I saw Clinton coddling the butcher of Beijing during an APEC Summit.

Sometimes you just have to discount what presidential candidates say. President Trump will not build a wall. Also Trump has not thought about the UN so far, and that may be a good thing. The less he thinks about the UN, the safer the UN will be. While he has strange distorted views of the international community, he should be constrained by the office of the President, should he get elected.

Trump could be a complete disaster, but, he may also turn out ok. Who knows? (*laughs*)

Q: Do you think Bernie Sanders will win the election? He seems to be a better candidate than both Clinton and Trump, especially in representing and understanding the common American.

A: I think Bernie Sanders is great! But the chances of him stealing the Democratic Party nomination from Hilary Clinton are virtually zero. She has enough delegates, so she should get the nomination.

But a friend told me that it might be a possibility (not big, not even a probability), that Hilary will choose Bernie as Vice President, then her



chances of winning will become very strong. Hilary then faces a problem – do you pick someone you don't like; although picking him will help you win.

Prof Mahbubani on International Instability and Growing Tensions:

Q: Seeing as the results of the UNCLOS South China Sea arbitration are just released, while most of us agree that there will likely be no war, it is quite likely that the South China Sea will become the South Chinese Sea. How might the UN deal with this specific problem and the more general one that might appear to prevail over right?

A: First we have to understand the nature of the territorial claims. There are 5 claimants: China and 4 ASEAN States. Superficially, the claims are over the islands, rocks and related fishing rights. However, the problem is much deeper. It is with how the Chinese have drawn the 9 Dash Line³ – that is a source of great mystery.

Where there is line even come from? If you are interested, do read Professor Wang Gungwu's writings on this subject. He highlights that this was a Japanese line originally, drawn after they attacked Philippines in WW2. So it does seem curious why is China asserting sovereignty over this line. We need to understand their motivations first, before we can proceed with resolving this problem decisively.

³ The contested area in the South China Sea includes the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands and various other areas including the Pratas Islands, the Macclesfield Bank and the Scarborough Shoal. The claim encompasses the area of Chinese land reclamation known as the "great wall of sand".

However the silver lining in all this is that all parties have agreed that dispute would be resolved via UNCLOS. Also it should be noted that under UNCLOS, countries can only claim 12 miles of territorial sea. China has not explained what the 9 Dash Line is, but it has stated categorically that there is total freedom of navigation within the 9 Dash Line – unlike territorial waters where the coastal state can impose certain restrictions on international ships.

Ultimately political solution is needed, and this may take 5 to 10 years. And since there is unlikely going to be any war there, we can all afford to be a bit more relaxed. (*laughs*)

Q: What about the problems of nuclear-proliferation in North Korea? What do you think the UN can do?

A: Again it is about power and collective international action. I believe a solution is nearer than most people think. Recently, to prevent North Korea from causing further problems, even China voted in favor of sanctions against its neighbor. This would be unthinkable 20 years ago. So personally I don't worry abt NK, there will be peace there.

Q: What are your views on the problem of the refugee problems in Syria, especially in light of the growing fatalities?

A: If you are dispassionate and analytical about this issue, and you look at numbers, particularly



the Syrians displaced and left dead by the ISIS, you will realize that this conflict is already quite contained. Look to the number of people who died in the Rwanda massacre; in a matter of few days, 800,000 were killed with machetes. That is absolutely horrible. 20 million died in World War 1. Such a sad chapter of history can never happen again.

Today, 8000 or 80,000 may die, but never again 800,000. The scale of conflict has been reduced significantly by organizations like the UN. I guarantee you that for the rest of the your lives – there will always be problems – it is just an issue of how we manage them, and resolve them, humanely, in the best way possible.

Q: Today we see more rising regional powers – the EU, ASEAN – more integration forces; how optimistic are you about ASEAN. Will ASEAN become more integrated (unitary governance) or more federal (separated governance)?

A: I actually have a new book about ASEAN coming out very soon. *(laughs)* But seriously, ASEAN is the most underestimated organizations in the whole world. And today ASEAN faces its biggest threat since 50 years ago: the next round of superpower competition between USA and China and us being potentially caught in the fray. I discussed this with others at a meeting in Kunming just 2 days back. A united ASEAN would be better for all of us in it. We want to maintain friendly ties with China and US; we don't want to be forced to choose.

It is of utmost importance to hold ASEAN together through a strong leadership. My generation built ASEAN. It is your generation's turn to protect it.

Prof Mahbubani on Model United Nations:

Q: Do you think MUN serves any purpose for youth today? Do you think it even has any real effect on the international stage?

A: *(laughs)* Definitely! The quality of debate and discourse; the fact all of you are so aware and analytical about today's international issues, at such a young age.

I only foresee one problem. If you do MUNs, you become cynical like an adult! You give up on your youthful idealism, and accept the majority view that the UN full of problems. Just hold onto to it! Keep doing MUNs if you can believe in the strength of your organization, and your ability to change it, in spite of your cynicism. *(laughs)*



When the Media Treats Muslims as a Faceless, Undifferentiated Mass – Reflections Post-OIC Debates

BY DANA CHANG | DIRECTOR (MARKETING & MEDIA MANAGEMENT)

From 9/11, to the Paris attacks, Brussels bombings, and the recent Orlando mass shooting – terror attacks have shaken this world and the way we view it. In particular, the word ‘terrorism’ is often associated with the word ‘Islam’. The word ‘extremist’ seems to have become synonymous with ‘Muslim’. This phenomenon is referred to as Islamophobia – the irrational fear and bigotry towards the Islamic faith and towards Muslims.

Some protest and argue that Muslims themselves are responsible for the widespread Islamophobia. Most of the recent terror attacks were carried out by Muslims, so the logical extension appears to be for one to fear Muslims. This in turn has been termed Islamorealism. However, there is an obvious fallacy in this position. We simply cannot use a broad brush to paint all Muslims in the same light; and we certainly cannot assume that the many – 1.6 billion Muslims – should be held responsible for the actions of a few extremists.

Yet, mainstream media has reinforced this misperception. It has consistently portrayed Islam as a violent-prone religion that is diametrically opposed to the West. A study done by the University of Birmingham in 2007 revealed that 91% of international articles about

Muslims were “negative”. Two thirds of British press articles portrayed Muslims as a “threat”, and were peppered with references to “radical” Muslims. Most of news reports about Muslims, Islam and organizations are related to violence, war or terrorism. This can be attributed to the fact that the media tends to report only the negative things Muslims do. As put by Corey Saylor, legislative director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a Muslim advocacy group: “All the good things Muslims are doing get ignored while the barbaric subset of the Muslim world that claims our faith become our spokespeople.”

As Saylor pointed out, regular practitioners of the faith have been unfairly equated as Islamist extremists. When newspapers (like *The Times* and *The Daily Star Sunday* respectively) slap broad and misleading headlines on Muslims, “Call for national debate on Muslim sex grooming” and “UK Mosques Fundraising for Terror”, it conjures the mental image of one big bad villain – ‘Islam’. The prejudice may be subtle, but it is discernible. Many news agencies also report on incidents of violence and subjugation of women in predominantly Muslim countries, such as Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, and implicitly attribute these acts to the perpetrators’ Islamic faith.



However, it is clearly reductive if we were to take extremist incursions on human rights and human life to be representative of all Muslims' beliefs and values. First, these incidents, while arguably more prevalent in the Middle-Eastern context, equally occur in the Western world. When these perpetrators are white, such incidents receive far less negative media attention – they are usually dismissed as unfortunate and isolated.

Second, there are many differences within the diverse global community of Muslims. Think of secular-progressive countries like Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia and Bangladesh – they, too, are predominantly Muslim countries, but we don't see the same acts of violence and so-called 'primitive' behavior in them. Yet, news agencies do not present these facts to the audience, and this fuels fundamental misconceptions within the general public about the Islamic religion and belief.

Third, Western media often unreasonably or over-hastily correlates extremism with Islam. One example of such stereotypical grouping was observed when a CNN anchor asked a Muslim interviewee (on national TV), "why is it that no one within the Muslim community knew what these guys (those who orchestrated the Paris attacks in 2015) were up to?" From this single question, there was an insinuation, practically an accusation, of collective responsibility – that all Muslims are to be held responsible for the cruel acts of some radicals. That all Muslims had a hand in the deaths of 130 people that night. While such subtext may appear just subtle to some, the media's role cannot be trivialized. Media coverage has a strong influence on the opinions of those who have

limited or no contact with Islam and its people. The potential impact these media portrayals might have on people's attitudes toward Muslims cannot be understated.

Moreover, the resultant impact of people's attitudes towards Muslims must be taken seriously. In this time and age, acts of terror and brutality have become almost commonplace. Naturally, people are scared. Who wouldn't be? However, people are also angry. I am no psychology student (I'm actually a law student, and lawyers know nothing about psychology), but anger will almost always need to be taken out on someone, or something. In this case, the anger is being taken out on Muslims. Hate crimes against Muslims are rising, and the exponential rate at which it is increasing can be attributed to the predominantly negative and unfair vilification by mainstream media. The media strengthens a dangerous anti-Muslim mindset, entrenching stereotypes and leading to an escalation of violent attacks on Muslims. Muslim women have had their tudungs forcibly ripped off in the streets. A lady in Birmingham was punched in the face for wearing a hijab. A Moroccan man was stabbed 17 times, whilst the white killer screamed 'I am your God, I am your Islam.' Three American-Muslim university students were killed in the senseless Chapel Hill shooting. One year on from the tragic Chapel Hill incident, Muslim groups have reported a rise in Islamophobic attacks in the US, especially since Republican presidential frontrunner Donal Trump has called for a ban on all Muslims entering the country.

Islamophobia is a real problem that threatens the lives of innocent Muslims – including Muslims who have condemned the acts of the extremist groups. The media must stop in its broad



demonization of Muslims and conflation of Islamic faith with criminality. It cannot be denied that the media has played a huge role in the growth of Islamophobia. Editors of newspapers around the world must take the first step by recognizing this fact. The second step is to stop this – Islamophobia or Islamorealism – by working towards the goal of objective and unprejudiced news coverage. Let us start on these small steps at SMUN 2016.

Bibliography

University of Birmingham, Allen, C. (2012, 24 Oct). A Review of the Evidence Relating to the Representation of Muslims And Islam in the British Media. <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/IASS/news-events/MEDIA-Chris-Allen-APPGEvidence-Oct2012.pdf>

Press Association (2007, 14 Nov). Study shows ‘demonisation’ of Muslims. Retrieved from The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/media/2007/nov/14/pressandpublishing.religion>

Norfolk, A. (2015, 4 Mar). Call for national debate on Muslim sex grooming. Retrieved from The Times: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/news/uk/crime/article4371626.ece>

Hinton, J. (2015, 22 Nov). UK Mosques Fundraising for Terror. Retrieved from The Daily Star Sunday: <http://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/476949/UK-mosque-terror-fund-cash>

Allegretti, A. (2016, 4 Apr). Daily Star On Sunday Forced To Correct Claims Mosques ‘Fundraised For Terror’. Retrieved from The Huffington Post:

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/daily-star-forced-to-clarify-claims-mosques-fundraised-for-terror-by-ipso_uk_57011589e4b069ef5c006268

Lamiat, S. (2015, 17 Jan). Moroccan man in France killed at home in front of wife in ‘horrible Islamophobic attack’. Retrieved from Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/moroccan-man-in-france-killed-at-home-in-front-of-wife-by-intruder-shouting-about-islam-9985072.html>

Al Jazeera (2016, 28 Feb). Muslim-American men’s murders barely cause a ripple. Retrieved from Al Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/02/muslim-american-men-murders-barely-ripple-160228003914813.html>

Withnall, A. (2015, 11 Feb). Chapel Hill shooting: Three young Muslims gunned down in North Carolina family home. Retrieved from Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/chapel-hill-shooting-three-young-muslims-gunned-down-in-north-carolina-at-their-family-home-10037734.html>

Stack, L. (2016, 15 Feb). American Muslims Under Attack. Retrieved from The New York Times: http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/22/us/Crimes-Against-Muslim-Americans.html?_r=0



The Imperial Japanese Army Fails to Make Phase 2 of War Plans

BY TANAY PALEKAR | PRESS DELEGATE, ASAHI SHIMBUN

Tension pervaded the committee room of the Imperial Japanese Army as they resumed discussion of their invasion plans (for the fourth and fifth sessions on Day 3 of SMUN).

Shocking truths were revealed, including the fact that one of their airfields had been discovered. Despite facing many challenges, the council's resilience, and tactical thinking, regarding Phase 2 of their war plan is admirable. However, the council never gave up, attesting to the glory of our nation as we stand in the face of opposition.

Many council members, believing that offence is the best defence, suggested blowing up the British mines. Commanding officer Tomoyuki Yamashita backed the proposal to continue attacks on the peninsula. Yamashita was clearly in command, suavely explaining his plans and orders, convincing members who were reluctant or inactive in council. Yamashita rightly stated that the council should not keep focusing on contingencies, but should simply attack viciously, and resume blowing up the British Infantry.

It is obvious from the confidence of the key figures of the council, Japan is in a good position to win the war. In an interview with Yamashita and other commanders-in-chief, they were confident that the British are fleeing the Japanese.

Yamashita mentioned that instead of opposing him, council members should simply follow his orders, and be aggressive. He thinks that since Japan has no chance of losing any territory, they should simply bulldoze through Singapore, and capture Melaka.

Of course, even after Commander Yamashita rightly advised the council to stop worrying about what may happen, he was still met with opposition – lack of enthusiasm, and participation was a reality in this council meeting. Those who remained uninterested and silent included General Chuichi Muroya, the ordnance section head.

I'm happy to say that with Yamashita as our commanding officer, Japan's future in the war is bright.



Imperial Japanese Army Successfully Take Singapore on the 99th day!

BY HOH KAH YEE | PRESS DELEGATE, ASAHI SHIMBUN

Members of the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA) had but one goal in mind: to take Singapore from the British High Command (BHC) within 100 days. True to our supreme judgement and superior negotiation skills, the IJA successfully acquired Singapore, now to be called Syonan-to, on the 99th day (the final day of SMUN 2016)! All hail the Imperial Japanese Army! Nippon Banzai!

The IJA began its conquest of the peninsula on February 4th, in the vicinity of Johore. Under the leadership of our visionary commanders, the IJA instilled fear in British hearts by attacking the north, thereby disengaging the infantry. This forced the British to retreat back to Johore, where it received greater punishment by the Tanto-23 station soldiers, ready to attack any enemy on sight.

The tactical brilliance of the IJA was further revealed on February 5th, when airstrikes left just 2 bases to conquer: Changi and Tengah bases. By the end of the day, the IJA completely reduced Changi base to rubble, while leaving Tengah base in critical condition. General Takuro Matsui ordered that captured civilians still enamoured of the British colonialists be punished in order to further force the BHC to stop the senseless fighting.

By February 6th, the city of Johor Bahru fell to the IJA. The BHC was routed in an air battle, with all British air units destroyed at the end of the day.

3 days before the massacre of the BHC, IJA sunk the Repulse, a significant blow to the BHC. Four of IJA's units, Tanto-20 to 24, marched into Singapore with little resistance.

With the successful evasion of British troops at Fort Canning, Tanto-23 confirmed the taking of Singapore on February 10th. General Tomoyuki Yamashita of the IJA met with members of the BHC to negotiate the transfer of the port island to Japanese hands. General Yamashita was clear in his demands for the unconditional surrender of the British, with the following 3 conditions: 1) that the commanding officer of the BHC, Percival, be executed for crimes against the Emperor, 2) that all units in the Malayan Peninsula are to surrender their arms to the Japanese units in Singapore, and 3) for all British units in the peninsula to swear allegiance to the Emperor and officially declare territorial status of the Malayan Peninsula to be under the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

It was unsurprising that the BHC representatives were honourable enough to not comply with our General's demands. Negotiations at Fort Canning failed. This resulted in the swift execution of all the commanders of the BHC. Percival's head is said to be hanging on Tanto-23 which had bulldozed into Singapore.

Nippon Banzai! Nippon Banzai! All hail the Great Japanese Empire!



APEC Debates at Length, but Fruitfulness is Debatable

BY BUDDY NG | PRESS DELEGATE, FOX NEWS

Right from 9am, when the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) committee commenced this morning, delegates were already hard at work debating on the topic of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). The Leaders Declaration (LD), created to increase the ratification, signing, and membership of the TPP, had also just been introduced to the council. On the delegates' side, they were busy reading through the LD and preparing their respective debates.

When debate on the LD started, the delegate of China rose and started her speech, imploring that other countries to understand her concerns about the TPP. She raised requests to push back deadlines for enforcing labour rights and copyright rules in the TPP as it was difficult for her country to meet it, and also for the TPP to add a clause to make it easier for non-member states to join in the TPP. Other countries managed to negotiate and compromise on China's concern, before passing the LD.

China's requests may however be difficult to meet. Ultimately, China must learn to handle the deadlines in a timely fashion, as extending it only for one country is irrational. If the deadline cannot be met, China should seek a solution rather than burden other countries signing the TPP. The alternative would be to debate at

length over when the new deadline should be, which would delay the TPP and the Free Trade Agreements in it.

As the LD was passed, APEC moved on to the next topic, cryptocurrency. The delegates went off topic for an hour, debating about the appropriate ways to regulate e-money rather than cryptocurrency itself. To clarify on this issue, cryptocurrency is defined as a "medium of exchange using cryptography to secure the transactions and to control the creation of new units" while e-money as "the money balance recorded electronically on a stored-value card".

The debate kicked off with Philippines declaring their intention to find solutions into preventing hacking Bitcoin. With this speech, many delegates began to think that Bitcoin was a currency instead of a system, and their later speeches revolved around whether implementing it as a worldwide currency as well as legalizing and regulating it was a good idea. It only began to confuse more and more delegates, with some thinking that it was a good idea to employ it for easier trading, and some thinking it would be good to promote their economy.

After an entire hour with no delegate realising their mistake, the chairs of APEC finally brought the council back to its original topic.



“Cryptocurrency is actually a system that utilises cryptography and peer-to-peer networks, and not e-money”, one chair highlighted, “you all are talking about e-money, and that is not cryptocurrency”.

Though an engaging debate session certainly took place, whether or not it contributed to the topic at hand is hence uncertain. This is perhaps a stark testimony to the relative lack of knowledge accrued about cryptocurrency in society today, and of the need to start moulding people who are more attuned to potential social norms in the near future.



OIC: Hajj and Mecca – A Breeding Ground for Terrorism?

BY NIGEL WONG | PRESS DELEGATE, FOX NEWS

On the final day of the debates, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation discussed Hajj, an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca and a mandatory religious duty for all Muslims. They discussed the social and logistical issues of arranging appropriate facilities for such a large number of people in such a short period of time.

The session kicked off with high tension when the delegate of Saudi Arabia declared that the other nations would not have a say in what happens within their borders unless they “pay their fair share” for funding the pilgrimage.

While the council was willing to respect the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, there were several objections from several delegates, most notably from Iran’s delegate. In his argument, he pointed out that “7000 people are dead, [and that] this is no longer a sovereignty issue”. Indeed, he even proposed the setting up of an administrative body under the OIC, to ensure that proper measures are taken to minimise the amount of casualties.

Eventually, the member states agreed that an administrative body, comprising of health officials and administrators from the OIC member states and other major source countries, would be set up. Saudi Arabian officials were also

encouraged to publish either annual or biannual reports for proper adjustments to be made.

However, while the council may have addressed certain social issues, one key concern for many Western nations remains unaddressed. In such a pilgrimage, especially with such close proximity to various interpretations of Islam, Mecca could become a breeding ground for radical Islam and terrorism.

In light of many self-radicalisations and semi-frequent terrorist attacks, such a breeding ground is something that may cause extensive damage to Western society.



SOCHUM: Increasing Threat of the Mentally Unstable, and Radical Muslims

BY TER YI TING | PRESS DELEGATE, FOX NEWS



On the 16th of June, the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), after 4 days and innumerable rounds of direct voting, finally passed a resolution in favour for improved mental health care. This resolution was not smooth sailing, as many countries like Syria, Malaysia and Indonesia with Islamic inclinations fervently voted against improving mental health systems and policies to aid the mentally ill.

Syria asserted that different countries have different belief systems and thus that each country should be able to use their own methods to deal with the mentally ill. Some even believe that mental illness is linked to supernatural forces and thus, there is a societal

stigma regarding them and how to handle them. Religion, like Netherlands and Syria suggested, might be linked to such “unkind” treatment of people with mental issues.

The danger of ineffective identification of mental illness is detrimental, especially in US’ society today. The rising numbers of mass shootings show a clear problem in identifying and treating people with mental health problems, which should be under the coverage of Obamacare.

SOCHUM then moved on to discuss the preservation of cultural heritage in times of conflict. Bosnia began by revealing a rather



idealistic approach: to negotiate with terrorists to avoid cultural sites. This is “quite naïve”, as Netherlands put it, since radical Muslims are less likely to engage in logical negotiations. Other countries such as Colombia, Australia and USA agreed that the protection of cultural heritage is important, and that terrorism has to be contained in order to reduce any damage on such artifacts. Stringent checks and tighter border security were next suggested mainly by China, who also declared that many of their artifacts were “stolen” from them when they were at war.

“China, our great nation, has suffered from the evil of the West”, stated the delegate of China as he called for harsher punishments for illegal traffickers, outlaw smuggling of cultural properties, and for stricter policing measures at border security to prevent such corrupt smuggling. The most controversial request made however was for the unconditional return of their artifacts, since China declared that they would resort to force if their request goes unanswered.

Surprisingly, the delegate from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) shared the same stance as the West, wishing to protect whatever cultural and natural significance they actually have left. Haiti however stepped up to question DPRK’s “sympathy”, and pointed out there is a lack of any tangible evidence of this unexpected display of compassion. In an interesting display of political dynamics, Croatia next attempted to placate the DPRK in

exclaiming “All hail Mighty Leader Kim Jong-Un”, before asking the DPRK what measures were undertaken to preserve their cultural heritage. As DPRK is rendered speechless, China wittily offered to help care for DPRK’s cultural properties. The DPRK simply laughed and asked, “is this the 1940s?”

On another note, other less developed countries like Guyana and Chile were more skeptical of protecting their cultural heritage. Instead, they prioritized the safety of their citizens. “Why do we care? Do we sacrifice people’s lives to protect heritage sites?”, a Chile delegate challenged in stating the absurdity of protecting these sites; after all, they have more pressing issues to worry over, such as the potential occurrence of an ISIS attack. Rather, these developing countries call for monetary aid by the developed countries if preserving the former’s heritage is in fact that important.



OIC: Will There Ever Be Harmony Within the Islamic Region?

BY ASJAD AL MAMOON | PRESS DELEGATE, RUSSIA TODAY

Islamic nations within the OIC proposed a resolution which they believed would help promote positive feelings towards Islam and Islamic nations. Yemen and the UAE, both key sponsors for this resolution, maintained that Islam believes in non-violence and are having their reputation besmirched by extremists. An institutionalised joint measure was introduced to oppose anti-Islam media campaigns through the publication of positive media portrayals of the Islamic community, so as to remove its association with terrorism. In order to prevent the continued growth of terrorism, the council proposed two solutions: freezing the financial and economic resources of these organisations and entities, and restricting weaponry supplies.

However, when the council shifted from the subject on terrorism into cultural and education matters, the council was thrown into disarray. Delegates disputed whether women should be allowed to wear the burka. Yemen suggested a ban on the burka, but was faced with strong oppositions by other sponsors and signatories. The Turkish delegate believed the burka is a cultural matter which should not be associated with Islam simply because of Islamophobia.

The plan proposed jointly by Saudi Arabia and Cameroon on the status of the refugees caused great dispute among the Islamic nations.

Bahrain requested the European Union's help to improve the situation on the refugee crisis as the council was formed mainly by developing economies, who lacked the resources to support the continued influx of refugees.

Lastly, when the delegate of Saudi Arabia suggested to introduce Islamic texts in schools, it was faced with strong opposition by Yemen and Guyana. Yemen believed each country has its own scholastic preference which should be respected by other countries, whereas the latter regarded the introduction of Islamic texts as a harbinger of drastic repercussions on the ties within the region.

Ultimately, the resolution proposed by Yemen and its fellows was passed. The discussion may temporarily be sorted but the intensity of disagreement within the council clearly reflects the quickly worsening nature of the issue.



SPECPOL: Countries Striving Hard to Reach Consensus on Mining Issue

BY CHUN WING IP | PRESS DELEGATE, RUSSIA TODAY

Committee: United Nations Special Political and Decolonisation Committee

Topic: Mining Rights

Main Submitter: Russian Federation

Sponsors: Czech Republic, France, Germany, New Zealand, South Africa, United States of America,

Signatories: Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Honduras, India, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco Myanmar, Nigeria, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Guinea, Republic of India, Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Iraq, State of Israel, New Zealand, Republic of Peru, State of Qatar, Republic of Zimbabwe,

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee,

Recalling resolutions 1803(XVII) of 14 December 1962, 2849 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, 1991/88 of 26 July 1991, and 1999 Report on Privatisation and Regulation in Developing Countries and Economies in Transition by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,

Also Recalling Article 18 of General Assembly Resolution 61/295, also known as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, wherein peoples indigenous to a land or nation have an inalienable collective right to the ownership, use and control of land, territories and other natural resources,

Recognising the sovereignty of all member nations as outlined in Article 2(7) of the United Nations Charter: "Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state or shall require the Members to submit such matters to settlement under the present Charter", identifying the exploration of natural resources as a domestic right and responsibility,

*A section of the sole draft resolution approved within the council.
Accessible at tinyurl.com/specpolAYY*

The commencement of the fourth council session in the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee marked the possibility of a better and safer world as countries stepped forward to eradicate existing mining problems around the globe.

Unwillingness to recognise the rights to economic developments of the developing countries is a common sight among the developed countries. However, the conference in progress marked a profound change on this stance, where the majority recognized the higher value of world interests. Delegates called



for cooperation very strongly; for instance, New Zealand requested countries to look at the big picture and compromise when necessary.

Nevertheless, the committee was divided into three blocs between Russia, the Czech Republic, and Qatar. Russia, understanding that the mining issue has far reaching impacts on the globe, proposed the nationalisation of the mining sector and simultaneously encouraged nations to welcome Foreign Direct Investments into their economies. The Russian representative also suggested a third party, a subsidiary body of the United Nations, should be established to better resolve the issue. Despite their differences, Russia and the Czech Republic decided to merge their draft resolutions once Qatar threatened both of their resolutions with the promise of a continued status quo. China suggested for an advisory body instead of a regulatory entity.

Acknowledging that some countries have concerns on the infringement of sovereignty, Russia reminded the committee that although sovereignty is important, the committee should prioritise to solve the issue at hand. He further added representatives should not oversimplify the issue.

Before suspending the conference, all fifty-seven countries present overcame their differences and submitted a merged draft resolution. The introduction of the drafted resolution will start at the next committee session and the main signatories will be answering questions subsequently.



UNSC: The Situation in Kosovo

Interview with the Russian Delegate

BY ELISABETH FONG | PRESS DELEGATE, RUSSIA TODAY

In the final session of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the council remained heavily divided when it came to the situation in Kosovo. When voting on the final draft resolution, the initial vote failed and the council moved towards dividing the question. However, the resolution failed with only 10 out of the 24 clauses passed.

Russia Today sat down with the delegate of Russia in an exclusive interview detailing the happenings of the UNSC council sessions and Russia's thoughts on them.

RT: For the whole progression over these few days, the council only managed to tackle the first topic. We noticed there was quite strong differences between the different countries. What are some of the different blocs in the council, and why do you think the council is so divided when it comes to this issue?

Russia: It's mostly because of different national interests. For the Western bloc, what they want is more of their Western influence across Kosovo. And of course, as the Eastern bloc, we don't want that. On our side, we want to protect Kosovo's integrity but the Western bloc keeps insisting that Kosovo is already a state, which obviously it is not. So far, that's [what has been happening in council].

RT: We also noticed the strong differing opinions when it comes to this issue resulted in your council having to divide the house when it came to voting on the draft resolution. It wasn't just the draft resolutions; the council remained divided on the amendments as well. What are some amendments that Russia proposed?

Russia: Basically, because we helped [with the writing of the resolution] and it maintains status quo, Russia is agreeable for the most part. But we did add on a few amendments, which were unfortunately struck down. We amended to add a clause for accountability issues and for reporting all the actions on ground to the UN, but it has been voted against so we can't do much as well. I think you can get a copy of the resolution [to view].

RT: Yes, we did manage to take a look at your resolution. We noticed also that Russia was a signatory and not a sponsor. What percentage of the resolution, how much of it, would Russia agree with?

Russia: The resolution is mostly maintaining status quo, so we agree with most of it. But there are some specifics of the clauses that we might not completely agree with. For most of the clauses [voting during the dividing of the house], Russia abstained from voting.



RT: What would be Russia's ideal solution or resolution?

Russia: The main thing we want is for Serbia and Kosovo to sort it out themselves, instead of letting the West poke into the situation every single time when things happen. So what we want to do is just to let them be on their own; we do see a lot of progress when we leave them alone. Since there's better progress, why not just let them be? And with Serbia's increasing recognition of Kosovo, it's only in due time that Kosovo will be recognised. And as long as Serbia recognises Kosovo as a state, then definitely Russia will recognise them as well.

RT: And what are your thoughts about the Brussels Agreement?

Russia: We proposed for the Brussels Agreement to be amended and call for both Serbia and Kosovo to sit down and amend it. Because to be honest, it is against Serbia's constitution. We want to make sure that they can come to an agreement that both can actually ratify. So at least it's useful, instead of what the Western bloc has suggested to force Serbia to comply with the agreement when it's against its constitution, which Russia believes is very unfair.

Russia Today thanks the delegates of Russia for their time and thoughtful responses.

NB: The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.



DISEC Dissects – Resolution by Resolution

BY ANISH BHATTACHARYYA | PRESS DELEGATE, THE ONION

Through the 4th committee session, the DISEC committee was in the middle of a heated moderated caucus on the topic of proposing a “solution for strengthening nuclear security” – brought about by the envoy of Venezuela. Amidst an air of seriousness, tension and anxiety brought about by the caucus, one grouse vocalised by the representative of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) was on the rather obvious lack of trust in them. The nuncio also insisted that such mistrust is unwarranted, as “DPRK will store the nuclear weapon and return it later”. Once that had been established and accepted, the plenipotentiary of Czech Republic also suggested strengthening border controls and defence system among the nuclear facilities, which The Onion felt was indeed pertinent to the topic at hand.

The draft resolution was next introduced and the representatives of Israel and Congo gave a sterling myriad of clauses and ideas to solve nuclear non-proliferation. On the other hand, we have the envoy of UAE, who remarked that “this resolution is like a doughnut, sweet at first, but has a massive, gaping hole”. The creative ingenuity of this was however undermined, as that raised many eyebrows. Some of the more confident delegates, like Israel, was yielded the time by other delegates.

However on the whole, the debate was, as predicted, an unusually productive one. Apart from the excellent quality of arguments proposed, barely any delegate stood up against the rather intimidating points and the resolution proposed by the delegates of Congo and Israel. It is possible that this is the modus operandi of DISEC, where many Middle East countries prefer to remain silent.

If thought carefully, *The Onion* would like to equate this debate to *Spongebob Squarepants*: full of holes and appreciated perhaps only by children.





NATO Discusses Matters on Collective Security

BY WONG JUN MEI | PRESS DELEGATE, THE TIMES



North Atlantic Treaty Organisation during voting procedures

The final council session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) at Singapore Model United Nations (SMUN) began with several countries' debating the definition of "armed attacks" as put forth in article 5 of the draft declaration being tabled, in the hopes of enlarging its scope. This is in light of the contemporary global context which has evolved significantly from the initial conception of what should necessitate collective action.

The delegates of the Netherlands stepped up to propose the change of expression from 'armed attacks' to 'attacks' in general. This garnered the support from several other countries who acknowledged the numerous advanced ways to attack a country and undermine its sovereignty. Moreover, many countries have also pushed for similar ideas such as Denmark's classification

of 'violent and non-violent attacks', as well as France's 'armed and unarmed attacks'. However, several countries including Bulgaria, Latvia, Czech Republic, and Slovenia called for the council to move on to another topic, specifically regarding Russian aggression, Chinese expansion and cyber warfare. Bulgaria, in particular, remarked that the current discussion was merely "a play with words" and did not seem to have a direction.

In response, Slovenia stated that it was confused by the council's direction to broaden the scope of what triggers collective action, suggesting that the discussion had evolved into a "collected body for war instead of for peace". Regarding the expansion of the types of attacks as well as actions taken to counter these attacks, the delegates of France proposed a tiered



assessment matrix as one of the solutions to identify and resolve attacks systematically. However, the effectiveness of such a system has yet to be discussed.

On the implementation of the new definition of collective security, several key points such as the issue of the commitment of member nations in taking action, as well as adding and enhancing existing systems have been highlighted. Poland brought to the council's attention the disappointing fact that 5 member nations are currently contributing a measly 2% of their nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to fund the movements of NATO and strongly encourages all countries to slowly move towards increased financial funding so that "NATO can remain relevant in today's world". Regarding the improvement of existing measures and systems for collective security, the delegates of Estonia pushed for the expansion of the NATO framework by expanding civilian branches as well as creating mechanisms where countries specializing in certain threats can aid other countries. While Poland and Bulgaria proposed the creation of new NATO bodies, Latvia and the United States dissented, countering that enhancement was sufficient and there was no need for the establishment of more bodies. Romania's ideas of respecting the authority and independence of member nations as well as resisting attacks via the shared infrastructure of a strong alliance has received strong support from many countries.

On the council's last issue of debate, Canada proposed a moderated caucus for measures to combat Russian aggression in which many countries including Turkey, Czech Republic, USA, Netherlands and Canada have all suggested that council remain diplomatic and that a 'defensive (stance) is better than offensive (stance)' and council refrain from antagonising Russia especially since NATO's hands were already tied up dealing with existing problems such as a disagreement over Russia's actions in response the threat of ISIS in the Middle East. While said countries pushed for a strengthening of army and military infrastructure in preparation for times of need, they strongly encouraged member nations to also engage in the regular exchange of intelligence and military exercises in periods of peace.

The session ended on a high note as a declaration was passed with the support of all members, although the delegates from the USA had several concerns with some contentious parts in the resolution he hoped would be left out.



Interview with Crisis Director, Soon Hao Jing

BY OUTREACH DIRECTORS



Hao Jing has just completed his first year of studies in Chemical Engineering at NUS. Having jumped back into MUN after a two year enforced break (that is the common fate of all manhood in Singapore), he thoroughly enjoys chairing delegates, especially first-timers, and has done so in Thailand and Indonesia besides Singapore. He thinks of himself as a MUN fossil, since he began MUNning in 2009, and is happy and surprised to see so many of his juniors from his alma mater, NUS High School, pursuing MUN as well. Hao Jing treats MUN as a very intense hobby, but also devotes time each week to tutoring and mentoring young kids from underprivileged backgrounds.

D: Could you summarize how the Crises were introduced and resolved across the SMUN Committees?

HJ: The UNSC and UNGA had to deal with an Iraqi-US coalition besieging Mosul, Iraq, a heavily defended ISIS stronghold with over a million residents. APEC saw a trade war after the election of a certain US president. OIC dealt with a pandemic that began spreading right before the 2016 hajj season and NATO dealt with what initially were some attacks on NATO bases in Turkey by ISIS (read Torch issue 3 for Hakim's account!)

Unfortunately, the UNGA failed to approve recommendations to the UNSC regarding what to negotiate with ISIS about. I suppose a two thirds majority is wishful thinking when you have 110 states. This probably messed up UNSC negotiations with ISIS. The UNSC passed a satisfactory resolution approving airdrop missions to relieve the situation in Mosul (but the clauses summoning 'elite commando forces' were questionable), but my sources tell me the talks with ISIS were, err... not great. Both sides disconnected their call at first because it was just so awful. The UNSC negotiator asked questions more likely to be heard at a blind date or coffee table chat than a bargaining session for a million lives. The ISIS negotiator reportedly rolled his eyes when he was asked about his views on ISIS and Islam.



As for other committees, I was pleased to hear that Iran had the colour drained from their face when all OIC members learnt that the pandemic virus was manufactured by Iran. Which seemed to explain perfectly why Iran banned its citizens from going on pilgrimage before the pandemic struck. But Iran bounced back and seized the moment by blackmailing the rest of the OIC by making extraordinary demands in exchange for releasing the cure.

D: What excited you most about SMUN 2016? Any more memorable moments during the debates?

HJ: Showing the crisis video to the UN committees. So much work was put into it by Chang-Ming, my assistant director!! On my part, I asked for scenes of blood and crying kids to be included in the video and had the luck to find some really sad music for the video. But some insider info here, delegates saw the censored version - their chairs saw the full video haha!

Hmm the best moments involved me terrorising delegates during committee sessions. Maybe SOCHUM will know what I mean, or that delegate who had the misfortune to be caught nodding off in plenary session. But well, sorry not sorry. Better to be feared than loved.

D: If you could pick any historical dispute to resolve as a delegate, what would it be and which country/tribe/interest group would you represent?

HJ: Maybe the fighting between the Nationalists and Communists in China which started way back in the 1920s. (I'm thinking a joint crisis committee) I would join the Nationalist cause, unify China and terminate the Reds. Just in time to stop Japan from taking over half the country.

D: If there were a zombie apocalypse, what's the first thing you would do?

HJ: Enlist in a militia and chop up some zombies with a sword!

D: What's one thing you've always wanted to try but have been too scared to?

HJ: Umm...you'd laugh so hard if you knew what that was. So that's secret!



UNSC's CRISIS *with* ISIS

BY HO KAH YEE | PRESS DELEGATE, ASAHI SHIMBUN



Delegates from China and Venezuela engaging an ISIS commander in negotiations for the release of the hostages.

Just as the United Nations Security Council convened for their fifth session today (Day 3 of SMUN), the debate on the situation in Kosovo was interrupted by news of the United States of America (USA) conducting an airstrike in the ISIS Iraqi stronghold of Mosul at 1338 hours. The attack was reportedly in retaliation to an ISIS attack. The attack had struck in the vicinity of a hospital in Mosul, resulting in the deaths of 5 doctors from Médecins Sans Frontières (known as Doctors Without Borders), an international humanitarian-aid non-governmental organisation, and over 3000 refugees.

The destruction of the local hospital resulted in a loss of critical medical expertise and equipment, in addition to trapping civilians within what had become a war zone. Following the attack, Médecins Sans Frontières released an announcement declaring their removal from Mosul as their doctors' safety could no longer be guaranteed. In addition, the organisation condemned the airstrike, calling the actions taken by the United States 'irresponsible'. None of the doctors killed in the attack were Americans.

In response to the airstrike, members of the Security Council focused discussion on the immediate extraction of refugees displaced by the US-led airstrike. Heated debate ensued, as dissent arose amongst the permanent members of the Security Council. While both the



American and Russian delegates argued strongly for immediate and swift military action to follow up on the debilitation of the ISIS stronghold in an unwonted moment of amity, France called for an immediate cessation of military fire in order for peace talks to be held, preventing further loss of civilian lives.

The delegate from the United States formally apologised for civilian death and offered monetary compensation to families who have lost loved ones as a result of their military action. However, the United States remained firm in their stance on continued insurgency against ISIS.

In recognition of the necessity for continued progress in the Middle East against ISIS, the delegate from France proposed that US ground troops be the 'frontier vanguard' of all following military action. The Security Council agreed that a coordinated international coalition against ISIS following the Mosul airstrike is necessary, although it did not conclude on which state should lead it.

The Security Council eventually passed a resolution at 4pm today, outlining the delivery of humanitarian aid through airdrops, and the use of continued military force to ensure the freedom of Mosul from the clutches of ISIS militants.

The Security Council also discussed the matter of 3 hostages currently held by ISIS, including a journalist of Japanese nationality. Delegates

from China and Venezuela engaged an ISIS commander in negotiations for the release of the hostages. Talks were initially stymied due to the non-negotiable stance taken by delegates on the refusal to release known ISIS fighters captured by the coalition task force on the ground. ISIS then murdered 1 of the 3 hostages in retaliation.

Although the Security Council members believed that the negotiation over Skype had been successful, this was not to be. Hostages were loaded up onto a bus for the prisoner exchange of ISIS members. However, ISIS reneged on their agreement, planting an explosive device on the bus which detonated once it was a safe distance away. All passengers were killed by the blast.

In light of the hostage situation, the Japanese government continues to discourage their citizens from entering active war zones for any reason. The government has remained firm in the denial of ransom for Japanese citizens in the event they are captured by ISIS members.

While the Security Council failed to ensure civilian safety and safeguard Mosul, its chairs praised council members for a well-drafted resolution, and its quick response to insurgency. Council members also reflected that they enjoyed the fast-paced nature of the crisis.



APEC's Crisis (I): Winner of US Presidential Elections Revealed to be a Trump Copycat, Canadian PM Considering Building a Wall across US-Canada Border

BY ANG DE REN | PRESS DELEGATE, THE ONION



Newly elected US President Jordan Holm standing proudly in front of the White House.

WASHINGTON DC – The latest APEC meeting was interrupted by a newsflash revealing that Jordan Holm, a Republican candidate, had just won the US Presidential Elections. Shortly after, a live video cast from the White House allowed Mr Holm to lay down his plans to ‘make America great again’ and address (without really answering) questions from APEC delegates.

Clearly evident from his red tie, flowing hair and New Yorker accent, many Americans were aghast that the man they voted in was basically a clone of what they had actively been trying to avoid. At press time, about 900,000 American citizens had applied to migrate to Canada, with far more feared to be trying to cross over illegally.

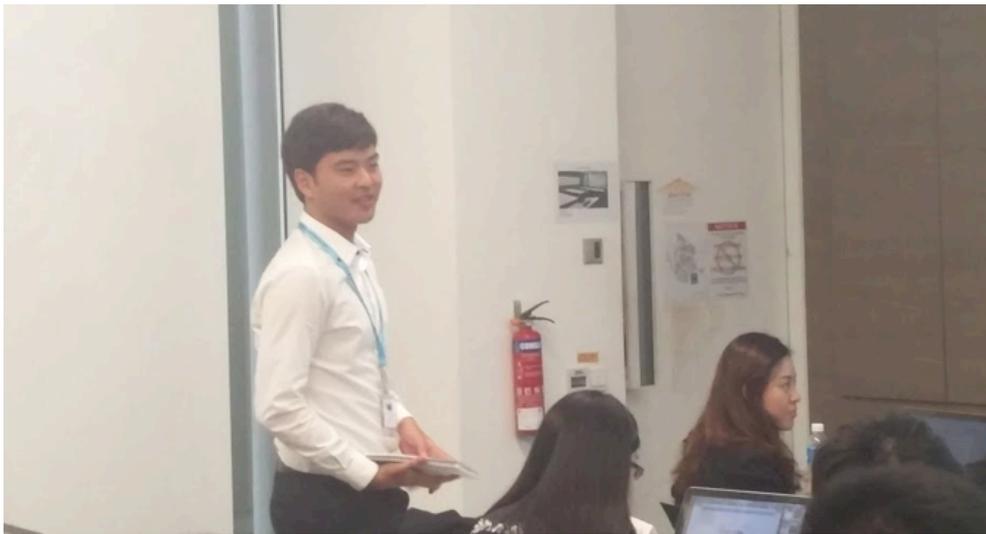
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been under pressure from his cabinet to give an immediate response to the illegal immigrant crisis. Presently, one of the most plausible responses being considered is the erection of a wall across the US-Canada land border.

This measure has been met with much hostility from the Americans trying to flee the Holm presidency. “Here we are balls-deep in trouble and, instead of helping us, he wants to shut us out? Man, how did the Canadians vote in such a nutjob? How’d he even garner so much support in the first place?” said James Powell, a very angry man on his drive towards Canada.



APEC's Crisis (II): American Delegate Defends President Holm's Actions, Faces Abandonment and Mockery from Council Members

BY ANG DE REN | PRESS DELEGATE, THE ONION



American delegate to APEC Michael Bernard had to endure laughter and smirks directed at him throughout the crisis session.

SINGAPORE – As APEC member states held an emergency meeting following the implementation of extremist economic policies by new US president Jordan Holm, much attention was centred on American delegate Michael Bernard.

Mr Bernard tried his best to defend President Holm's questionable economic policies, such as a 35% tariff on all imports from China, but it was like trying to whistle against the wind as his country faced a barrage of criticisms from all other council members.

When logical arguments failed due to the illogical nature of Holm's policies, Mr Bernard made equally failed attempts to appeal to the

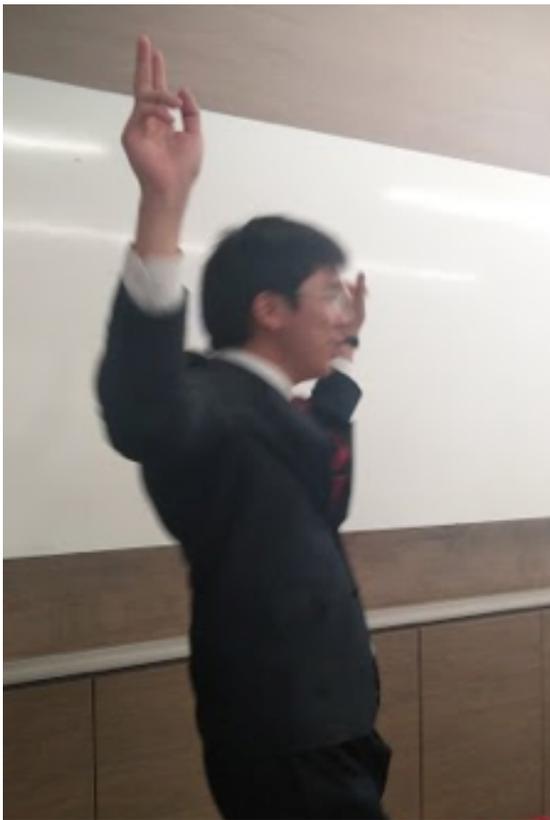
council's emotions to stop their hostility. Some of his pleas, such as 'the USA needs the love of the council' and 'the USA is like a boy... but this boy is disappointed', only resulted in further ridicule.

When interviewed by The Onion afterwards, Mr Bernard said he felt his position as an 'American diplomat' had become an oxymoronic term following Mr Holm's takeover, and expressed his desire to migrate to Canada.



APEC Crisis (III): President Holm Revealed to be Experienced Fortune Teller, Performance in Polls Skyrockets

BY ANG DE REN | PRESS DELEGATE, THE ONION



American delegate to APEC Michael Bernard had to endure laughter and smirks directed at him throughout the crisis session.

SINGAPORE – As APEC member states held an emergency meeting following the implementation of extremist economic policies by new US president Jordan Holm, much attention was centred on American delegate Michael Bernard.

Mr Bernard tried his best to defend President Holm’s questionable economic policies, such as

a 35% tariff on all imports from China, but it was like trying to whistle against the wind as his country faced a barrage of criticisms from all other council members.

When logical arguments failed due to the illogical nature of Holm’s policies, Mr Bernard made equally failed attempts to appeal to the council’s emotions to stop their hostility. Some of his pleas, such as ‘the USA needs the love of the council’ and ‘the USA is like a boy... but this boy is disappointed’, only resulted in further ridicule.

When interviewed by The Onion afterwards, Mr Bernard said he felt his position as an ‘American diplomat’ had become an oxymoronic term following Mr Holm’s takeover, and expressed his desire to migrate to Canada.



CRISIS in NATO: “Thanksgiving Turkey is Not for Roasting” Despite Emergence of ISIS Links

BY TER YI TING | PRESS DELEGATE, FOX NEWS



In the face of numerous ISIS attacks, ISIS has claimed its latest target today: Turkey. ISIS has claimed responsibility for 2 separate armed attacks on air bases in Turkey and another in Qatar, stating that these attacks were in response to US and UK’s airstrikes. They also warned that their “faithful” Muslims would bring more deaths to the West if airstrikes against them continues.

In light of this tragedy, Turkey responded that “an attack on one country is an attack on all of us”, and that they would increase border security as well as the security of NATO bases within Turkey. Many NATO members are currently fearful, since some NATO facilities are vulnerable to terrorist attacks. Indeed, the urgency of addressing terrorism has never been more pressing.

As an attempt to mitigate the problem, UK, France, USA and several other countries agree that background checks should be carried out on Muslim immigrants in and out of NATO countries to facilitate the anticipation of attacks. This may be implemented along with the setting up of information or intelligence sharing networks to find links between terrorists and the immigrants or refugees. Like the delegate of USA so aptly quoted from Republican Presidential nominee Donald J. Trump, “What separates the winners from the losers is how a person reacts to each new twist of fate.” Therefore, USA urged the council to also use the Joint Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (JISR) or the Terrorist Threat Intelligence Unit (TTIU) units to react to these ISIS attacks. Another solution was raised when many countries agreed that police forces have to be increased to deal with



possible internal terrorist attacks, especially countries with refugees like the US.

A more recent occurrence complicating matters was that Turkey had shot down a Russian plane (the second time NATO would have attacked a Russian plane), and that Russia is displeased. The NATO members were hesitant to send in any troops to Turkey, seeing that it will aggravate Russia even further. A 3-pronged approach was offered- diplomacy, defence building and an UN investigation. So far, Russia persists in demanding an apology and has started deploying S-400 anti-aircraft missiles. The lack of response from Turkey amidst this sign of potential counter-aggression might prove fatal.

In a hardly shocking turn of events, Turkey, the only Muslim state in NATO, was recently found to have links with ISIS. A reliable source produced evidence that Turkish officials have actually dealt directly with ranking ISIS members, allowing ISIS operations by turning a blind eye to the smuggling of weapons and fighters during the Syrian war. Appalled with these accusations, Turkey volunteered to leave NATO temporarily and only re-join when all ties with ISIS has been cut. This left the NATO members shocked and hesitant for Turkey to leave. Plans were made to open investigations, possibly involving the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and Turkey's government officials, to find out who the ISIS sympathisers were.

The best statement about Turkey's potential involvement came from Czech Republic. In part witty and pithyful in its playfulness, the

delegate disagreed with Turkey's suspension and said, "This is not Thanksgiving, we do not roast Turkey." However, Turkey, whether affiliated with its Muslim counterparts or not, is still suspected of ISIS links. Until it is proven untrue, it may be wise to consider such claims of links carefully. A misstep due to lack of investigation or blind trust to a member state may prove to be devastating; the allegations against Turkey must hence be treated carefully. Fortunately, NATO intends to activate its Special Investigation Committee to investigate the corrupt officials in the Turkish government, which can hopefully shed more light in the near future.



NATO CRISIS: Relations between Turkey and ISIS

BY ELISABETH FONG | PRESS DELEGATE, RUSSIA TODAY



SINGAPORE — The afternoon council session opened with breaking news: The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) had claimed responsibility for a total of three attacks on three separate bases. Two were Turkish air bases and the other was a base in Qatar, at which almost 10,000 United States (US) military personnel were present.

This kick-started an approximately four-hour long council session, where the various representatives of the individual NATO countries were given latest breaking news and jointly worked on a draft declaration to solve the issues at hand.

As the most recent news of Turkey downing a Russian warplane rolled in, the actions of Turkey

were no doubt shocking to many. Despite its allegations that Turkey was not aware of the plane's nationality, it was later reported that it was believed this was a premeditated act by Turkey. In the same report, it was mentioned that it was unclear if the Turkish government even intended to make an apology statement to Russia.

Immediately following the news release, the delegates of Turkey made their interest in maintaining diplomatic ties with Russia clearly as it sought to make formal apologies and reparations. As discussion progressed into solutions, a three-prong approach to the problem was proposed. Firstly, Turkey was to improve diplomatic ties with Russia. Secondly, NATO was to recommend Turkey to strengthen



its own defences against ISIS. Thirdly, Russia would be promised a UN investigation into the issue of the Russian plane downed by Turkey.

Before the solutions could be discussed extensively, the committee was updated that Turkey had “undeniable” links to the terrorist group, ISIS. The room was thrown into a frenzy as the delegates deliberated Turkey’s role and ISIS’ motives in Turkey. Subsequently, the committee was alerted that an ISIS Commander had been captured by the Turkish Border Patrol.

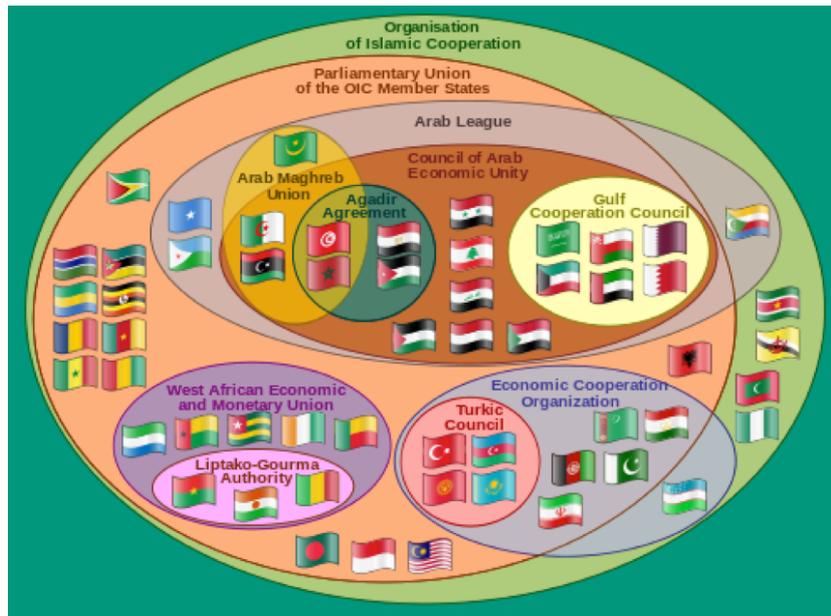
In response, the Turkish delegates wisely noted it would be best for Turkey to be temporarily suspended from NATO till further investigations. This was said much to the disagreement of the council, who insisted that the alliance was forged for trying times like this.

The debate was adjourned without a draft resolution, and was agreed upon to continue the following day.



OIC Soap Drama Unfolds

BY CHRISTINE LOH | PRESS DELEGATE, ASAHI SHIMBUN



A cooperation no more!

The conference began with news of pandemic a hitting the Middle East hard, which make delegates jump to extreme resolutions such as banning travelling within the region and stopping the flow of poultry. Banning of travelling was modified to restricted travelling after Egypt complained that tourism is one of the most important parts of their economy. Many countries reliant on the agriculture and poultry industries were not happy about the proposal, but other countries urge them to think long term and not just focus on the “temporary economic setback”.

Hot and humid air act as a catalyst for the virus and camp refugee camps are a hotbed for the horrendous Green Poison. For once, many rich Arab countries proposed to spare some of their wealth on the refugee camps – perhaps this might be the one thing that brings the Middle East together.

Besides that, they also pledged to work with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to have more research done on the virus, find a vaccine, and provide the public with enough information to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

Countries state that the Green Poison has yet to be scientifically understood well so they refrain from commenting on the virus itself. For now, they rely on previous case studies of similar cases



to tackle the pandemic. To prevent further spreading in refugee camps, they decided to expand the refugee camps to minimise contact and set up quarantine zones in the camps.

Health professionals are dying of the virus upon contact with patients which has caused unrest within the white walls of the hospital. Reports show that many doctors and nurses are quitting their job to avoid being the next victim. The lack of health workers caused social unrest and United Arab Emirates (UAE) proposed to stop doctors and humanitarian acts from crossing borders, but the rest of the council disagreed so foreign aid continues to reach affected countries.

As the news of the pandemic broke out, social unrest ensued. Civilians steal and loot from stores as they worry about what would fall on them next. In light of the chaos, it is recommended that order should be restored soon, and that the delivery of humanitarian aid should commence immediately and be dispatched as far and wide as possible.

In the middle of drafting a resolution to all these social problems, news sources expose that Iran and the UAE are linked to the pandemic. The news was followed by a quote by the Iranian Defense Minister that the attack was launched to “cleanse the Arabian Peninsula of the House of Saud who are infidels and traitors allied to the West.”

The OIC broke into an unmoderated caucus powered by shock and excitement. The entire OIC abandoned Iran and UAE and started their own meeting while Iran and the UAE was sadly left with a two-country bloc. Upon

questioned how they feel about being left out and if they knew about their countries’ action, they were nonchalant and state that they had expected it. Then, they began ranting on how “Middle East has been a puppet for the West”, and that they are “preventing the degradation of Islam”, and how “Middle East bends to the West” and they called the West “White supremacists”.

Both blocs later clashed, and Iran made a convincing speech with the UAE, which managed to convince Uzbekistan to join their cause.

When asked about ISIS, UAE stated that they do not support ISIS and they will help Syrian refugees as long as they will support the fight against the West.

Countries against UAE’s and Iran’s Saud cleansing decided to be cool-headed and refrain from provoking the two countries. Instead, they will negotiate for the vaccines for the Green Poison to be dispatched quickly to save more innocent civilian lives from being wiped out by the pandemic purely due to political advances of selfish countries, and avoid further casualties and civilian deaths from an extended period of social unrest stemming from a burst of panic in reaction to news of the extremely threatening pandemic.

It is advised that everyone avoid travelling to the Middle East during this period and that all those who have made plans to do so or are already there maintain high levels of hygiene at all times.



CRISIS – Plenary: Anti-ISIS Coalition Marches Onwards

BY NIGEL WONG | PRESS DELEGATE, FOX NEWS



BREAKING NEWS – With the anti-ISIS coalition put firmly in place, extremist Islam militant group ISIS is currently regarded as an even larger threat than ever before in Mosul. In the debate session held yesterday afternoon, a plenary session of the United Nations was hence conducted to address this issue.

In the 4 hour session, many delegates put forth various suggestions. This ranged from Czech Republic’s provision of humanitarian aid, to the use of large-scale nuclear weapons, suggested by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The representative of Iraqi Kurdistan was certainly a controversial figure during the debate, strongly opposing both military actions

under Iraq’s terms as well as the acceptance of any more refugees. The delegate argued “Iraq does not have the military capability to sustain a fight against ISIS”, referencing how previous failed attempts at military action against ISIS have only resulted in Iraqi Kurdistan taking in over 1.8 million refugees. In an unexpected twist of events, he even threatened to close off Iraqi Kurdistan’s borders and to cut off supplies to refugees residing in Iraqi Kurdistan, should the UN proceed with military action without providing financial and humanitarian aid.

Perhaps more predictably, the resolution put forward and supported by France, Egypt, Venezuela, Kazakhstan, and the Czech Republic (containing real action such as military intervention) was voted out and rejected.



Instead, a resolution sponsored by numerous countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Poland, Niger, Greece, and Haiti, which contained soft measures such as humanitarian aid was passed instead.

During the passing of these resolutions, Fox received news from reliable sources that ISIS was confiscating food from civilians to “prevent the illegal break of fast during Ramadan”. This led to famine so extreme that the same sources also report that “human meat was being sold in Mosul”.

Though the quality of the debates yesterday were no doubt interesting, it remains that they failed to take into account the strain of resources that will be placed upon other nations. For one, an argument was that refugees rejected from their host nation of choice should be provided with pathways to a third party nation like America. In an economy badly affected however by inefficient governance and increasing unemployment rates, such radical change in manpower will drastically impact America’s job market by creating stiff job competition between locals and refugees. Terrorism and its related problems should ideally be addressed in another manner.

The growth of terrorism has been expanding in the past few years under the watch of President Obama. As Bill O’Reilly once said, “Terrorism has been expanding in the past few years, doesn’t the President bear some responsibility, at least some for that?” Under the Obama administration, largely “soft” measures such as the provision of civilian specialists and humanitarian aid have been used to address

terrorism; with such large growth in terrorist groups, “soft” measures do not seem to however be working. If terrorism results in modern-day horrors such as the possibility of cannibalism, a more concerted effort must be put in by relevant agents.

In his memo titled “Acceptable Losses”, Bill O’Reilly also argued that the expectation of American civilians blindly tolerating terrorist attacks is illogical, especially since more can be done about terrorism in Syria and Israel such as joining a NATO alliance. Despite this, the Obama administration appears to harbour such an expectation, as they remain idle. The bottom line is that the Obama administration calculates such occurrences to be relatively marginal, compared to the potential losses should they attempt to actually resolve terrorism completely.



Plenary CRISIS: Iraq is Attacked!

BY OOI ZI JING | PRESS DELEGATE, THE TIMES

Mosul is facing a war as ISIS attacks the Iraqi homeland, in an attempt to expand their power regionally. Resultantly, Mosul's refugees have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries as they are left with no choice. This sudden attack has created a crisis that the citizens and government of Iraq are not prepared for. This disruption worries not only Iraq, but the people around the globe. The international community remains deeply concerned about the welfare and rights of these refugees. International news agencies have kept the rest of the world in the loop, and news received is often not pleasant.

Iraq as the key player seeks help from the members of the United Nations, especially the P5 countries as their people are struggling with the current crisis. Their homes have been overrun by ISIS forces and in response Iraq has requested for military and economic aid to counter the ISIS threat. Several countries such as France, Czech Republic and Germany show clear intentions in implementing a humanitarian safe zone for the refugees. Many in the Plenary have prioritized negotiations regarding multilateral talks over military intervention – in fear that the latter would claim more innocent lives or victims.

The crisis then proceeded with Angola urging neighboring member states of Iraq to open their borders for these refugees. The council

went into a panicked state when BBC Breaking News reported about the mass confiscation of food by ISIS to prevent illegal breaking of fast during Ramadan. Immediately, in response, Russia asserted that military intervention would be the only way to prevent further collateral damage. However, delegates of Canada and New Zealand restated their support for a humanitarian solution. This resulted in a split of the council into two sections.

The proposed solution entailed a short-term policy where a UN mediator would negotiate for a ceasefire, coupled by a long-term view for neighboring countries to open their borders to the Mosul refugees. The crisis council then proceeded with this proposed resolution; however it failed eventually – 49 for, 57 against, with 1 abstention. It is unfortunate that this solution was disregarded by the council and in the alternative, the council should focus on the Iraqi's government's stance. Iraq has advocated for covert military action, with Russia's assistance through the formation of a Russia, Syria, Iran and Iraq Coalition (RSII). These intelligence forces would indeed help Iraq in tackling the current issue in Mosul.



A Kiss to Seal the Deal?

BY ELISABETH FONG | PRESS DELEGATE, RUSSIA TODAY

It has been said that food is the way to a man's (and a woman's) soul. Well it appears as though the delegates of the United States of America (USA) in NATO got that figured out!

During the committee sessions, USA would be carefully handing out little Hershey kisses (accompaniments to his notes) to the other delegates of the committee. Whether it be for bribery or just out of pure nicety, no one (admittedly, not even us at Russia Today) can resist some good Hershey kisses.

To add more sweetness (or sinister intent) to the mix, we were informed by an anonymous source that on the first day, USA had handed out chocolates – exclusively to the beautiful delegates of France! Despite their subsequent fiery in-council relationship, RT heard that out of council, the delegates of the USA appeared a little more shy as tensions went vanilla, and they offered some kisses (chocolate or actual...) to the girls (ahem).

How (awfully) sweet!



Social Night 2016: A Parallel Portal into the World of Arcade

BY TAN DEYI | PRESS EDITOR

Having been through sessions of intensive debate over the past days, Retro Arcade was one event many were looking forward to. TORCH's Editors went undercover to unearth the thoughts and emotions of SMUN delegates and the highlights of SMUN 2016 Social Night.

One of the first thing delegates acclaimed when asked on their thoughts regarding the event was FOOD! (*literally with an exclamation mark*). Straight after a long heated Crisis session during the day, many delegates simply looked depleted and in real need for a dose of fun to unwind their tension. *Retro Arcade got that covered!* There were ample platters of food ranging from fried rice to local's favourite, laksa to satisfy the hungers of tonight's guests. Among the array of dishes, the honey-glazed chicken was the obvious winner of the night.

As we walked in, we saw that the dining hall shone with warm radiance and was even tastefully decorated with good ole' arcade characters around the room. Pac-Man, Mario, Space Invaders and many other emblematic arcade personas could easily be spotted the moment one steps in. *A parallel dimension into the world of Pac-Man and away from reality.*

Across the hall, players appeared to be fervently occupied on clearing stages of each arcade set, with faces looking as intense as they were during each council sessions. Occasionally, you could even hear cries of disappointment and excitement as players struggled to clear each levels.



APEC Head-Chair efficiently grabbing food off the counter.



Rescuing the damsel in distress.



Foreseeably, the most popular attraction went to the photobooth as queues formed the moment it started. With abundant of goofy and geeky props available, and to satisfy the inner “wefie ego”, a battle of posses inherently began (*metaphorically*) and moments were instantly captured.

The night ended with smiles and lasting bonds forged among the SMUN 2016 community. To sum it up, TORCH would like to share a cheesy yet light-hearted poem by SOCHUM delegate, Tsoi Chee Chung for the night.

“Out through the front door,
And into the night
I find myself under,
The clear pale moonlight

A starry night sky,
And a cool evening breeze
A sense of calm settles,
That puts me at ease

A vast moonlight garden,
With flowers that glow
With trees that sway,
As the cool winds blow

I smile at the thought,
That you will be near,
Together with me,
At tonight’s Midnight Clear”

– Tsoi Chee Chung, SOCHUM, CHINA



Delegates exhibiting the Art of Selfie.



Quoted at SMUN 2016

BY PRESS EDITORS

What is our conference without its compilation of pithy quotes and scandalous statements! All content is courtesy of its authors: yourselves at SMUN 2016!

Delegate in SOCHUM on wearing a suit in Singapore's humidity: "I'm sweating it out... Well, I suppose I'm hot all the time."

Delegate on the increasing popularity of NATO forces in Afghanistan: "We should change the name of Afghanistan to Af-nistan, since there would no need for guns anymore."

Delegate in DISEC: "The resolution is like Candy Crush coins, it means something in a fantasy world but has no value in real life."

Delegate in APEC: "This resolution is just like Madonna's stage shorts – much too short, and it barely covers the right parts."

One of the Crisis Directors on creating pain and misery for delegates: "The people who become chairs are good delegates, and good delegates survive on the suffering of others."

A Press Editor on social interactions with the opposite sex: "If you were a handsome guy, I would be happy. But you are neither handsome nor a guy."

Said Press Editor on the size of the Press Room and the metaphysical concept of physical space: "This is such a small space, but actually this is quite a big space."

Said Press Editor on press censorship: "We are The Times, not The Straits Times." (*mic drops*)

A certain USG to Press Editors on press censorship: "I am higher up in the press hierarchy. Just cut it." (*all mics drop*)



Interview with USG Outreach

BY OUTREACH DIRECTORS



Ephraim has taken part in MUNs since secondary school and has headed the Outreach Directorate for the past few days as Under-Secretary General. His editorial experience includes dotting the i's and crossing the t's in school magazines, poetry anthologies and the occasional MUN resolution. For this conference, he has overseen all official publicity, press and the TORCH publication. Aside from MUN, he usually contends with the depressing reality of lengthy and boring legal submissions in the NUS Faculty of Law. (So he definitely has enjoyed the past few days of change-the-world youthful idealism at SMUN 2016!)

D: What excited you most about SMUN 2016?

E: Definitely it would be the delegates debating each committee topic rigorously. And having the press delegates write and reflect about it after (*laughs*). It seems to be de rigueur to do MUNs in secondary school and junior college now. Thankfully delegates do understand the importance of MUN while they go through this rite of passage. The UN is a critical organization – crossing border and beliefs – as Prof. Kishore said (in the Closing Ceremony), and it is nice how delegates learn about how the UN (and other regional organizations) remains such an important international platform.

D: What are your key takeaways from SMUN?

E: Becoming more idealistic? And hopeful! (*laughs*) Listening to and reading about the delegates debating can be quite inspiring! They have simulated the UN and other regional bodies' important processes – in overcoming prejudice and striving for international stability. That is so important.

Working with the other Directorates has been great too, especially the Press Chairs and Directors in the Outreach Directorate (*laughs*) as we documented the highlights of the entire conference!



D: If you could pick any historical dispute to resolve as a delegate, what would it be and which country/tribe/interest group would you represent?

E: Any one of the territorial deals made by the indigenous across Asia / Africa/ Americas/ Australia with the early colonialists. Hopefully to mitigate the horrific effects stemming from that sad chapter of oppressive Imperialist history.

D: If there were a zombie apocalypse, what's the first thing you would do?

E: Get bitten immediately and form the P5 leadership in the zombie horde with my other USGs.

D: What's one thing you've always wanted to try but have been too scared to?

E: Learn French, Arabic and Russian... Are they any more official UN languages? (*laughs*) Adopt babies, and assemble my mini UN family like Bradgelina? (*laughs*)



A Tiny Tribute

BY MITCHELLE ANG | PRESS DIRECTOR



Pictured: Press Director Michelle, and Press Editors Deyi and Sophie

This little piece of writing serves as a woefully insufficient gift, dedicated to my delegates of Press Corps.

The bright delegates from other councils must have had a lot of fun in SMUN 2016, engaging actively in intriguing debates and thinking quickly on their feet. You, my readers, may have attended each council session bright-eyed and excited, ready to offer your arguments. Most may not notice a delegate or two in each council, always silent but listening expectantly. These people were always typing or writing notes down, with intense eyes and furrowed brows. These are the people I wish to thank today.

After the council sessions of the day ends, you get ready to go home, and chatter away with your friends happily. You think about what to have for dinner – noodles, or rice? (I think noodles are nice.) For my delegates, though, the work only begins then. You can find them usually seated somewhere afterward, writing and skimming through their work diligently to ensure their best piece of work is submitted.

I have to admit the workload of my delegates may have been even heavier than the biggest sumo wrestler you can find. They have worked relentlessly to produce reports of what happened in each council, but that was hardly the worst. They patiently endured my draconian demands,



and revised their work each time with no grudges. They worked with an insane deadline – to help you imagine, envision two pieces of essay due every single day with only two hours to spare – and yet conquered it. Amazingly, they even found it within their hearts to essentially accept my editors and I without disdain (or at least, they hide it well). My days were made much brighter each day, precisely because of their sunny dispositions. You can usually find me in my bed crying at 6am, before dragging myself up with the thought of my precious delegates.

I choose not to name names as they are extremely modest individuals, but here is just a sample of why these people are gems. There is one delegate that is always smiling even when I tell him his work is unsatisfactory (it makes me feel so guilty sometimes). He nods his head eagerly, and always provides me with a better version. I wonder at times if his heart is made of pure gold.

Another lady is unfailingly on the ball every single article she writes, yet consistently seeks me out for points of improvement.

It is these people that inspire me to be a better version of myself, and my favourite part of the day is when I see them read their articles on this publication for the first time every morning.

Their proud smiles belie how important their work had been to them, and remind me that they deserve to be applauded for their hard work.



Happy Press Delegate Ooi Zi Jing, mid-speech in thanking her parents as she receives her 'awards' at SMUN 2016's D&D.



[HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/SINGAPOREMUN/](https://facebook.com/singaporemun/)



[HTTPS://INSTAGRAM.COM/SINGAPOREMUN/](https://instagram.com/singaporemun/)



[HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/SINGAPOREMUN/](https://twitter.com/singaporemun/)