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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME LETTER	3
Day 1: The S in SMUN stands for SIU	5
Day 2: An Overview of the Councils in MUN	6
Letter to Editors: Trump Decries “Sad” and “Weak” UNSC in Video Message	8
Channels New Asia: Countries Unite Together to Combat Climate Change	9
Moscow Times: Tensions rise as countries discuss demilitarisation in outer space	11
New York Herald Times: Missile Installation Sites Found in Cuba; Cuba Accuses USA of Fabrication; USA Is Ready to Fight Back	12
New York Times: Sudan’s fragile road towards democracy	14
Pravda: “Comrades, Comrades, Comrades” council discuss the 25 Unidentified Flying Objects in Russian airspace	18
South China Morning Post: House of Commons: Council cannot come to a conclusion	20

WELCOME LETTER

Dearest Delegates,

Welcome back to Singapore Model United Nations 2022!

Nothing could explain the burst of emotions I felt stepping into a facility, being able to see and talk to my delegates one on one. Being a delegate myself last year, having a conference on Zoom felt like I was walking up an unsteady pair of stairs without being able to support me.

It felt surreal to see the lengths we have come to be here on this day.

It was unthinkable to talk to each other without saying “Let’s go to a breakout room” or even sliding messages in your chat logs. The ease of movements and even the conversations we have forged for today’s council sessions had made my first moments back in MUN even sweeter. I am simply full of gratitude.

Today, it is my greatest pleasure to present a culmination of all the work our Press delegates have done for the past two days. However, I would also want to mention the Secretariats, Chairs, Designers, Operations team involved in making this conference a success such that our Press Delegates had such excellent material to work from.

Through the publications ahead, we aim to consolidate the conference’s happenings into a readable and re-accessible memory for all.

This year’s SMUN marks the Press Corps’ first time back to an in-person session, allowing for a more dynamic and interesting experience for all of the councils involved. We are excited to see how this leads to more dynamic council settings. The news agencies you should expect to see include:

- Al Jazeera,
- The Hind,
- BBC News,
- Breitbart,
- German News Service,
- Korean Central News Agency,
- New York Times,
- Rappler,
- Russia Today,
- South African Broadcasting Corporation,
- South China Morning Post,
- Sydney Morning Herald,
- The Straits Times,

- Xinhua News Agency, and
- Yomiuri Shimbun.

As you can tell, the Press Editors have selected many different press agencies, all of which have their own biases and writing styles. This year, due to unexpected global circumstances, we have the privilege of experiencing an extremely unique SMUN, wherein the usual conference has been converted into an online one for the first time.

While the Secretariat continues their promise of a high-quality conference, having access to articles written with a critical lens has become a key manner for delegates to obtain information, as well as find out more about other councils. We also live in a society so blinded with misinformation and slanted news articles, that we often fail to consider what goes into the making of them. We urge all delegates to read between the lines of the upcoming press articles and perhaps, even utilize them to your advantage during council debates.

We have also included various interviews with our very own SMUN chairs to give you a deeper insight to the personal lives of those creating your SMUN experience. With an international cast dedicated to providing a memorable experience for you, they also have their fair share of interesting tales to share. We hope that in the articles and interviews to come, you will find yourself discovering critical points, impressive views, humorous anecdotes, and other inspiring tidbits. During the course of the conference, TORCH would like to highlight your efforts to solve the different issues your respective committee faces. We encourage you to participate, speak up, and plan wisely.

The conference will provide a great learning experience and a chance to meet other people with similar advocacies or different views, broadening your perspective of the world! We sincerely hope that you will enjoy reading TORCH 2022.

Warm Regards,
Press Editors

Day 1: The S in SMUN stands for SIU



At long last, Singapore Model United Nations (SMUN) 2022 welcomed delegates to its first fully physical rendition since 2019. Delegates came from a host of international schools overseas, as well as local secondary schools and junior colleges. It was an even greater honour to be holding the conference on home ground this year at NUS University Town.

Opening ceremony was conducted with Guest-of-honour Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for National Development and Foreign Affairs, sharing her insights into sustainability as one of Singapore's long term policy directives.

"As one says, it takes two to clap. Climate change is not an issue that [the] government can tackle on its own," The Senior Minister of State noted. "Hence, looking forward, we plan to work closely with our communities to create shared ownership and leverage on the whole-of-society's ideas and energy."

Thereafter, delegates proceeded to their first council session of the day with high spirits. Over in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), triple-delegations came up to the floor to give their opening speeches to combat net-zero emissions. Many passionate opening speeches were heard, with the delegate of Japan reiterating the urgency of climate change in her statement "What is the difference of 2.7 degrees to you? To the earth, it is a haemorrhaging of 5 million human lives by 2050."

Day 2: An Overview of the Councils in MUN

Similarity, difference, différance. These three terms work together in one's understanding of MUN conferences. How similar are various councils? How different? How far do delegates have to delve into council debate until the true meaning of the council has been reached? What new, hidden meaning or lack thereof is derived?

Councils are often full of contradictions. At the simplest level, delegates break stances, resolutions are incongruent with council objectives; and at a more complex level there is manipulation, deception, and eventually this becomes - for cynics - what MUN is all about.

Of course, can every council be said to be like this, as is the view of cynics? In relation to this, two schools of thought can be examined - the structuralist school, and aptly following it the post-structuralist school which can be argued to be the more cynical one, and yet it is the former which views every element of a structure as the same, as in the name.

This article may be slipping into head-spinning complexity, but stay with me. In structuralist thought, all councils would be the same because at their root they follow the same path of signification, moving from one element to another -- not in the sense of GSL to motions to back, but in the sense of the recognisable and tactile, such as dynamics, roles, and relationships.

The power delegate, the quiet backbenchers, the one churning out working paper after working paper, the pre-writer, and so on. Notwithstanding substantive and individual differences, these always remain. Are these, then, just cosmetic differentiations? Certainly not. And we all know this, after all we are cognizant of the differences that emerge when we go to different councils and conferences.

I gained ever more cognizance of these differences by hopping between councils during the conference - and the dynamics and delegate participation shaped a different environment in each one. For instance, the environment in the UNSC was tense, marked by confusion due to stance breaking and yet everyone was frothing at the bit to assert themselves. This was in contrast to COP26, where it was immediately apparent that the council was being dominated by a few delegates and the atmosphere was rather unresponsive. Chair reactions to these dynamics have no similarities except frustration - thereby yielding little to no similarities overall.

Stepping back, this evaluation appears contradictory: how can chairs be frustrated at two councils shambolic in completely different ways? But of course, frustration comes about in many ways. This however fails to strengthen the position that the post-structuralist viewpoint is not completely apt for looking at MUN.

After all, at a more macro level, what is most often commented on about councils is circular debate which is antithetical to the objective of MUN which is to develop solutions to issues of current affairs with a clear objective in mind.

This is a contradiction inherent to MUN, yet its inevitability has led to its accommodation - it is no secret that political actors and chair intervention are options forever on standby and it is surprising when these are not required, as if the contradiction of circular debate is to be expected and of meaning, or possibly even is the meaning, of MUN.

Circling back to address the earlier questions - the councils do not appear to be really similar - other than the fact that most function on the basic rules of procedure - which are amended by every one of the councils in any case.

Hence, ironically, the cynical view prevails, yet it is not the cynical view that all MUNs are the same, within and without individual conferences, but that the only common thing is the inherent contradiction present in all council debate. Councils could be no different, and yet in all of them the intended meaning and purpose of MUN is never realised - the biggest contradiction of MUN as a whole.

To end, is MUN itself a contradiction, an attempt at cooperation in a world where there is polarisation as far as the eye can see, with portfolios mismatched with delegates' personal views as a challenge to them? Does it follow that MUN, then, indirectly challenges our view of our own society?

On a whole, delegates interviewed were rather excited for the next few days of conference. International delegates had flown in specifically for this conference, and were thrilled to be able to participate. This being their first time at a Model United Nations conference, they were filled with nervous excitement, and looking forward to having some fun over the next 4 days.

Delegates at the United Nations Disarmament Committee (UNDC) were ablaze with conversation and were getting to know one another during the break. Teng Fei, the delegate of Egypt at the UNDC, remarked that "I'm glad to be able to come to a prestigious conference known widely across Asia." This being the second MUN conference he has participated in, he looks forward to the friendships and memories to be made in the coming days.

In conclusion, the first day of the conference has been an enriching one for many delegates, and they're looking forward to the next few days.

Letter to Editors: Trump Decries “Sad” and “Weak” UNSC in Video Message

Dated 7 June 2022



MAR A LAGO, FLORIDA – In a surprising move on Tuesday, former President Donald Trump lashed out viciously at UNSC deliberations on the South China Sea tensions.

In a move likely foreshadowing his 2024 presidential run, he released a pre-taped video message surrounded by two American flags at his Mar-a-Lago residence. In it, he adopted a tough-on-China approach, attacking UNSC countries for being “insufficiently loyal” to the US despite all the sacrifices the US has made for them.

“Just when you think Sleepy Joe’s presidency couldn’t get any worse, the delegates he nominated to the UNSC decided not to turn up. Now, China and Russia are walking all over the council, getting concessions from other countries rewarding their bad behaviour,” he thundered in a remarkably coherent speech with dramatic gesticulation.

“All discussions must be fair to the United States and to the bedrock principles of international law. It is so sad to see the UNSC even consider amending the status quo in a manner that would give China more strength. Xi and Putin must be gloating at this weakness!”

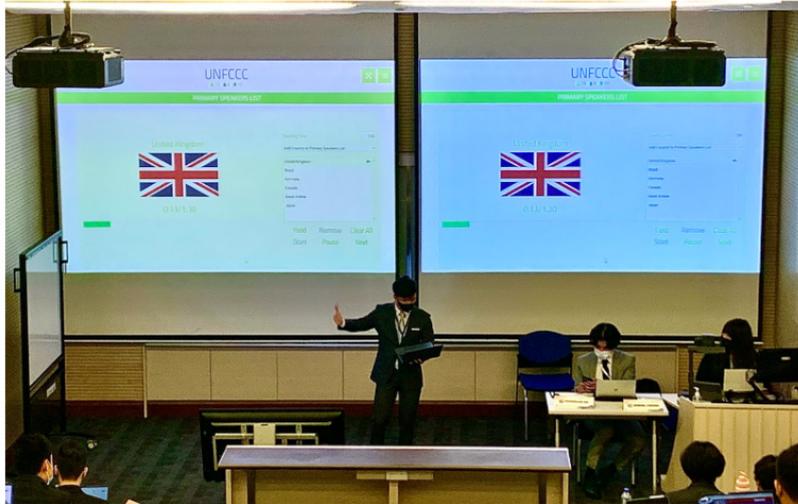
The former President has received broad bipartisan support for his speech. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Florida) remarked with a grin, “Trump is back!” Democrats begrudgingly threw their support behind the speech as well, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA12) observing “even a broken clock is right twice a day.”

The Biden White House has not responded to requests for comment.

Countries Unite Together to Combat Climate Change

By Cao Jingyu

“It is a chance to share opportunity”, the delegate of the United Kingdom



One of the delegates of the United Kingdom giving his speech , 7 July 2022

The first committee session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Council (UNFCCC) kick-started with the countries sharing the common consensus on the essence of global collaboration in combating climate change.

Countries have unanimously called for international collaboration and mutual trust.

As the German delegation first asserted that all member states should make their contribution to seize the worsening climate change situation in their opening speech, many countries such as Japan and the United Kingdom later echoed this sentiment.

For less-developed nations, Kiribati is one of the most affected countries by climate change, notably its vulnerability to sea-level rise. It is predicted that Kiribati would likely be the first victim to be swallowed up because of climate change.

The delegation of Kiribati pins their hope on multinational support, as they are rather incapacitated to battle climate change independently due to the lack of funds and the underdevelopment in technology.

Meanwhile, the more developed countries had a strong intention to push forward the construction of a green and sustainable economy, and the achievement of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions.

The delegation of the UK recognized the significance of climate financing and fair share. The delegation of the UK also asserted that while the more financially developed countries should offer assistance to the less developed ones, the countries should never overlook the construction of a sustainable global economy.

This stance is shared by the delegation of the USA, who added that there should also be more effort to make these structures more transparent and cost-effective.

Hypocrisy?

One delegate of the United Kingdom criticized the delegation of Canada for being “highly hypocritical”.

The British delegate accused Canada of insisting on incentivizing other developed countries to provide financial support for the underdeveloped, while itself, as a relatively stronger nation, failed to shoulder its responsibility in combating the communal global climate crisis.

Based on the Climate Tracker Report on Canada (updated until 15 September 2021) Canada’s climate target, policies, and finance have been rated as “highly insufficient” by the CAT to address the recent climate crisis. It is also notable that Canada fails to meet its fair-share contributions to climate change, nor provide support to others.

Meanwhile, the delegate of the UK declared that they wholeheartedly concur with the view of supporting less developed countries, but only under the condition that the solution is “moderated and reasonable”.

“The great countries also have their problems.” Emphasized by the delegate of the UK.

Despite the pyrotechnics between the UK and Canada, the UNFCCC council has come to an agreement table to resolve this global crisis. They eventually passed their agenda by the end of Committee Session 1.

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Tensions rise as countries discuss demilitarisation in outer space

As the United Nation Disarmament Commission (UNDC) kicked off their second day of debate, one thing did not change from the previous day — the endless verbal warfare. Even with a common consensus to limit Anti-Satellite weapon (ASAT) testing, the council looked to be in chaos and uncertainty.

It was argument after argument after argument, and at the wrong end of all these was none other than Israel. Unwilling to completely give up Anti-Satellite weapons (ASAT) and seemingly looking to send weapons into space, Israel hinted at maintaining its military prowess on fellow Middle Eastern countries. Was it well received? Obviously not.

On the other end of the spectrum was Uganda, whom the council questionably seemed to revolve around. Criticisms, shouting and slamming of the podium were a common trend during Uganda's speech, and this was not well received, especially with France.

The two parties soon engaged in verbal arguments during their speeches, with France blaming Uganda for affecting council flow, but soon retaliated by Uganda, whose words "focus on actions over words, rather than being a hole in the donut" was more than enough to knock France out.

As the day went on, it seemed that peace was finally found, and delegates could finally come to a common agreement that there would be a restriction placed on ASAT testing and that a governing body would be put in charge in case of any disputes.

With Russia known for its ASAT testings, how will it react to the restrictions planned on ASAT testings as Russia continues to try and impose its military prowess around the world. Will Russia follow the placed restrictions with its known tendency to go against international laws and code of conduct, such as its brutal invasion of Ukraine? Only time will tell.

As the day came to a close, a new chapter began as the issue of using civilian satellites for military purposes was introduced. With the hope to demilitarise outer space, the delegates must strive to achieve a fruitful discussion in the next two days and not repeat the chaos of the previous days.

Missile Installation Sites Found in Cuba; Cuba Accuses USA of Fabrication; USA Is Ready to Fight Back



Image of apparent missile installation sites in Cuba by the USA

This morning, President John F. Kennedy announced a naval quarantine in Cuba upon the rejection of Cuba to obey the ultimatum released by the USA to dismantle all Soviet missiles from Cuba. This revelation was a follow-up to the earlier televised announcement of the finding of ballistic missile launch sites in Cuba. Before this, President Kennedy had delayed the public statement with the concern of raising public alarm and fear.

Coupled with the announcement of naval quarantine, the Excomm assured the public that the USA was adopting fast and direct actions to strengthen the USA's national defense. Secretary of State Dean Rusk urged an increase in the military budget to \$10 billion dollars as the USA has always prioritized military budgets for national and international peace.

However, despite the substantial hours given for tensions to cool between the superpowers, no signs of action were taken by the Cubans or Soviets. The USSR denied all claims of missile installation in Cuba by the USA, leaving the USA ignorant of the Soviet's moves.

During a UNSC emergency meeting, the USSR denied claims of missile installation in Cuba. The USSR insisted the images laid out by the USA military pilot showing missile installation sites in Cuba were fabricated by the USA.

Compelled by the Soviet's stubbornness, the USA must be cautious of the threat to its nation's security. The USA has intentions to prevent further escalations of the situation into a full-scale nuclear war. However, the noncompliance of the USSR shows they discountenance national peace.

"The U.S. should be prepared for any attack," said Mr. Robert McNamara, Secretary of Defense.

The USA has made a clear stance of carrying out negotiations to settle the issue with limited destruction. However, the determination of the USA to launch an attack for self-defense has no signs of depression. The rising tensions between the superpowers continue to pose threats to global peace.



Sudan's fragile road towards democracy

By Wang DongYu



2021, South Sudanese citizens marching for democracy, chanting, "Power to the people."

From a British colony in 1899 until today, Sudan has experienced independence, two civil wars, a separation of state, and another civil war. Battling authoritarian governments, and resisting military coups, the aftermath of Sudan leaves poverty, famine, and unrest.

The resignation of former civilian Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok put Sudan back into the control of its military, diminishing its people's hopes for a democratic government. But taking a closer look, I see three overarching challenges Sudan faces in its quest for democracy.

Social and Economic Crisis

A country with a vast population of 43.85 million, Sudan remains one of the poorest and most politically unstable countries in the world. With a deteriorating economy with a soaring projected inflation rate of 41.81% in 2022, it suffices to say that Sudan is neither in the position nor has the ability to finance a functioning democracy.

This is especially true within the current military-controlled country, where independent political bodies are either non-existent or illegitimate, and political structures with democratic values are yet to be built.

“It is very clear that the military and its alliance won’t hand over power peacefully, so they will try to crush the peaceful resistance,” says Dr. Sara Abdelgalil, a former president of the doctors union. “We are expecting the worst.”

75 percent of Sudanese people, 8.3 million citizens, currently face severe food insecurity by standards of the United Nation. This forces the Sudanese people - the most powerful catalyst for change - to take the fight away from democratic governance to putting food on the table.

High tensions between powers

Even in the Hamdok administration, sustained peace was not yet attained, While agreements with the military had been made before the Hamdok resigned in January 2022, major provisions had yet to be implemented, and concrete actions have yet to be taken.

While active protests still occur, the Sudan military, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, seems to be postponing dialogue while anti-military protestors are put in prisons. History has taught us again and again that suppression of political expression ends only in two ways: ineffective governance or bloodshed.

As such, fears of further escalation of the confrontation between protesters and security forces are wholly legitimate.

Additionally, the suppression of political expression goes against every democratic value there is and is catastrophic in any functioning democracy or democracy-to-be. As Mo Ibrahim, a Sudanese businessman, philanthropist, and activist has written, “Intimidation, harassment, and violence have no place in a democracy.” On the road to democracy, blatant authoritarianism is a bad place to start.

Lack of a clear, shared vision

The people of Sudan for decades suffered through political turmoil without a leader the nation could completely put their faith in. As a result, coupled with residues of an authoritarian regime, the concentration of power at the top was met with a lack of a shared vision amongst its political elites. Until now, there is yet to be a permanent constitution in Sudan since its independence in 1956.

The inability for an aligned mission in the country's top leaders has been translated to their people. While in some ways commendable, the people of Sudan seem to be furiously working towards a democratic government, it has neither a clear specific goal in mind nor a concrete plan to back it up.

So far, Sudan has yet to have a common political figure which they can unify behind, and without clear political leadership, the message and mission of democracy are severely diluted and ill-defined. In other words, there has yet to be a tool to harness the power and potential of the Sudanese people.

But all is not lost.

On the global scale, Sudan can be seen as a symbol of the fight for democratization, and as we've seen in the Russia-Ukraine war, such symbols are a powerful source of incentivization for global aid. While humanitarian aid can and should be offered to the Sudanese, the fight for democracy in Sudan will go a long way in harnessing the powerful potential of its people.

History has shown time and time again Sudan's ability to spark grassroots movements into social change in a unified response.

In his book *Sudan: The Failure and Division of an African State*, Abdalla Hamdok wrote about a fundamental flaw of Sudan's political class since independence in 1956 - that "spirited political competition came at a price - the self-destruction of democracy". In other words: The tendency for people to fragment and break up proves to be the repeating weakness in Sudan politics for decades.

The chaos inflicted by politicians must be met with a resilient and unified response by the Sudanese people for any glimmer of hope toward their democracy.

An immensely daunting task, but not impossible.



Sudanese women protesting for democratic government.





Газета основана
5 мая 1912 года
В. И. ЛЕНИНЫМ

ПРАВДА

Орган Центрального Комитета КПРФ

“Comrades, Comrades, Comrades” council discuss the 25 Unidentified Flying Objects in Russian airspace

Jing Qiying



“Whoever does this does not want peace with the USSR” this was said by Frol Kozlov during his speech on the GSL today. When it was revealed that the 25 unidentified flying objects (UFOs) had invaded Moscow airspace, Moscow Officials had no other option but to shoot the invaders down.

Following the shooting down of the UFOs, the delegates gathered together to mobilise the military to investigate the shrapnel from the plane and discussions on how to address the situation began.

The delegates agreed that maintaining the confidence allies placed in the USSR is a priority in addressing this situation.

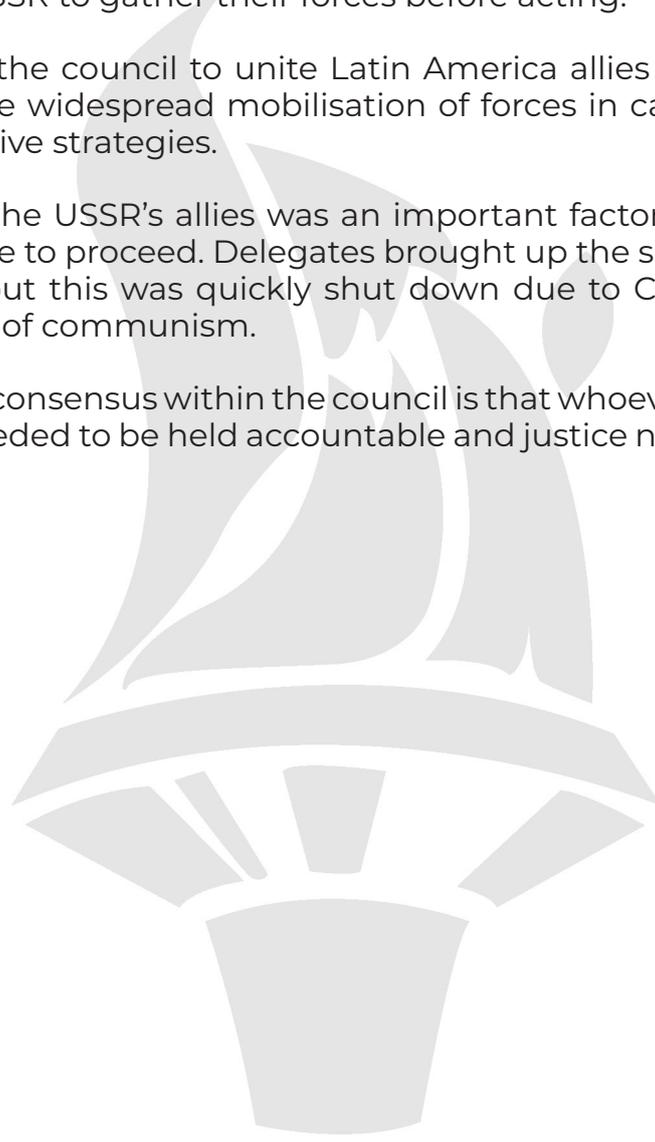
During debate, the delegates introduced solutions such as providing the allies with more military aid to prepare them for a possible conflict between possible perpetrators. Arming allies would help allies protect themselves and the integrity of the USSR.

Debate got slightly heated when the question of mobilising the Warsaw pact was brought on. Many delegates were in favour of immediately mobilising the Warsaw pact while others were more interested in watching events play out and allowing for more time for the USSR to gather their forces before acting.

Brezhnev called for the council to unite Latin America allies before acting as that would allow for more widespread mobilisation of forces in case of attack and also allow for more effective strategies.

The cooperation of the USSR's allies was an important factor in deciding how the council would choose to proceed. Delegates brought up the suggestion of bringing in China's support but this was quickly shut down due to China's disagreements with the USSR's way of communism.

All in all, the general consensus within the council is that whoever was responsible for this atrocious act needed to be held accountable and justice needed to be achieved.





House of Commons: Council cannot come to a conclusion

A zig-zag pattern.



Tense voting environment with regards to leaving Customs Union and Single Market. Left is “Aye”, right is “No”.

The House of Commons tackled the topic of the UK’s relationship with the EU earlier today in the first council session. The repetitive session that took so long it cut into break-time revolved around the two major political parties’ views on the topic. Namely, the Conservative Party believe in leaving the Customs Union (CU) and Single Market (SM), whereas the Labour Party disagrees severely.

The Labour Party’s reasoning behind the mindset against leaving the CU and SM derives from their understanding that the EU contributes gravely to their economy. Should they leave the CU and SM, they would risk losing the majority of their trade exports and imports – considering the EU is their greatest trade partner. Over 40% of the UK’s trade stems from the EU.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition, has continued to develop their motivation behind their actions – the UK should not leave what it has taken years to build in a futile attempt to be internally independent. The CU and SM have given the UK their economic prosperity. Maintaining close relations with the EU is especially important during these trying times. They’ve even gone so far as to come up with desirable solutions – to give the EU what they want while giving the UK what they want. These include finding common ground toward agricultural benefits and going to the World Trade Organisation to further expand trade.

Meanwhile, the Conservative Party’s stance is not quite so crystal clear. Jeremy Hunt, Member of Parliament for the Conservative Party, has mentioned desire to fight for worker’s rights in the UK and upholding her environmental standards. Theresa May, Prime Minister, has maintained her stance accurately. “The EU will not agree with the UK staying in the CU for the UK’s benefit alone.”

However, the council's progress is stagnant. No real developments are being made. "We've debated this already," Tom Watson lamented. "I advise the conservative party members to open up their ears. We must unite this parliament so divided that any proposed bill is rejected immediately."

"Screw the Conservative Party," quotes Corbyn. "They're contradicting each other. Theresa herself expressed her frustration at her member of parliament contradicting her words."

The council humorously emulates a Zigzag. The Labour Party and Conservative Party tackle more and more subdivisions of the question at hand, yet they never seem to progress beyond shallow repetition and voting for the sake of voting.

Evan Ng | 7 Jun 2022

