

RENMUN VI

Finding Solace in Solidarity



March 6 – 7, 2021

CHAIR REPORT

Historical Security Council

CUTOFF DATE: JULY 21 1954

Chair Introduction

Dear Delegates, on behalf of the RENMUN VI Secretariat and ourselves, we are delighted to have you in the Historical Security Council. Notoriously one of the most complex and interesting committees within the world of MUN, the HSC is undoubtedly for delegates of the highest calibre. This year we look forward to constructive debate on these topics and multilateral relationships between all delegates and parties.

My name is Serena Ng, year 11 from Renaissance College, and alongside my Head Chair Calvin Iyer, a year 12 from Kiangsu Chekiang College International Section, it is a pleasure to welcome you to RENMUN VI's Historical Security Council.

The Historical Security Council, like the Security Council, is a historical version that debates past situations and conflicts. And much like the Security Council, HSC advocates peace and security, with minor changes to delegations and debate. As a principal organ of the United Nations, the Historical Security Council is tasked with maintaining global peace and world security, this means member states must ensure no actions are taken to destabilise and threaten the status quo and humanitarian responsibilities of the United Nations. We expect all delegates, regardless of their background, delegation, or experience, to ensure that they undertake the research and preparation necessary for proper debate. We encourage and request delegates to solve disputes of any nature in the spirit of mutual compromise, as this is a committee dedicated to the prevention and elimination of war and its horrors. Should you have any questions regarding the procedures of debate or need help, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With that being said, we wish you the best of luck and hope to see you soon.

Best regards,

Head Chair Calvin Iyer (calvinkcc.victoria@gmail.com) and

Deputy Chair Serena Ng (ngs10@rchk.edu.hk)

The Events Leading up to the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War was a war waged between 1954 and 1975, between the Communist North Vietnamese government and the pro-Western South Vietnamese government and their respective allies. While both sides had the same target – to unify Vietnam, the North wanted a Communist Vietnam, while the South wanted a pro-Western Vietnam with strong ties to Western nations. The key supporter of North Vietnam was the Soviet Union, while South Vietnam was most supported by the United States (who themselves were in conflict due to the Cold War).

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Communism	A Marxist ideology where communal control and public ownership replaces private property, profit-based economies, and capitalism.
Regime	A political institution defined by explicit rules and agreed on by relevant governments, limited substantively and geographically.
Colonialism	A system where a typically more powerful and influential nation has control over a weaker, less financially stable nation.
Domino theory	A policy originating from the Cold War that stated that after one nation developed a communist government, neighbouring states would also develop such a government and “fall victim” to communist ideology.
Proxy war	A form of war where majorly influential nations indirectly engage in war through providing support to smaller, less influential nations.

Background Information

During World War II, Ho Chi Minh formed the Viet Minh (also known as the League for the Independence of Vietnam) to defend Viets against Japanese occupiers and the French colonial administration. However, at the end of WWII, in 1945, Japan's defeat was followed by their withdrawal from Vietnam. Vietnam was then left in the hands of Emperor Bao Dai, who was French-educated.

The Viet Minh forces, upon noting that this was a key opportunity for them to seize control, captured Hanoi and declared Ho Chi Minh as president of the newly self-established Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV, also known as North Vietnam). Seeing the imminent danger the Viet Minh posed on the rest of Vietnam, France supported Emperor Bao and aided in establishing the State of Vietnam in July 1949, with the capital being Saigon. This became the cause of conflict between two sides - the DRV wanted a unified Vietnam, with a government modelled closely after the government of China and the Soviet Union, whereas French-backed South Vietnam wanted a unified Vietnam with a government economically and culturally connected to Western nations.

The Vietnam War officially began in 1954, but conflict in Vietnam in regards to this issue had been prominent in past years.

- On May 7 1954, the Viet Minh successfully put an end to French colonial rule in Indochina when they overran a French base stationed at Dien Bien Phu.
- On June 1 1954, the Saigon Military Mission, an operation involving psychological warfare and paramilitary activities, was launched, beginning the Vietnam War.
- On July 21 1954 (cutoff date), representatives from Cambodia, the People's Republic of China, France, Laos, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, the Viet Minh, and the State of Vietnam met to discuss the issues in Indochina and determine ways to achieve international peace.

North Vietnam, also known as the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), was established in 1945 by pro-Communists after the Viet Minh successfully expelled the French from the region, with Ho Chi Minh as president. North Vietnam gained

significant support from like-minded Communist countries, including the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

South Vietnam, then known as the State of Vietnam, was established in 1949, with French support, and with former Emperor Bao Dai as head of state, who was then ousted in a referendum and replaced by Ngo Dinh Diem. South Vietnam, for its pro-Western perspective, gained support from the United States.

Potential Clashes

Proxy War

Key conflict in the Vietnam War was not only seen between the communist North and pro-Western South Vietnam, but also between the two sides' respective allies. As a pro-communist nation, North Vietnam gained support from the Soviet Union and China, both also communist countries wanting to spread communist ideology, whereas South Vietnam gathered support from the United States, who wanted to prevent the spread of such ideology.

During the war, the Soviet Union provided military aid, including arms, missiles, and petrol, while China assisted in the transportation of these materials to North Vietnam. However, as this was, and can be considered a proxy war, the USSR and China were not significantly involved in war in terms of manpower. In order to counter the Soviet and Chinese support, the United States provided support to South Vietnam by sending military advisers, and financial assistance.

Domino Theory

The domino theory was a Cold War policy suggesting that as one country fell "victim" to Communism, neighbouring nations would also do so in a domino effect. This was a policy key to the United States' justification of its involvement in the conflict between North and South Vietnam, and its support of South Vietnam. This policy was a primary cause of the conflict between the United States and Communist nations.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
United States	The United States essentially fought a proxy war with the Soviet Union through the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War was based on conflict between communist and democratic, pro-Western ideologies, and as this was happening on a larger scale between the US and the USSR, the US was extremely involved in the Vietnam War. The United States believed that if Vietnam became a communist nation, other nations would also inevitably become communist. Therefore, the United States was motivated to aid in South Vietnam's defence against North Vietnam.
France	After French invasion of Vietnam in 1857, Vietnam had been a French colony. To Ho Chi Minh and the Viet Minh, France was at fault for capturing Vietnam many years ago, and by 1954, the Viet Minh had successfully expelled French forces from Vietnam in the Battle of Dien Bien Phu, despite all the aid provided by the United States. As a result, France did not want to be involved in the Vietnam War, but has, in the past, shown support towards the pro-Western South Vietnam, for obvious reasons.
South Vietnam	South Vietnam, or the State of Vietnam, fighting for the unification of a pro-Western Vietnam, was extremely involved in the Vietnam War. With support most significantly from the United States, South Vietnam defended itself against communist ideologies enforced by Ho Chi Minh in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
Soviet Union	The Soviet Union, similarly to the United Nations, was fighting a proxy war through the Vietnam War. As the Vietnam War coincided with the Cold War, the Soviet Union became increasingly motivated to defend communism and aid North Vietnam against pro-Western ideologies and individuals. The

	Soviet Union provided weaponry and military aid to North Vietnam, targeting in particular American forces.
China	Having recently established itself as the People's Republic of China after its civil war in 1949, China was newly communist. Though it wasn't yet as economically stable, China repeatedly and consistently supported the North Vietnamese, French, and American forces, through providing weaponry, expertise, and manpower. China also helped in rebuilding Vietnamese infrastructure destroyed by American forces, and posed a significant threat to the South Vietnamese and American forces, greatly contributing to the war.
North Vietnam	North Vietnam, or the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, led by Ho Chi Minh, fought for the unification of a communist Vietnam. North Vietnam was supported by communist nations such as the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

Possible Solutions

UN Defence Force

Delegates from pro-Western nations could consider the option of forming a United Nations-funded defence force against North Vietnam, the Soviet Union, and China. The defence force could be used to fund military forces to defend South Vietnam and other affected regions, as well as provide economic support to aid in the recovery and redevelopment process.

Economic Sanctions

Economic sanctions could be imposed on the Communist nations to largely reduce the nations' ability to continue attacking pro-Western and democratic nations. Delegates could also consider putting an end to all trade towards the Communist nations and any allies to minimise the effects of their attacks.

Past Actions

The United Nations has not yet made any statements on the Vietnam War. No direct action has been taken to reduce conflict between the Soviet Union, China, North Vietnam, and the United States and South Vietnam. There was, however, a Geneva Convention in 1949 addressing the safeguarding of war combatants, armed forces personnel, medical personnel, civilian support workers of the military, the wounded, sick, prisoners of war relevant to all wars.

Guiding Questions

- At this moment in time, is it universally believed that the domino theory is real and will take effect? If so, what can nations do to prevent this?
- Is the proxy war between the United States and the Soviet Union seen as a key cause of the Vietnam War? If so, should, and will, anything direct be done to end this proxy war?
- Do delegates fully acknowledge that without compromise, significant backlash can occur, from either side, with the support of the Soviet Union and China, and the United States, greatly endangering civilians?
- How will other nations compromise and reach a mutual agreement where all relevant nations will be satisfied?

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