



Committee- Irani War Cabinet

Freeze Date- 24th September, 1980

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Letter from The Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome each of you to the Daly College Youth Parliament

Conference 2019. I look forward to chairing the Iran War cabinet this year, and hope to see intelligent solutions, constructive debate through the course of the conference and at the end of the day, winning the war through the course of the conference.

The committee is based in the year 1980 and will discuss the Iraqi invasion of Iran

A little about myself, I'm an 11th grade student in the here with the experience of many MUNs and debates under my belt. I aspire to become an actor in the future, but until then I'm mostly focusing on academics and co-curricular activities. I'm the typical lazy student, so when I'm not sleeping, you can find me on Youtube or Netflix, watching cricket (Just when Dhoni is batting), or probably binge watching TV shows and conspiracy theory videos.

A little about the other to members of the Executive Board; your Vice-Chair, Shalavya Agrawal and rapporteur Aditya Oberoi, both are in the 11th Grade.

If you have any questions or concerns about this committee or topic, please feel free to contact us at iranicabinet.dcmun@gmail.com

About the Committee

This is a committee especially formed after the sudden invasion of Iraq. Therefore Being a historic as a well as a crisis committee, delegates are expected to be aware of the following: -

1. Delegates are to make sure that they do not refer to any events taking place after 24th September 1980.
2. Delegates must also ensure that they do not refer to any organisations created after the freeze date or any laws that have not come into force.

Dynamics and flow of the discussion in Cabinet

Irani defence cabinet will be discussing the Invasion of Iran by Iraq. The committee will commence on 24 September 1980, as tensions rise in the middle east due to the imminent invasion of Iran by Saddam Hussein. Iraq threatens to annex territory which belongs to Iran. As members of the Irani defence cabinet, delegates will be expected to defend Iran by any means possible and prevent the takeover of Iranian territories by Iraq.

Reasons why Iraq invaded Iran

Iranian Revolution of 1979:

From the early 1950s to the 1970s, the Iranian economy was rapidly expanding. Most of it was directed toward high-cost projects and programs by the government. Social discontent mounted in the 1970s, culminating in the revolution at the end. The petroleum revenues continued to be a major source of income for Iran in the 1970s, but world monetary instability and fluctuation in the Western oil consumption threatened the country's economy. There was a decade of massive economic growth, heavy government spending and a boom in oil prices led to high rates of inflation and the stagnation of Iranian buyers. In addition to the ever-mounting economic difficulties, the socio-political repression by the regime of Mohammad Pahlavi increased in the 1970s. Any and all opposition parties like the National Front were outlawed and marginalised. All protests were met with censorship by the media, harassment, detention and for most civilians

Territorial disputes:

Iran and Iraq had very tense relations and important territorial disputes for years before the war. Much of this centered around two important geographic features: the Shatt al-Arab waterway and the Khuzestan province of Iran. The Shatt al-Arab is the place where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers run together in Iraq, near the city of Basra. It's Iraq's only access to the Persian Gulf, and it happens to be very close to Iran.

In 1937 Iran and Iraq signed a treaty that provided that Iran pay Iraq a toll when using the Shatt al-Arab. In 1969, a year after Saddam Hussein's Baath party took power in Iraq, Iran stopped paying tolls. Iraq threatened war, but was too weak to make good on that promise. Iran started using the waterway unimpeded. In response to this, the Iraqi government began to lay claims on Khuzestan, Iran's province just east of the Shatt al-Arab.

Threat of the Islamic Republic

Much of the territorial disputes happened even before Khomeini came to power in Iran. In 1979, Iran's Shah was overthrown, and Ayatollah Khomeini established a theocratic Islamic Republic in the country. Much of Khomeini's rhetoric advocated spreading the "Islamic revolution" around the Muslim world, and naturally his first target was Iraq. Iraq is a majority Shi'a country, but Saddam Hussein and his entire government were Sunni. Further, Iraq's ruling Baath party was avowedly secular, whereas Khomeini's Iran was literally a theocracy. Khomeini frequently spoke of overthrowing the Iraqi government, and Saddam took those threats seriously. Iraqi Shi'a began rioting in 1979, attempting to spread the revolution to Iraq, just as Saddam feared and Khomeini encouraged. The Islamic Republic was the governmental antithesis of Baathist Iraq - theocratic, Persian, and Shi'a vs. secular, Arab, and Sunni. They made for natural enemies.

Arab nationalism:

After taking power in the 1970s, Saddam Hussein saw himself as the sole remaining champion of Arab nationalism. He believed he could be the next Nasser and start a second Arab nationalist movement across the Arab world. To demonstrate his commitment to unifying all Arabs under a single state, he saw it as Iraq's duty to liberate the Arabs of Khuzestan from Persian rule. Thus, invading Iran to liberate Khuzestan played into Saddam's ideology and his vision for the future.

Iran's vulnerability and Iraq's strength:

A major justification for the invasion, especially when it happened, was practical. Iran was emerging from a tumultuous revolution, in which it had alienated itself from much of the international community, especially the United States. Saddam thought that Khomeini did not have full control of Iran, and Iran's response to an invasion

would be weak. He also assumed he would have the support of the United States and other key international allies. Further, Iraq was in a very strong place in the late 1970s. Oil revenues had never been higher, and Iraq was developing quickly. Saddam had a formidable army, and it was unclear how effective the Islamic Republic's new military would be able to stop them. Saddam predicted a quick, shocking victory, taking Khuzestan and forcing Iran to surrender.

Country Stances as of the 24th September, 1990:

United States of America:

The revolution in 1979 got the government of the United States by surprise. Ruhollah Khomeini also called the United States of America as the "Great Satan". The Khomeini's government wished to extradite and execute the ousted Shah, and Carter refused to give him any further support or help return him to power. The Shah, suffering from terminal cancer, requested entry into the United States for treatment. The American embassy in Tehran opposed the request, as they were intent on stabilising relations between the new interim revolutionary government of Iran and the United States. Relationships worsened after 4th November, when a group of Iranian radical students stormed and captured the American embassy, holding the diplomats as hostages.

The United Kingdom:

After the Revolution of Iran in 1979, Britain suspended all diplomatic relations with Iran. On 30 April 1980, the Iranian Embassy in London was overtaken by six-man terrorist team held the building for six days until the Special Air Services came to the rescue.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

Following the Islamic Revolution in 1979, Iran started to openly attack and criticise the character and religious legitimacy of the Saudi regime. However King Khalid, the then ruler of Saudi Arabia, sent Khomeini a congratulatory message, stating that Islamic solidarity could be the basis for closer relations of the two countries. He also argued that with the foundation of the Islamic Republic in Iran there were no obstacles that inhibited the cooperation between two countries.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

Soviet Union was one of the first nations to recognise the presence of Iran as an islamic republic

Freeze Date Situation:

As of now President Saddam Hussein announced that Iraq abrogated the 1975 Algiers Agreement and intended to exercise full sovereignty over the disputed Shatt al-Arab river. On 22 September, Iraqi aircraft bombarded ten airfields in Iran to cripple the Iranian air force on the ground. Although this attack failed, the next day Iraqi forces crossed the border in strength and advanced into Iran in three simultaneous thrusts along a front.

Timeline of important events leading up to the Iran-Iran War:

Jan. 16, 1979 – The shah and his family went into exile.

Feb. 1, 1979 – Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returned to Iran after 14 years in exile in France and Iraq.

Feb. 11, 1979 – Mehdi Bazargan appointed interim prime minister.

March 30, 1979 – In a referendum, voters overwhelmingly approved the creation of an Islamic Republic. Khomeini declared April 1 the first day of “the government of God.”

May-June, 1979 – Five prominent clerics close to Ayatollah Khomeini established the Islamic Republican Party.

June 14, 1979 – First official draft of the constitution was published.

Oct. 24, 1979 - New constitution is approved by referendum after months of debate over the role of Islam in the state. The new constitution went into effect in early December, and Khomeini became supreme leader.

Nov. 4, 1979 – Students seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Jan. 25 – Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was elected Iran's first president.

March-May – The first parliament was elected. The Islamic Republican Party had the most members, but other parties such as the Freedom Movement also had significant representation. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was elected speaker.

March 21 – The Cultural Revolution began. In June, Khomeini ordered formation of the university jihad and began the “Islamization” of universities. Around 20,000 teachers were fired.

Sept. 22 – Iraq invaded Iran.

Aftermath of the war:

The aftermath of the war is divided in three parts- Military Implications, Economic Implications and Regional Implications

Military Implications of the War

The Iran Iraq war was not only the longest war in the twentieth century, it was the last conventional war in history. Most of the war routine was made of armored and infantry battles, artillery and air strikes.

However, in two aspects this war signaled a new era. Iraq first used its home produced chemical weapons against the Iranian army with very limited impact. In March 1988 the Iraqi air force bombarded the Kurdish town of Halabja, killing 3000-

5000 people, which has been the biggest chemical attack on civilian target in Middle Eastern history so far. With world inactivity, it gave the Iraqi regime a strategic advantage over the Kurds and encouraged the development of more non-conventional capabilities.

Economic Implications of the War

The war dwindled the global and regional production of oil. Iran and Iraq, major producing countries and members of OPEC, were not able to reach prewar production levels. Oil prices rose significantly. Though Saudi Arabia was the uncontested largest producer of oil, its oil industry, situated very close to the war front and export lines were affected by the continuation of the war. In fact, the war affected the oil production all over the Gulf area. Since 1987, the “tanker war” expanded to include tankers exporting oil from other Gulf countries. This was an Iranian Initiative intended to stop Gulf support to Iraq. Instead it led to the first massive American military deployment in the area to protect Gulf tankers from Iranian attacks.

The Iran-Iraq war was the first major regional conflict in the Gulf turning into a real war. It showed how sensitive and vulnerable Gulf oil is and how dangerous overreliance on it could be. In this sense, the war contributed to efforts to diversify sources of oil production worldwide

War profits, especially by arms suppliers to the two belligerents, were not much of a benefit. Iran and Iraq accumulated foreign debts, which they were unable to pay once war ended. This had a devastating influence for major suppliers such as the USSR and its proxies. This may partially account for these countries post-war economic and political collapse. Other countries, primarily Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, providing economic and financial support, lost billions of dollars on loans to Iraq, which have never been reimbursed.

Regional Implications of the War

The war shifted the world's attention in the Middle East from the Arab-Israeli conflict to the Gulf region. It took Iraq out of any possible organization of an "Eastern Front" in a war against Israel. In fact, with the signing of peace between Egypt and Israel, the planning of an "Eastern Front" against Israel became practically impossible. Thus, the Iran-Iraq war contributed indirectly to Israel's security. The war dismantled the axis of radical Arab countries that included Iraq, Libya, Syria and south Yemen. During the war Iraq shifted out of the radical camp to align with Egypt, Jordan and the Gulf countries, while Syria remained Iran's sole Arab ally.

In the Gulf region, war reiterated the extreme vulnerability of all the Arab Gulf countries. Therefore, the war hastened a process of increasing interstate cooperation, mostly within the Gulf Cooperation Council. Under the direct threat from Iran and the potential future threat from Saddam's Iraq, the Gulf countries relied more heavily on American military might, which consequently increased dramatically toward the war's end.

Aim of the committee:

The aim of the committee is quite clear- To defend Iran and defeat Iraq, and in any way and by any means possible, be it peacefully or be it through war. Also, the aim is to spread the islamic revolution around middle east and then around the world. All representatives are expected to be exceptionally well-prepared on the crisis at hand. Therefore they must work in order to-

- 1) Resolve the immediate crisis and defeat Iraq, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY
- 2) Spread the Islamic Revolution throughout the Middle-East and eventually to the world.

Communiqués:

Communiqués are a message from you the government or portfolio you represent to another organisation or person. For example, your intelligence services or the head of a rebel group in which you can order or request for something. There are three types of communiqués – open communiqués, closed communiqués, and joint communiqués. Open communiqués are used to take action that is immediately revealed to the committee, and any subsequent updates on the action are also brought to the attention of the committee. Closed communiqués are private communiqués that are solely between the delegates and another entity, and they will not be immediately revealed to the committee; however, if they take a very significant action and are successful in their implementation, the committee may or may not be notified. Finally, joint communiqués are either open or closed communiqués sent by two or more delegates, they can be used to pool the resources and strength of two or more representative's posts. A joint communique can contain the whole committee as well.

Questions to be addressed:

How to defeat Iraq?

How to spread the Islamic Revolution in the middle east via Iraq?

How to Knock out the presence of Non-Islamic countries from the area?