



HSC Chair Report

Topic 1: Addressing the Suez Crisis and
the Subsequent Invasion of the Suez
Canal in 1956



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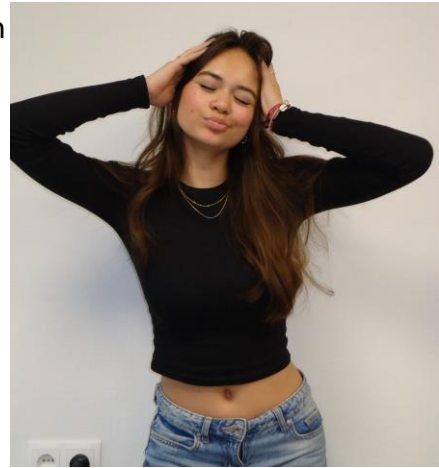
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Personal Statements

Chair – Annika Maassen van den Brink

Dear delegates, my name is Annika Maassen van den Brink. Together with Sophia we will be chairing HSC of this year's MUNISS. I am 16 years old and I live in Arnhem. I attend the Lorentz Lyceum, I am in my 5th year of two and my "party trick" is a backflip. And I am always down to make a TikTok. This will be the second time I participate in MUNISS, a conference I have great memories from. I hope you all leave this conference with amazing memories as well. MUN's are a big part of my life, I have participated in 14 conferences and MUNISS will be my 15th. This will be my fourth (official) time chairing and I am hugely excited to meet you all at MUNISS 2025 .



Deputy Chair – Sophia Wulff

Honorable Delegates! My name is Sophia Wulff, and I will be serving as your deputy chair for Historica Security Council alongside Annika. I go to the International School of Laren in the Netherlands and I'm currently in DPI. I've always enjoyed being in MUN conferences and so far, I have currently participated in 4 conferences. It's my first time participating in MUNISS and also my first time being a chair, so I hope that we can have a wonderful time debating and make long-lasting friendships along the way. Outside of MUNs, I'm a sucker for listening to music (calling all PARTYNEXTDOOR and The Weeknd fans) as well as dancing, so if anyone is interested in filming a dance challenge, your girl is right here. I look forward to meeting all of you in April, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out!
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Introduction

The Suez Canal is a waterway located in Egypt, connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea together, and separates the continents of Africa and Asia, which withholds huge global significance as the canal serves as an international shipping lane for boats, and has been in existence for over 150 years. Seeing that the Suez Canal provides benefits for water transportation specifically for European countries, France partnered together with Egypt to form the "Universal Company of the Maritime Canal of Suez" or known better as the "Suez Canal Company". Construction started in 1859 and in 1869, the canal was opened globally. Many countries saw this as an opportunity to partake and invest in the project, and nations like the U.K. became shareholders for the company.



In 1956, the Suez Canal became the primary location for a short-occurring invasion between multiple different nations, consisting of Egypt, France, the U.K. and Israel, fighting over territorial disputes that had once been shared. The invasion initially started when Egypt declared the nationalization of both the Suez Canal and the Suez Canal Company, which was previously shared between multiple different countries, like France, Egypt and the U.K. This action angered the many countries involved in the Suez Canal Projects and in fear of how Egypt may control the canal, due to their leering eyes towards “enemy nations” for western countries, the plan for war was initiated by the western states. The invasion came and it went, lasting only 10 days, and the end result of the war was deemed to be very unsuccessful, as uninvolved nations were deeply against the invasion as a whole, no side ended up winning, and this created long-lasting political and economic stress on the involved countries. On the other hand, this issue was what inspired the United Nations to form the first ever type of peacekeeping troops, and became the influence for future efforts in maintaining peace throughout the entire globe.

Glossary

Canal: A man-made waterway created for the purpose of easier controlled water transport, such as faster shipping routes.

Maritime: Refers to having connections to the sea/ocean, which can also relate to countries which border the ocean.

Sèvres Protocol: A once-private document created by representatives of Israel, the U.K. and France, which contained detailed plans of the invasion of Egypt before the war started.

Ceasefire: A suspension of war, either temporary or permanent, in a peaceful manner.

Nationalism: The promotion of one’s own nation, consisting of different reasons, such as religion, ethnicity, culture, resources, etc.



Ultimatum: An urging decision, where if not agreed, then another course of action is to take place.

Condemnation: The complete disapproval and rejection of an idea, typically something considered to be immoral or unethical.

Colonialism: Colonizing and taking over other nations, it is closely related to imperialism, an essential topic in understanding the before events of the crisis.

Territory: A piece of land of any size that is controlled and owned by a nation.

Multinational Corporations (MNCs): Companies and/or businesses that are shared between two or more nations.

Background Information

The U.K. was always a major power that was present within Egypt, since the battle of Tel-El-Kebir in 1882, where they invaded and took control over Egypt. British troops were then stationed throughout Egypt, but primarily in the region of the Suez Canal, because of the important access route to British India, a major colony at the time. For decades, the troops stayed stationed up until 1936, when a treaty known as the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty was agreed upon by the U.K and Egypt (*"Anglo-Egyptian Treaty | Terms, Significance, & Facts"*). The treaty stated that British troops would stay stationed only in the Suez Canal region for 20 years, in the event of an international emergency, and then withdraw themselves. This treaty was heavily unpopular for the people of Egypt, who sought for national independence, and in 1951, Egypt forcefully removed the troops out, breaking the agreement from the treaty.

Since the beginning of Israel's new establishment as a nation, Egypt was never fond of them, being highly vocal of their pro-Arab beliefs, and considering that Israel was a Jewish state, this would weaken the power of Egypt to evolve into a major Arab country. When Israel came to exist, multiple



Arab-countries, Egypt included, invaded Israel, and became known as the first Arab-Israeli war, which lasted from 1948 to 1949 (United States Department of State). It resulted with formal armistice lines being formed, where the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were granted to Egypt and Jordan respectively, and former Palestinian territories were then given to Israel. Israel did try to invade Gaza in 1955, which they believed belonged to their nation, but ultimately lost to Egypt. ("The March 1955 Outburst in the Gaza Strip")

Following the Egyptian revolution occurring back in 1952, Nassar became the first president of Egypt, on June 23rd, 1956. Nassar was well favored in the country because he shared the same nationalistic ideas that the citizens also believe in, which included nationalizing the country. One of his first actions after seizing control was by declaring the nationalistic overtake of the Suez Canal Company, which was considered to be an multinational company. This angered the western nations involved in the company, who responded by halting financial aid for the Aswan High Dam project, located in the Suez Canal Region, however this was not a concerning matter for Egypt, as they could fund the dam project themselves from the profits of the Suez Canal company. Additionally, Egypt was beginning to form allies with Eastern nations like China and the Soviet Union, which upset Western nations even more.

When Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal, previously involved nations France and the U.K. were angered by this course of action, as they both relied on the benefits of controlling the route, and relied on obtaining resources such as petroleum, which was a prominent material for the uprising industrial sector in both nations. Western nations became worried as to how Nassar would control and run the canal, considering his policies regarding the interest of Egypt only as a country, and fully disregarding the wants and desires of nations previously involved with the canal, which formally led to the invasion of the Suez Canal to occur.



Issue Explanation

Before the issue:

With the desire to make Egypt a stronger country without the aid of western countries, newly-elected president Gamel Abdel Nasser declared that Egypt would take over the Suez Canal and the Suez Canal company and that it would be nationalized. This came in response after investing countries France and the U.K. announced they would no longer finance the new "Aswan High Dam" project for the canal. In reply and in fear that Nasser might close off the canal that connected Asia to Europe (now that Egypt was entirely in control), the U.K. and France, together with Israel, worked and planned to set up military forces in the canal region. Israel became involved when Egypt announced that the Straits of Tiran passageway would be blocked, which was considered to be a major maritime route for Israel, which increased the already vastly high tensions between the two nations. Finally, on October 29th 1956, war was officially declared between these groups of nations.

During the issue:



Following the months after Nasser's election as president, the countries that became harmed by his concerning policies regarding the overtaking of the Suez Canal, consisting of the U.K., France and Israel, had representatives meet up privately to come up with a plan to invade Egypt and take back control of the canal. They met during the days of October 22nd to October 24th of 1956, in Sèvres, France, and formed a document known as the Sèvres Protocol, which contains further details regarding their plans and ideas of the invasion for when it is to occur.

On October 29th, 1956, Israeli troops invaded both the Gaza-Strip (Egyptian territory) and the Sinai Peninsula, where they had a significant advantage over the Egyptian troops due to their strong connections to western allying nations. Egypt resisted fiercely, as they had access to Soviet-military weaponry, which was previously given to them by the Soviet Union. The following day, on October 30th, 1956, the U.K. and France issued an ultimatum for the states of Egypt and Israel, calling for a ceasefire between the two. Israel accepted the proposal, but Egypt rejected it. As a result, on October 31st, 1956, the air force from both the U.K. and France invaded and bombed the regions of Sinai, where the Israeli troops were already established, and they finally became involved with the invasion.

The United Nations was heavily against this invasion, and many states expressed their condemnation for the countries that were directly involved in the crisis. The United States was heavily vocal on their opinion on the invasion, where on October 31s, 1956, president Dwight D. Eisenhower stated they too were against the issue, "...for we do not accept the use of force as a wise or proper instrument for the settlement of international disputes." (*The American Presidency Project*) Despite initially aiding Egypt before the events of the invasion occurred, the USSR was also heavily against the invasion, at one point even threatening to throw rockets at the capitals of France and the U.K., two nations participating in the war.



France, Israel and the U.K. continue to ignore the global condemnation of the planned invasion and continue fighting in Egypt. 5 days later, on November 5th, 1956, paratroopers from both the French and British military landed on ports Said and Fuad, located north of the Suez Canal, where it was estimated that over 1000 Egyptian citizens located there had been killed. The next day on November 6th, 1956, French and British navy and troops invaded the entire stretch of the canal, and Egypt was now losing greatly. As a distraction, Egypt used an opportunity to sink commercial vessels in the canal, making it harder for the enemy to maneuver around the canal. However, this course of action led the canal to be useless for months afterwards.

Meanwhile this was happening, tensions between the involved and uninvolved countries continued rising, and because the canal was now blocked, this seriously harmed France and the U.K., who relied on this transport route, and posed heavy economic issues on them. The U.K. sought for loans from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), but this request was blocked by president Eisenhower, which he stated would not be granted unless they called for a ceasefire.

Because of this, the British and French public became incredibly unhappy with the invasion, and even expressed their individual disapproval of the invasion. Along with political pressure from the United Nations as a whole, and seeing that essentially the whole world was against their actions, on November 7th, 1956, the U.K. finally announced a ceasefire against Egypt, and France later followed. Both nations then pulled out their troops from the Suez Canal, and Israeli troops were called out of the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza in the months following this ceasefire, and finally there was peace for Egypt again. (*Epic History*)





Perspectives of parties involved

Egypt: As a main shareholder of the Suez Canal Company and being the country where the conflict was held as well as the location of the Suez Canal, Egypt's significance in the crisis was immense as the battle for territory and the desire for a nationalistic uprising is sought for by the majority of the Egyptian population. The canal suffered from a lot of damage after the invasion and required repairs that ended up closing it for months after the crisis was over.

France: Another main shareholder of the Suez Canal Company and sharing the company together with Egypt for decades prior, when Egypt called for the complete takeover of the company, this had a huge impact for the short-term development of the country as shipments were limited and resources that were obtained from far away nations were now increasingly difficult. France was also directly involved with the invasion as troops were sent from France to fight in the Suez Canal in the crisis, and the economy was affected after the invasion was called off.

The U.K.: A big investor in the Suez Canal Company, the U.K. was also discontented with Egypt's sudden decision to take over the canal and the company that manages it. Military troops from the U.K. were also sent along with the French military to battle in the Suez Canal, however the British economy suffered tremendously during and after the crisis which took years for the U.K. to recover from.

Israel: After the independence of the state of Israel was in place, Egypt has been open about their prejudice against the nation, who were open about their religious beliefs, and by bordering the country of Egypt, it harmed the hopes of creating a new and strong Arab nation within Egypt as Israel was known to be a Jewish nation. Multiple violent affairs took place between the two countries before the invasion, and Israel is found to be the first country



involved in starting the crisis as they were the first nation to invade Egypt. However, it is important to note they were not involved in the Suez Canal battles along with the U.K. and France and were situated in the Sinai Peninsula as well as the Egyptian-controlled Gaza Strip during the crisis.

Soviet Union: The Soviet Union was not particularly affected by Egypt's decision to take over the canal, and had actually aided them with Soviet Military weaponry after political tensions continued to increase between the western nations and Egypt. However, when the invasion began, they expressed their disapproval for the conflict in its entirety and at one point, even threatened to send rockets to the capitals of Paris and London.



Timeline

June 23rd, 1956: Gamal Abdel Nassar assumed office as the first president of Egypt.

July 26th, 1956: Nassar announces the nationalistic takeover of the Suez Canal company, formally shared and occupied by both France and Egypt, with nations like the U.S. and the U.K. aiding as major investors and shareholders.

October 22nd to 24th, 1956: Representatives of France, Israel and the U.K. discuss and hold a private meeting in Sèvres, France to create a planned document known as the Sèvres Protocol, which has planned details discussing the structure of the invasion in Egypt. Such planned details included the Israeli invasion of Sinai, the British and French ceasefire plan on the day following the Israeli invasion, and expecting the denial of the proposal by Egypt, and therefore planting troops from the U.K. and France onto the Suez Canal.

October 29th, 1956: Israeli troops invade both the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula (located in Egypt) The invasion/war officially starts on this day.

October 30th, 1956: The U.K and France urge both Israel and Egypt to agree to a ceasefire, and if not, military force from both nations would come to invade Egypt. Israel accepted but Egypt denied. A Security Council meeting was also held on this day, known as draft resolution S/3721, where the U.S. demanded the clause of an immediate ceasefire, to which both France and the U.K. vetoed.



October 31st, 1956: Both the British and French air force fly over the Sinai Peninsula to bomb the region, and Israeli troops continue fighting in the region. On this day as well, U.S. president Eisenhower made a televised statement condemning the invasion as a whole and establishing the stance of the United States on this crisis.

November 5th, 1956: Paratroopers from British and French military land in the Said and Fuad ports on the Suez Canal, and official war has begun.

November 6th, 1956: Troops from the British and French army took over the entire Suez canal, with Egypt losing badly. Egypt blocks the Suez Canal on the day, and it does not go back into use for months after this action was made.

November 7th, 1956: Due to both financial and global political issues, The U.K. (France followed afterwards) agree to a ceasefire, and all British and French troops are withdrawn from the Suez Canal region. The war is over, however, Israeli troops continue to stay in both the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

March 19th, 1957: After constant pressure from the United States, calling out for their withdrawal from Egypt, the Israeli troops finally pull out the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza.

Potential solutions to solve the crisis



Form resolutions based on peacekeeping:

From this issue, the first ever UN peacekeeping forces were made and brought. Many forums and rules were created around the subject of peacekeeping forces specifically because of this crisis. This is now your nation's opportunity to form and create new laws on this topic that the delegate feels is detrimental to add in, and therefore create the new basic rules for the United Nations regarding the topic of peace and forums focused on maintaining and/or making peace.

Consider formal deals with other nations:

During the beginning of the invasion, France and U.K. formed a deal for Israel and Egypt to call for a ceasefire, or else they would become involved. As can be seen, the deal was not accepted and war continued on in Egypt. Create better amendments and strike deals with neighboring delegates in order to calmly resolve the issue in a tranquil manner, and potentially stop the war from continuing to occur and progress further.

Discuss territorial disputes within the region:

Land that was once considered to be international quickly became taken over by one individual state, being the primary cause for the invasion. It may be important to discuss the idea of territory and to formally make agreements between directly involved nations as to which part of the land should belong to them, as well as the company which legally operates the land. This is another potentially tranquil solution that could be used to solve the issue.

While these are some examples of suggestions to solve the issue, the number of solutions are endless and any delegate can choose how they want to resolve this, as long as it is done in a respectful manner.



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