



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE (THE 1st COMMITTEE)

Topic A: Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Topic B: Piracy and Somalia

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TOPIC A: Nuclear Non-Proliferation

INTRODUCTION

Ever since the first nuclear bombs destroyed the Japanese cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima with destructive explosions that brought about the end of World War II, it has been the aim of the United Nations to prevent further detonation of nuclear weapons. In particular, the DISEC committee is charged with preserving global peace and demilitarizing the nuclear arsenal of nuclear nations. The spread of nuclear weapons and its effect on global security is a pressing issue, especially as current world events seem to constantly revolve around the threat of nuclear warfare.



Preventing the distribution and use of nuclear weapons will be the one of the foremost priorities of this committee.

BACKGROUND

The issues of nuclear proliferation are not a new concept to the international community. For years, the United Nations has recognized the need to control the spread and use of nuclear weapons. Yet, only one major legally-binding treaty has been ratified to this day. Any discussion over the future of preventing nuclear proliferation cannot take place without first understanding what measures are already present that oversee this matter.

Currently, the major resolution that governs the attempted limiting of nuclear weapons is the “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons”, which is often referred to as the NPT. The treaty is one of the most widely acknowledged treaties in UN history, but also one of the most unrecognized. Currently, 189 nations have signed this treaty. Only four recognized sovereign states have not signed this treaty: India, Israel, Pakistan, and North Korea. Needless to say, these nations have all had a role in causing tension in today’s international relations and there is evidence that even those nations which have signed the treaty may not necessarily have abided by it.

The treaty as a whole is split into three sections, or “pillars”, as they are known. The first pillar essentially enforces non-proliferation, the second focuses on disarmament, and the third on nuclear energy. Basically, nuclear states agree to not assist non-nuclear states in developing nuclear weaponry

and non-nuclear states agree to not manufacture or acquire nuclear weaponry. This first pillar also intended for the five nuclear states (which are also the five permanent members of the Security Council) to not use nuclear weaponry against a non-nuclear state, except in direct response to a nuclear attack. This understanding, though not formally incorporated into the NPT and inexact in detail, has not really been followed through. Further agreements in the international community to formalize this aspect of the NPT in a resolution are needed.

Nuclear arsenals have been reduced over the past few decades. After the Cold War, the United States and Russia have succeeded in dramatically reducing the number of active nuclear warheads in their respective arsenals. Nevertheless, much work still needs to be done and this issue is further compounded by the fact that other states that was supposedly non-nuclear have now attained nuclear technology. For instance, all the nations mentioned above that had not signed the treaty have now been confirmed to possess nuclear weaponry to a degree. The dissolution of the USSR and the potential of terrorist groups like al Qaeda to use nuclear devices to their own advantage pose a substantial threat to global stability.



It is important to realize that while developing nuclear technology invokes the possibility of developing nuclear weaponry, nuclear technology creates huge potential as a powerful source of energy. The NPT makes provisions for the peaceful development of nuclear energy, while attempts to make it difficult for the nuclear technology to be redirected towards nuclear weaponry. As of now, the

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the main governing body of nuclear energy. It is important that attempts to curb the proliferation of nuclear weaponry must not interfere with the peaceful development of atomic energy. In short, there is no doubt that the NPT currently plays an important role in regulating nuclear technology. Of course, further resolutions should be implemented to address events that are currently occurring in our world today.

CURRENT SITUATION

Today, many of the crises occurring in the world are either a direct or indirect consequence of the tension caused by nuclear weapons. The most prominent example of this is the threat of North Korea's

nuclear program. North Korea's development of nuclear weaponry has caused great concerns throughout the international community. It is evident that such technology is meant as a form of leverage to gain food supplies and bargaining powers. Such attempts require the attention of this committee. Sanctions have been levied against North Korea and even China, a long defender of North Korean weapons activity, has felt obliged to consider economic sanctions against its neighbour. Regional peace around North Korea is threatened by this nuclear program, especially the islands of Japan, which have already expressed alarm at recent developments. The difference between the modern North Korea is that instead of bartering for food, it seeks instead to threaten the very power structure of South East Asia.

Similarly, tensions between traditionally opposing countries of Israel and Iran have only mounted as a result of the suspected nuclear arsenal of each nation. The Middle East has always been a rather unstable region, and the desire of Israel and Iran to wipe the other off the map does not correlate to peace in the region. For the UN, it is impossible for Iran to comply with the NPT when Israel possesses nuclear capacity. The recent election of President Barack Obama as the US President has also shifted the balance of power in the region. Additional pressure is being put on Israel to end its nuclear programs, especially the not-so-secret plant in Dimona.



India and Pakistan both have their own issues with nuclear technology. Ever since the United States funded part of Pakistan's attempts at creating nuclear weaponry in order to fight the Soviet Union, the relations between Indian and Pakistan have been complicated by the constant threat of a nuclear exchange. The two states have been archrivals ever since the British dismantled its Indian empire in 1947. Separated by both history and religion, the fact that both of these nations possess nuclear weapons presents a viable threat in the near future.

It is the task of the United Nations DISEC committee to address all of these concerns. Your job, as a delegate, will be to discuss the global situation of nuclear proliferation and attempt to reach a consensus on how to deal with the current crisis. The peace and security of the international community will depend on it.

TOPIC B: Piracy and Somalia

INTRODUCTION



The Gulf of Aden that connects the Arabian Sea to the Red Sea is just off the coast of Somalia. It is one of the most important naval trading routes in the world, with over 20000 ships a year passing through on their way to the Suez Canal. Each year, around 30% of Europe's crude oil passes through this route. Whatever the case, there is no doubt that the Gulf of Aden represents a critically important international trade route that is fundamental to the economic wellbeing of many nations

around the globe. Any piracy that occurs in the area poses a great threat to the many ships that pass through this region. It will be the focus of this committee to address the mounting concerns of the international community over the piracy that is occurring off the coast of Somalia.

BACKGROUND

Piracy has been occurring off the Somali coast for over a decade now, occurring at the same time as the beginnings of the civil war in Somalia. Before this time, Somalia had received international aid from countries such as Denmark, Great Britain, and the USSR, to develop its fishing industry. Much of the money went to improving ships and constructing maintenance facilities. As the nation underwent civil war, the lack of a coast guard prompted illegal fishing in Somali waters by other nations. The erosion of the fishing stock led fishermen to begin banding together. Subsequent discovery of the lucrative profits of pirating prompted more and more pirates to earn their living off harassing ships that needed to pass through this critical region.

Fiscally, it has been thought that illegal fishing in Somali waters deprives the nation of more than \$300 million a day in fish stock. Meanwhile, the profits from piracy are estimated at around \$100 million a year. It is almost like a resource swap, except one that is particularly detrimental to naval stability in the region. Another factor in this issue is that several European companies have been known to use the Somali waters as a toxic waste dump for their wastes. Disposal of wastes in Somali waters is incredibly cheap, with the price at around \$2.50 per ton instead of the \$1000 per ton elsewhere. Over 10 million tons of toxic waste has been dumped in these waters and the UNEP has found that there is a much

higher concentration of diseases related with radiation sickness in Somalia than almost anywhere else in the world.

Somalia has remained one of the poorest countries in the world, with its GDP per capita at \$600 per year. The World Food Programme sends ships providing food aid to the nation, yet even these ships are hijacked by the pirates. The lack of a stable



central government and the constant chaos among the government has removed all deterrents from these pirate gangs. A stronger central government and the interference of the United Nations will undoubtedly prove necessary in order to solve this crisis.

The method of this piracy attacks involve modern weapons and are directed against unprotected merchant vessels. Usually, a speedboat would approach the vessel. Then, the crew would be detained by a show of weaponry. The pirates would take control of the ship, and then drag it close to the Somali shore before demanding a ransom, which is usually paid. The only positive aspect of this matter is that once the ransom is delivered, ships and crew are usually released without harm. However, these pirates



are known to chew khat during their hijacks, raising euphoria and excitement and often causing them to be reckless. Although there have been several deaths and multiple disappearances, the majority of these hijacking attempts do not involve murder. That is not to say that these activities are tolerated in any way by the international community.

The activities of these pirates are more than just isolated events. They see themselves as driving foreign vessels off of their waters and are supported by their families. They are driven to these acts mostly because of the lucrative profits that are significantly greater than the \$2 a day. These gangs of organized crime do not fear prosecution, are desperate and unpredictable, and pose a general threat to maritime security in the region. According to all reputable reports, there are over 1000 men in these armed gangs, most of whom have a detailed knowledge of the area and technical expertise either with weapons or with naval equipment. Some of these groups also have well-established command structures, making them quite a force to be reckoned with.

CURRENT SITUATION

Previous United Nations resolutions have been largely unsuccessful in dealing with the piracy in the Gulf of Aden. There is, however, one of the most diverse military presences ever known working to patrol the Gulf of Aden. Nations that traditionally don't work well together have been included in this task force. Countries such as the United States, France, Russia, China, and India all have ships within the region. Somalia itself has permitted the ships of several nations to enter its waters in an attempt to put some pressure on the pirates.

Currently, the United States Fifth Fleet is leading the Combined Task Force 151, a fleet composed of ships from many different nations. Japan especially had to work around its non-aggressive Constitution to send ships to join the task force. The capabilities of this task force to protect merchant vessels are limited, however. Providing military escort to the over 20,000 ships that enter this gulf every year is not a feasible and sustainable approach. The Task Force is also using helicopters to respond to emergency signals from ships that are about to be boarded by pirates.



In 2008, the United Nations Security Council has authorized the use of force in pursuit, and the use of on-shore operations to fight off-shore piracy. However, it is not very clear what the various ships are supposed to do with pirates that have been captured. The government of Somalia that should be leading this effort is not in a stable enough state and does not have the judicial system to deal with the pirates. International countries are wary of prosecuting pirates at the international level. The special interests of various countries and the merchants themselves make a justice system very difficult to develop.

It will be the task of this committee to contribute a solution to address the many facets of this crisis. Possible steps include stabilizing the Somali government, improving the military presence in the area, and crafting a justice system to deal with captured pirates. It will be your task as a delegate to find a solution that is threatening maritime security in the Somali waters.