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CRISIS COMMITTEES | 2014

UN SECURITY COUNCIL

(UNSC)

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Hello, and welcome to UTMUN 2014!

My name is Eric Schildroth and I am extremely excited to be the Director for the UNSC this year. This is my third year with UTMUN; two years ago I was the Moderator for NATO, and last year I was the Moderator for DISEC. If I've ever had the pleasure of moderating for you in the past, welcome; if I haven't, I look forward to getting to know you during three exciting days of debate.

I'm currently in my fourth year at UofT with a double major in International Relations and Politics. I plan on pursuing a PhD in Political Theory when I graduate, and am currently working on a thesis about the origins of conservative thought by comparing the writings of two 19th century thinkers, Edmund Burke and Joseph de Maistre.

Your moderator for UNSC is a MUN veteran, Ilona Kabanova, and our Crisis Director Khudadad Khan is joining UTMUN for the first time. Both of these guys have been an absolute blast to work with, and I am supremely confident in their ability to deliver on the content of this background guide.

I am very pleased with our topics this year; we selected ones that we hope have not been done to death at other conferences, and with an eye toward having something for everyone. Cyber security and the NSA? Check. Terrorism and political instability? You bet. Aliens? Better believe it!

To conclude, let me say that each year I have had an incredible time at UTMUN and I like to think the delegates have too. The high caliber of debate, and the maturity of delegates, never ceases to amaze, and I am confident that this year will be no exception.

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Signal Intelligence and Cyber Security

In June 2013, Edward Snowden, a civilian contractor working for the National Security Agency (NSA), leaked documents that provided evidence that the NSA was running massive program of domestic US data collection known as Prism. These revelations were somewhat troubling domestically, but they were not extremely surprising given the content of article 215 of the Patriot Act.

The leaked documents also revealed that the NSA had an extensive program of intelligence gathering internationally, including on US allies who were theoretically supposed to be above suspicion. The revelations created international concern, not so much due to the conduct of the program, but the scale. The US has hundreds of embassies and military bases internationally that act as listening posts and centers for the collection of intelligence. Despite indignation on the part of US allies, it was revealed that many other countries such as the UK and France have similar programs as well. Other countries such as China and Iran[1] have pervasive programs related to internet censorship which could also be used as a form of surveillance and data collection.

The massive scale of the personal collection of data is concerning for individuals not merely because the information is available to those collecting the information. The biggest danger is that the information is now stored in places out of the hands of the individual, and what happens to this information is now out of their control.

In a separate but related matter, cyber security has become an increasing concern for all international actors. More awareness about the possibility and danger of cyber espionage has not necessarily been met with a satisfactory response and debates abound as to the readiness of countries to deal with these threats. Cyber espionage can target military,[2] industrial,[3] and personal information, all without a risk to any physical assets. The combination of massive amounts of stored personal information, and increasing security threat presents new challenges for all international actors.

Cyber attacks are particularly dangerous because they are often conducted by private contractors working for governments rather than government agencies themselves. Moreover, the attacker can be physically located almost anywhere in the world while operating, which makes tracking their activities and employers very problematic for the target.

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[1] http://www.theguardian.com/technology/datablog/2012/apr/16/internet-censorship-country-list
[2] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-22692778
[3] www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23098867

United States: With the largest surveillance and data collection system in history, the United States and particularly the NSA, have faced both domestic and international uproar. Domestically, questions have been raised regarding the constitutionality of the vast scale of personal data collection. Internationally, it is mainly the US' allies who are less concerned about the activities being undertaken and more the breach of trust this implies. The US has maintained that these activities are necessary to fight terrorism and the US' international data collection program helps to protect their allies as well.

Even before the Snowden revelations, the NSA was known for having a large cyber-espionage capability. The US mainly focuses on state level diplomacy and counter-terrorism operations in sharp contrast to other countries such as China.[4]

United Kingdom: The UK has one of the surveillance systems in the world including huge numbers of CCTV cameras and DNA collection.[5] Years before the revelations by Edward Snowden, this raised questions regarding the right to privacy of British citizens. The UK's GCHQ runs domestic data collection programs almost as extensive as the NSA (although with less international reach). This perhaps helps to explain the relative darth of comments from the UK government regarding US data collection.

France: France (along with Germany) is one of the US allies most affected by the NSA's data gathering program. Targets of data collection in France included not only those suspected of terrorism but also many prominent political and business leaders.[6] While the French government has publicly expressed its outrage at the NSA's program, it has not taken any concrete steps toward reprimanding the US government. This could suggest that the French response is largely to appease the French citizens and not so much an actual shock.

Russia: In a somewhat unexpected statement, Vladimir Putin has said the NSA's surveillance program is necessary to fight terrorism but that it must "limit the appetite" of the agency.[7] This implied approval would seem to be a strange point of agreement between the two countries, given their frosty relations as a result of Russia's offer of asylum to Edward Snowden.

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[4] http://world.time.com/2013/07/01/china-accuses-u-s-of-hypocrisy-on-cyberattacks/
[5] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7872425.stm
[6] http://english.sina.com/world/2013/1022/639220.html
[7] http://english.sina.com/world/p/2013/1220/657142.html

Although little solid evidence has surfaced, Russia is suspected of having orchestrated several cyber attacks in recent history. The most prolific examples are those against Estonia during a dispute between the countries in 2007[8] and against George as part of Russia invasion of 2008.[9]

China: While China has not issued direct condemnations as a result of the Snowden revelations; they have had a great deal of impact in "soft" diplomatic channels. American companies such as IBM have suffered in China due to their association with the NSA spy programs.[10]

China has expressed concern over US cyber intelligence gathering methods. China alleges that the US partially engages in this activity to benefit US domestic companies, a charge which the US government denies. The US government's position is that even if it did engage in industrial espionage, it would have no fair way to distribute the gains among private enterprise. This stands in stark contrast to the Chinese government which is known for engaging in industrial espionage in order to support its domestic industries. China has both received, and allegedly conducted numerous cyber attacks in recent years.

South Korea: As the country with the most sophisticated online infrastructure, South Korea has a great interest in cyber security. South Korea's most pressing concerns are related to the threat posed by North Korea with whom they are technically at war. North Korea's cyber attacks are largely believed to originate in China which has a much more advanced online infrastructure.[11]

Luxembourg: Luxembourg recently investigated Microsoft's subsidiary Skype over the alleged export of European data to the US. Skype has its headquarters in Luxembourg but the CNPD, Luxembourg's data protection authority did not find any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of Skype or Microsoft.[12]

Argentina: Argentina's cyber security strategy depends mostly on close cooperation with Brazil. The revelations about NSA spying on Brazilian politicians and industry encouraged Brazil to step up their efforts with regard to cyber security and reach out to Argentina.[13] Some have speculated that this could be the first step toward a pan-South American cyber security effort.

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[8] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2007_cyberattacks_on_Estonia
[9] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyberattacks_during_the_2008_South_Ossetia_war
[10] http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/13/us-ibm-lawsuit-idUSBRE9BB1BP20131213
[11] http://www.voanews.com/content/north-koreas-world-class-cyber-attacks-coming-from-china/1795349.html
[12] http://www.pcworld.com/article/2064540/skype-microsoft-cleared-in-luxembourg-nsa-investigation.html
[13] http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/world/2013-11/22/c_132909247.htm

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Australia: As one of the Five Eyes nations, Australia has come under severe scrutiny after the Snowden revelations. Australia has been a US partner in signal intelligence and the Australian Defence Signals Directorate had offered to share personal data in 2009. In a 2005 draft directive, it was revealed that Australia may also be the target of unilateral NSA surveillance without the knowledge or consent of the Australian government.[14]

Saharan Africa: *(Rwanda, Chad, Nigeria):* While not currently a pressing issue, given its relatively undeveloped nature, Saharan countries are at high risk of cyber threats in the future. With some of the least developed security infrastructure and rapid expansion of signal sources (particularly cell-phones), Africa cannot ignore the risk of cyber threats.

Lithuania: During the height of the Snowden revelations, Lithuania's President was the President of the EU. The UK argued that the EU had no competency or authority to discuss matters of cyber security, which was echoed by the Lithuanian government.[15] Lithuania thus played an important role in smothering a potential EU response to the issue.

Chile: Chile has experienced a lesser degree of NSA surveillance than Argentina or Brazil but remains a potential target for NSA surveillance as one of the most developed countries in South America.

Jordan: Jordan has a relatively undeveloped infrastructure compared to many of its neighbours, however experts warn that the threat to individuals could rapidly increase given the fact that Jordanians are relatively unfamiliar with the concept of cyber risks.[16]

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[14]http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/05/nsa-considered-spying-on-australians-unilaterally-leaked-paper-reveals

[15] http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/05/us-blocks-espionage-talks-europe-nsa-prism

[16] http://www.albawaba.com/cyber-attack-threat-grows-jordan-remains-vulnerable-%E2%80%94-experts-408151

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Instability in Pakistan

Established in 1947, Pakistan has a long history of regional conflicts and instability. Like other countries such as Turkey and Egypt, the military has historically been a major player in Pakistan's political scene. Pakistan is one of nine[17] countries in the world which possesses nuclear weapons and has the eighth largest standing army in the world. Pakistan has fought four wars with India, three of which were over control of the disputed Kashmir territory. Other than India, Pakistan generally has friendly foreign relations, especially with Arab and Muslim countries.

Pakistan has problems with political control and stability, particularly in the Federally were not even present in the region until 2002). The most obvious solution (and one that is supported by Administered Tribal Areas in the northwest of the country. In recent years these areas have become increasingly controlled by the Taliban and the Pakistani army has had difficulty enforcing stability. The most obvious solution is for the military to rule the area[18] but this obviously presents difficulties, and is especially opposed by many tribal leaders.

These difficulties are intimately tied to the ISAF invasion of Afghanistan which began in 2001. Many taliban fighters who fled Afghanistan relocated the the Pakistani tribal areas. Very little could be done to restrict Taliban movement across the porous border. The tribal areas are also an important site of opium and heroin smuggling both from Afghanistan and Pakistan. These products are destined for sale in markets all over the world and are thus a concern to all international actors.

United States: Pakistan's relations with the United States have historically been extremely turbulent and have increased in importance since September 11th and the start of the global war on terror. While both countries largely have similar goals regarding stability and security in the area, particularly with regard to Afghanistan, both sides have reasons to mistrust one another.

US government bureaucracies are extremely decentralized and often do not coordinate activities. This can lead to situations where some agencies such as the CIA or Department of Defence are conducting drone strikes while other agencies such as the State Department are negotiating treaties. Both actions are done in the name of the US government simultaneously but to an outsider it seems like a lack of coherent US policy.

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[17] This includes Israel which is widely suspected to possess nuclear weapons, although this has never been confirmed or denied by the Israeli government.
[18] http://newamerica.net/publications/policy/public_opinion_in_pakistan_s_tribal_regions

The US is generally suspicious of the Pakistani government; a prime example is Operation Neptune's Spear which was conducted to kill Osama bin Laden. The US government did not notify the Pakistani government of the operation which took place deep within Pakistan, until after it was completed. The US government was concerned that the Pakistani government suffer a security breach or was possibly aiding bin Laden.

China: Pakistan has extremely close economic and military ties to China and is generally considered China's primary conduit regarding diplomacy with Muslim countries. Contrary to popular belief, China is by far the largest provider of military and economic aid to Pakistan and has been the major supporter of Pakistani nuclear research.[19] These are longstanding ties and have little to do with Pakistan's relations with the US; contrary to what some in the US media report.[20]

International Security Assistance Force Nations:
(Australia, France, Lithuania, Luxembourg, South Korea, United Kingdom, United States)

The ISAF is the NATO led mission in Afghanistan which was authorized by UNSC Resolution 1386. The above nations are those current UNSC members who have contributed troops to the mission in some capacity. While the ISAF is currently in the process of transitioning responsibility for security to the government of Afghanistan, the massive corruption of the Afghan military and government raise concerns about their preparedness to take on this role. Due to the close link between the Taliban insurgencies and drug smuggling in Afghanistan and Pakistan, threats in one country necessarily impact the other.

Instability in Pakistan could threaten to undo much of the efforts of the ISAF over the past 13 years. A radical change in the region could put ISAF nations in awkward situation of being forced to choose between abandoning Afghanistan to a resurgent Taliban, or re-committing troops to a war that has become increasingly unpopular in most nations.

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[19]http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-12-24/pakistan/45539054_1_ansar-parvez-karachi-pakistan-and-china
[20] http://www.cbsnews.com/news/with-us-military-aid-cut-pakistan-eyes-china/

Argentina: Diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Argentina have grown in importance in recent years due to the increasing importance of trade relations for both countries. Focus has primarily been on agriculture and livestock disease control[21] and both countries have given each other most favoured nation status.

Rwanda and Chad: While neither country has particularly strong relations with Pakistan, both receive extensive development and economic aid from China. In this context, Pakistan and countries have more in common than is first suspected. Chinese development and military aid are a critical factor particularly to those who view aid as a projection of power.

Nigeria: Nigeria and Pakistan have close relations. Both countries benefit significantly from trade links. More significantly, both countries have pledged to cooperate with regard to law enforcement and in particular narcotics shipping; a significant issue for both countries. Both nations have expressed interest in increased military cooperation and currently Nigerian officers are sometimes sent to Pakistan for training.[22]

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[21]www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Business/14-Apr-2009/Argentina-to-collaborate-in-Pak-livestock-sector
[22] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nigeria%E2%80%93Pakistan_relations

Crisis in the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the least developed countries in the world. Since its independence from France in 1960, the CAR has had an extremely turbulent political climate. The CAR has never had a stable government; when it is not run by military dictatorship as the result of a coup, it experiences fraudulent elections and rebel insurrection.

Ironically, one of the CAR's most problematic features is its incredible wealth of natural resources. Agricultural goods such as timber, coffee, and tobacco are present however the most important commodity in the CAR is diamonds. The diamond trade in the CAR is particularly problematic and is one of the main sources of conflict in the region. Diamonds in the CAR are generally scattered across the country which makes large scale operations difficult. In addition, political turmoil and corruption has shut down most major operations. Instead, diamonds are mined by tens of thousands of unlicensed miners scattered across the country. Expensive licences, corrupt mining police, and the highest diamond export tax in the region (12%), and widely distributed operations, make the CAR a haven for diamond smuggling.

More recently, the CAR has experienced increasing violence and instability since the Seleka rebel alliance took over the capital in March 2013. In a majority Christian country, a Muslim government has created a great deal of tension and led to bloody clashes along religious lines. Close to one million people out of a population of less than five million have been displaced in less than a year, and the UN is having difficulty delivering humanitarian aid. The African Union has sent close to 4,000 soldiers to support the French contingent of 1,600. Despite the resignation of President Michel Djotodia at a conference in Chad, it seems unlikely that his successor will be able to stop the violence any more than Mr. Djotodia.[23] The UN has warned that it is possible the situation could spiral out of control much like Rwanda in 1994.[24]

On January 20th 2014, Catherine Samba-Panza was elected as interim leader of the CAR. She is considered neutral, unlike her predecessor Mr. Djotodia who came to power as a result of a coup by the Muslim Seleka rebel group.[25] On the same day, the EU pledged to send of force of roughly 1,000 troops to the CAR and seek a UN mandate for the operation.

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[23] http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/10/central-african-republic-president-resignation-djotodia
[24] http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/jan/16/central-african-republic-seeds-genocide-un
[25] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-25811250

France: Foreign intervention in the CAR, particularly by France, has a dark history. For the first three decades of its existence, the CAR was often treated in a quasi-colonial manner by the French government. Political allies were propped up by French military intervention, often paid for by blood [26]diamonds. In the past 15 years, the French government has shifted its policy toward multilateral action with UN and EU allies. That being said, as the former colonial power, France will inevitably be the cornerstone of any UNSC operation.

China: As is the case with many other African countries, China has contributed a great deal of foreign aid to the CAR including direct investment, doctors, and civil engineers. China has remained relatively quiet regarding the situation in the CAR and appears willing to support Africa economically while letting North America and the EU handle military issues.

Russia: Like China, Russia has stayed out of the limelight regarding the crisis in the CAR. Unlike China, Russia does not have significant foreign investment in the CAR.

The EU: (*UK, Lithuania, Luxembourg)*
The EU has pledged to send roughly 1,000 troops to the CAR likely composed of troops from Greece, Lithuania, Romania, Austria, and Finland. The operation will be for a period of approximately six months and will hopefully culminate with a handover to AU forces operating under a UN mandate.[27] Considering that 4,000 AU and 1,600 French troops have been unable to stabilize the situation, it remains to be seen whether the 1,000 troops from the EU will be able to make a significant impact.

United States: The United States has played a key role in transporting AU troops to the CAR.

South Korea: The CAR is one of only six African countries South Korea has official diplomatic relations with.[28]

Nigeria and Rwanda: As members of the African Union, the crisis in the CAR is of great concern to Nigeria and Rwanda. Neither nation currently contribute troops to the AU mission however both have been actively engaged in other AU peacekeeping missions. The crisis in the CAR evokes memories of the 1994 Rwandan genocide, while Nigeria has had problems with both religious and ethnic conflicts. As both countries have dealt with extremely similar issues to those faced by the CAR, they may be used as examples for some of the potential successes and failures for the CAR.

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[26] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_African_Republic%E2%80%93China_relations
[27] http://wwwnews.live.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-25810730
[28] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_South_Korea#Africa

Chad: As a neighbour of the CAR and one of the lead nations with regard to the 6,000 strong African Union force in the CAR, Chad is one of the most pivotal nations with regard to the CAR crisis. Chadian armed forces have been prolific in recent years, particularly within Chad and Northern Mali.

Many of the displaced persons in the CAR have sought refuge in Chad which has been a recipient of refugees from neighbouring countries for decades, particularly from the Darfur region of Sudan. As the current chair of the Economic Community of Central African States, Chad was critical in building support for the resignation of President Djotodia.[29]

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[29] http://www.dw.de/vircoulon-eccas-and-chad-played-a-key-role-in-car/a-17355265