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Greetings Delegates

Welcome to the 32nd Annual High School Conference at UCIMUN! My name is Nick Young, and I will be your Director for this year's Security Council Committee. I joined Model UN in my first year of high school and this will be my 5th year debating under this format. Model UN has taught me a new way to view the world around me and has challenged me to make a bigger impact as more global issues continue to arise. I have competed in 15 conferences throughout high school and helped my school run 3 of their conferences. It has made me very comfortable speaking in front of others and delving into more political topics that aren't highlighted in today's society.

Here at UCI, I am a 1st year, majoring in Environmental Engineering, with the hopes of later double majoring in Political Science. I want to use these degrees to advance to graduate school and get my master's and Ph.D. in Climate Science and Policy. This would allow me to work for our government, influencing our climate policy and improving the global climate. Outside of MUN, I am very involved around campus, whether that be through STEM clubs or Leadership-building programs. I enjoy playing sports, watching movies, listening to music, and going on late-night adventures throughout the wonderful city of Irvine.

As for this year's topics, the Security Council will focus on *Topic A: Georgia and Abkhazia Dispute* and *Topic B: India and China Border Conflict*. In both of these conflicts, we are tasked with decreasing tensions on the borders of countries that could spark the next big global conflict. Regarding Topic A, we will be focusing on the current dispute between Georgia, the people of Abkhazia, and Russia. Abkhazia is a small piece facing the Black Sea, right on the border between Russia and Georgia. This region is inhabited by many native Georgians, who want nothing to do with the Russian Federation. This situation becomes more complicated as the current government of Georgia, has been aiding the Russian efforts to invade Ukraine. We will be looking at this through a modern lens and trying to explore possible outcomes of Georgian collaboration through this point of contention. Then, for Topic B, India and China have a long history of battles for land going back to 1967. Since then, there have been 10 military standoffs along their border and 2 clashes involving casualties for both militaries. As China's economy continues to struggle, its aggression increases.

In summary, both of these border disagreements will require immense resources and diplomacy to ensure the safety of the global community. Although these topics are ongoing and the United Nations has a strong history of involvement, I encourage you to move past that and look at your country's history. Discover how they were able to deal with border conflicts in their past and how they can contribute to the goal of peace rather than war. Be creative and I can't wait to hear what you all come up with!

Nick Young
Director, Security Council
Topic A: The Abkhazia Dispute



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Topic A: Territorial Disputes in Abkhazia-Georgia

Introduction

The Abkhazia dispute is centered around the current relations between Russia, Georgia, NATO, and the European Union. Georgia is currently a primary candidate to join both NATO and the EU which would solidify them as an essential ally for the Western forces who continue to aid Ukraine in their fight against Russia. The issue in their country is the land of Abkhazia. This piece of land isn't recognized by many countries in the United Nations as its own sovereign state but rather as part of Georgian territory. Russia is one of very few who does back its claim to independence from the nation of Georgia. Historically, Abkhazia's government has been heavily backed by the Russian Federation in all its efforts to produce freedom from Georgian ties.

According to the UNHCR, tracing back to 1978, Abkhazia has been claiming autonomy from Georgia. They requested that they either be placed under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, which at the time was still the Soviet Union, or they be named their own independent republic with little to no political ties to the Republic of Georgia. They were willing to fight for this freedom which led to a 2-year long clash between Georgians and Abkhazia. Georgian nationalism was stronger than ever which led to the quick demise of the Abkhazian rebellion against the Georgian army.

In the years following, the Georgian governments began to ban Abkhazians from running for political positions and office allowing them to stay in power without the furthering of a rebellion. Since 1991, there have been numerous clashes between the two leading to



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UN-organized ceasefires between the two sides. Throughout the 1990s, the Abkhazians continuously attempted to declare independence but it was all denied by the government of Georgia.

Fast-forwarding to today, looking at information from Freedom House, Abkhazia has little to no political autonomy and is heavily influenced by the policies of the Kremlin. This has also been seen in recent Georgian policies, as they haven't taken strict strides to oppose Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. This has caught the eye of Western powers as they begin to worry about the leaning of the Georgian government. Russia has also been able to establish a naval base in the lands of Abkhazia posing more of a threat than ever to the sovereignty of Georgia.

Description

The Battles Persist

Dating back to 1992, there were many who died in battles between Abkhazians and Georgians. Georgia sent an army of 2,000 troops to the land of Abkhazia which led to the death of almost 500 from both sides in this skirmish. A quick ceasefire agreement was put into place to halt the aggression from both sides, but it was quickly broken in 1993 when another battle broke out between the two sides. The fighting was soon labeled as an inter-ethnic conflict as Abkhazians and Georgians were so similar in culture and language. The fighting was between people who had been in the same geographic region since the early 1800s.



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As the year 1993 came to a close, the aggression from Abkhazia led to support from outside of their lands and their desire for freedom intensified. They rebelled against the Georgian forces pushing them out of two border cities in Georgia, Sukhumi and Ochamchira. This left hundreds of thousands of Georgians displaced and fleeing back toward the capital. The Abkhazians and their forces violated the constant pleas from the Security Council to comply with the ceasefire agreements. The Security Council then launched an investigation to see how they would best be able to stop the hostilities but soon found out that all parties involved were contributing to the extensive disagreements.

The battles continuing between these two nations led to the founding of the UNOMIG or the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and the constant consultation from the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). These two organizations were vital in the United Nations' efforts to end hostilities between the two nations and find a way for politics to solve the quarreling parties.

Expanding the Mandate

After years of attempts and years of failure, the UN saw no way for their organizations to spark true change in the region and lead to a diplomatic end to the conflict. They felt as though the only way they could do so, would be to increase the abilities of the UNOMIG. The UN wanted there to be more military observers allowing them to acquire accurate information about



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the fighting as it occurred. This would also end up enabling the UN to take quick action with peacekeepers and create ceasefires for specific areas as fights broke out.

Peace processes have been explored by the United Nations and Georgia often supported this idea as they didn't want to continuously engage in warfare with the people of Abkhazia. They were plagued by a refugee crisis with hundreds of thousands of people being frequently displaced from their homes and there not being enough support to solidify them with suitable living situations.

After the UNOMIG had been in place for about 7 years, the fighting between the two nations drastically decreased. Peace was near, but a solution to the dispute was far from reality. There was an increased amount of lawlessness, neglect of the policies of the Georgian government, and resentment for both side's wellbeing. There wasn't fighting but there was intimidation and constant terrorizing from the armed forces. At the turn of the century, the biggest issue became kidnapping and human trafficking which became a problem the Georgian government had a great deal of issues solving.

Other Issues Plague Georgia

Starting in 2003 and continuing to the 2010s, Georgia dealt with numerous humanitarian issues resulting from their clashes with Abkhazia. There was a lack of aid coming from United Nations organizations and the country was struck with minor famine and a lack of medical supplies for the number of displaced people. With these issues continuing for Georgia, nothing



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seemed to get better as Abkhazia had an incident involving the shooting down of a United Nations helicopter. This event in 2001, set the situation to an all-time high where both sides feared what the conflict could boil down to.

In 2009, the UNOMIG wasn't renewed and the conflict between the spotlight that had previously been pointed at the issue slowly drifted away. This was until the invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022. With Russia being very aggressive and willing to invade a country they are bordering, the attention slowly drifted back to border nations such as Georgia. Throughout 2023, the Security Council had various discussions involving the role of Georgia and how they would be able to support the aid of Ukraine. Georgia had previously had a dispute with Russia that occurred in 2008, where troops from both sides engaged in a minor skirmish. The Security Council reopening talks marked the anniversary of this event even though it didn't turn into much more than a one-time affair.

In June of 2023, the General Assembly passed a resolution involving another aid package for the people of Georgia who have been displaced from the many conflicts with Abkhazia and Russia throughout the 2000s. Russia was one of the few countries who voted against the resolution which once again reiterated their clear discord with Georgia and their ambitions.

The Most Recent State of Georgia

Although the government of Georgia has had a history of agreeance and compliance with Western ideals, its most recent tendencies have been slipping closer and closer to that of Russia.



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A Harvard International Relations review of the nation found that they are a vital asset in the Black Sea region for NATO as well as the EU. With both of these groups strongly supporting Ukraine as they withstand the Russian onslaught, an ally with that close of proximity to Russia is necessary to keep their hopes alive.

The Atlantic Council pointed out that if Russia is able to complete its political campaign to sway Georgia to its side, it will have the ultimate confidence in itself to carry out the same actions in Ukraine. The West has neglected the ability of Russia to influence the government of Georgia for far too long and there is no going back now. The Abkhazia-Georgia dispute is as hot as ever and with military assets being in Abkhazia who knows how close we are to impending violence on this side of Europe?

Bloc Positions

Bloc 1: USA, India, Ecuador, Japan, Slovenia, and Mexico

The US continues to support Georgia in its attempts for territorial sovereignty. The US continues to have relations with Georgia in the form of a commission that includes the working areas of democracy and security. The US has been steadfast in its support since the invasion. Other countries within the bloc, specifically Slovenia have been vocal in their support of Georgia in this dispute. Members of this bloc are worried about Georgia's growing relationship with China. However, this bloc is solidified under the idea of territorial sovereignty for Georgia.



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Bloc 2: UK, France, Guyana, Malta, South Africa, Nigeria, and Israel

The United Kingdom continues to support Georgia in its attempt for territorial sovereignty and has been since the invasion. France also supports Georgia in its attempt for territorial sovereignty under its current administration. France has fluctuated in its support for Georgia specifically in regards to NATO. Members of this bloc are worried about Georgia's growing relationship with China. This bloc is solidified under the idea of territorial sovereignty for Georgia.

Bloc 3: Russia, Belarus, Iran, Venezuela, UAE, and the Philippines

The Russian Federation continues to support closer relations with the country of Georgia. The regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia want to be a part of Russia and they are concerned that Georgia does not support this action. They are concerned about Georgia and the West's willingness for Georgia to join NATO. They are also concerned about the US and other Western countries' efforts to stir up anti-Russian sentiments within the country of Georgia. This bloc is solidified under continued positive relations between Russia and Georgia.

Bloc 4: China, Algeria, Georgia, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and Tunisia

The country of Georgia continues to want a solution to its territorial dispute with Russia. China has increased its strategic partnership with Georgia since Russia invaded Ukraine. The two countries have common goals to strengthen their relationship in regional and international affairs. This bloc is solidified under the idea of territorial sovereignty for Georgia.



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Committee Goals

When approaching Topic A, take into consideration all the different parties that are involved and how they may be affected by your solutions. Consider the people of Georgia and Abkhazia, as they both have different agendas concerning the land they are fighting for. Examine the role of the United Nations, NATO, and the EU as they are all factors contributing to Georgia's decision-making. This dispute has clear implications for the Russia-Ukraine war, so when creating solutions look at how they may impact that war. As you have read, Georgia has been neutral on the surface, but secretly aiding the efforts of the Russian Federation. Make sure you account for these decisions and emphasize diplomacy as our goal is to mitigate further military issues and bring peace to the region.

Your solutions should be centered around how all parties can be incentivized toward collaboration and cooperation without a need for violence. Look into all the underlying effects of Georgia's current actions, your country's current stance, and how we can mend the misunderstandings between our countries. Analyze Abkhazia's desire for freedom and why the UN has historically denied its aspiration to be its own nation.

Research Questions

1. How has your country dealt with border and land disputes in the past? Was it a war? Fight for independence?
2. How effective are international organizations (UN, EU, NATO, etc.) in mediating peace



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talks throughout history?

3. How can we make international organizations more effective at resolving issues?
4. What was your country's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and have they provided any support or aid to either side?
5. How has your country dealt with sovereignty issues and national identity?
6. What can be done to increase the freedom and voices of the people in Georgia and Abkhazia as there is still uncertainty about who the territory belongs to?

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Topic B: China & India Altercation (Sino-India Conflict)

Introduction

China and India share a border along the Himalayas which has become a point of contention in recent years. Both countries have emphasized this land as they have stationed large quantities of military personnel in case an act of aggression occurs. Although China and India have historically maintained peaceful ties, this conflict is continuing with no real end in sight.

We will be exploring the aftermath of the 2020 skirmishes between India and China along their border between the lands of Kashmir and Aksai Chin. In December of that year, a total of 20 military personnel from each side were killed in a clash between the two forces. They had



been amassing along this border for several years despite clear signs from India showing they wanted nothing to do with an armed conflict.

As China continues to be aggressive toward India along this border, we must weigh the need for international intervention. In 2023, India accused China of violating numerous unilateral agreements, including the Border Defense Cooperation Agreement (BCDA), which both countries signed in 2013 to end border



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disputes between the two nations. This agreement was deemed an utter failure due to the continued issues along this strip of land.

We fear that the continued aggression from China is an attempt to deny another country it shares borders with its sovereignty. China still denies that Tibet is a separate nation and with its economy struggling, we must act. The international community must ensure that China doesn't act against India and that another world war can be prevented using diplomacy and respect for the rights of all states involved.

Description

Lines Have Been Drawn

Since its independence in 1947, India has clearly defined its borders along all sides and these borders include the land to which China is laying claim, the Aksai Chin. Then this statement was amended by the Prime Minister of India in 1954, stating that this portion of land was specifically claimed by India and would be a part of their official territory. After their independence, they wanted to be explicitly clear on what lands they claimed and what lands were undemarcated or not marked as one's own. Despite the clear definition of territory after India's independence, border clashes between the People's Republic of China and India ensued for the next few decades.



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China had developed a road along this piece of land when they still lay claim to Tibet in the 1950s and 1960s. This road passed through Aksai Chin which was unbeknownst to the Indian government due to its inability to access to territory with ease. According to the Handbook of India's International Relations, negotiations were held between the two countries and a compromise was soon reached on the land leading to no further dispute regarding this land.

Failure of Compromise

Not even 10 years later, China was ready to clash for this piece of land once more. In 1967, the Nathu La and Cho La clashes occurred between the two nations. Military from the People's Republic of China and India clashed numerous times in the year 1967 at two different checkpoints along this border. The compromise between the two foreign ministers had just garnered was unable to stop China from wanting to take it for themselves.

Continuous turmoil between the two nations lasted throughout the 1970s and 1980s. The Indian Government set out official statements regarding a fight in 1975 which led to the death of 4 Indian soldiers who were stationed at this border in hopes of deterring Chinese forces from engaging in an affair. Following this report, the Indian government had strong protests against Chinese military officials when their troops were ambushed within their country lines. Chinese forces had not only crossed the border but had also attacked troops on Indian land.

Issues between them halted till the turn of the century when military buildup on the Chinese side of the border began in 2006. This continued throughout the next few years until



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2009 when India announced it would be officially moving military forces to protect themselves and their national security. Even with India displaying the ability to protect itself, they pressed on with their foreign ministers who constantly attempted to find diplomatic means to end the issue between the two nations.

Is Diplomacy Possible?

In 2014, the Indian government completed official statements regarding the onslaught of Chinese aggression and military build-up. They requested that China respect the One India policy and resolve the dispute once and for all with diplomatic means. This put the conflict to rest for about 3 years until there was another clash on the border. In 2017, there was a long military standoff between the two nations. There were no casualties in this affair, but both countries made it clear they were going to be heavily patrolling the border to protect their own interests. There were attempts from countries in the region such as Bhutan who tried to find diplomatic means that could end the conflict as they began to feel threatened by these two superpowers in their region.

They tried, but once again, there was no diplomatic agreement that would end the conflict once and for all. After this 2017 debacle, we are returning to the present and the most recent events of the conflict. In 2020, there was the biggest border clash in the history of this land dispute between China and India. They have continued to have military buildups and the Guardian has been able to gather exclusive photos of the increasing Chinese military on their



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side of the border. The international community hasn't intervened as much in the history of this conflict and even when they did, they were far from successful.

History of Chinese Aggression

Before going into what the international community must do to end this dispute, we must take a look back at how China has treated nations in their region historically and why this border dispute is so dangerous. Along with the Diplomat, the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, gathered a statement from Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2021. President Xi stated he wanted to redefine the culture of Tibet and was looking to transform it back into what it was when China ruled the nation. The East-West Center a Research Organization also found that China is maintaining their statement that Tibet is an inalienable part of their nation.

Knowing this history, we must consider what China is willing to do to secure the land they claim is theirs within the region. This leaves a lot of questions surrounding what they will do for Aksai Chin or even the entire land of Tibet. This makes the entire situation with India much more complex and dangerous as China is prepared militarily to take action.

Bloc Positions

Bloc 1: USA, India, Ecuador, Japan, Slovenia, and Mexico

India continues to attempt to subdue its Chinese neighbors as they amass troops along the border. The U.S. and Mexico have made past advancements to protect their borders and have



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been able to establish a clear line of communication as of September 2023. With Japan sharing a history of conflicts with China, this bloc is solidified under the idea of limiting the Chinese threats in the region.

Bloc 2: UK, France, Guyana, Malta, South Africa, Nigeria, and Israel

Recently, the United Kingdom and France have both made diplomatic moves to strengthen political ties with India. The United Kingdom has also increased its usage of UAVs for border security and overall ramped up its policy to fit more national security needs. Israel is currently showing how seriously it takes border security as their war with Hamas continues to wage on. Malta has joined most of the EU in relaxing its border security but has needed to revamp as of 2021 with a spark in regional crime. Overall, this bloc will be looking to support India in its efforts against Chinese aggression.

Bloc 3: Russian Federation, Belarus, Iran, Philippines, Venezuela, and the United Arab Emirates

Russia plays an important role in this conflict as they have been placed as the prime mediator between the two clashing nations. With a history of solid relations between them and the opposing parties leaves them in somewhat of a neutral position regarding the issue. It also must be noted that the UAE and Belarus have secure ties with India leading to this bloc being crucial to a possible diplomatic answer to the border dispute.



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Bloc 4: China, Tunisia, Cambodia, Georgia, Sierra Leone, and Algeria

Even with public Chinese statements emphasizing their efforts to strengthen ties with India, they continue to send troops to the Himalayan border. Training exercises continue and in the past few months, they have sent naval cruisers into the Indian Ocean region. Cambodia does have historical ties with India, but with stronger tendencies to lean towards Chinese policy, this bloc is centered around aggression in this issue. They have been known to support military action in response to political discourse.

Committee Goals

For Topic B, your primary goal is understanding how conflicts arose between the two parties and determining how to facilitate and de-escalate tensions diplomatically to maintain international cooperation and peace. Research past conflicts between China and India and how their differing perspectives on the matter influence their political agendas. Take into consideration China's history of annexation of Tibet and how that played a key factor in India-China relations. Look into how countries have made efforts in the past to mitigate tension between the two nations. With the rise of military build-ups in each country that puts world security at risk, your main priority should be to formulate solutions that would prompt both parties to resort to means of cooperation and communication in relations with each other rather than warfare.

For this topic, it is important to consider the time frame of this issue while developing



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your solutions. This committee will focus on de-escalating tensions between the two parties after the clashes on the India-China frontier in 2020 have taken place. Look into potential severe consequences to regional and global security from this border dispute as you unearth solutions to de-escalate any further attempts of warfare between the two countries and establish peace.

Research Questions

1. What is your country's viewpoint or stance on China's annexation of Tibet?
2. How has your country dealt with state sovereignty issues?
3. Has your country ever experienced or been involved in a border dispute? If so, how has such conflict been dealt with?
4. What are some temporary actions the UN can take to prevent further military buildups and tensions between China and India?
5. What diplomatic solutions can be taken to resume political dialogue and settle this dispute?

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