

5TH ANNUAL  
CBA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
MODEL UN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2017

SECRETARIAT GENERAL.....WILLIAM WALSH, BRYAN SOLER  
CRISIS DIRECTOR.....DANIEL TREVAL



JCC: EAST BERLIN

TOPIC 1: COMPETING ECONOMIES  
TOPIC 2: INFORMATION WAR

NOVEMBER 1963

CHAIR.....MICHAEL SARDELLA  
CO-CHAIR.....JOSEPH SCARDINO

## Letter from the Dias

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Fifth Annual Christian Brothers Academy Model United Nations Conference! We are Michael Sardella and Joseph Scardino, your Chair and Co-Chair. We hope that you are ready to dive into the the world of Model United Nations and the tensions that surrounded the Berlin Wall during the Cold War. Our debate will take place in November of 1963 as we explore the East German and Soviet side of the wall, taking on the roles of important figures from East Berlin, East Germany, and the Soviet Union.

Included in this background guide is information summarizing the topics that will be tackled in this committee. Although a brief history regarding the Berlin Wall will be introduced in this guide, extra research and preparation is necessary. We cannot wait to welcome all of you to our school in November for an interesting and involved debate. We hope that you will have a good time and that this debate will fuel an interest in Model UN throughout high school and beyond. If you have an any questions regarding this committee, whether it be about procedure or character roles, do not hesitate to email either of us.

Sincerely,

Michael Sardella '19  
msardella19@cbastudents.org

Joseph Scardino '19  
jscardino19@cbastudents.org

## Letter from Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

I am certain that you are excited to participate in the *East Berlin Cabinet*, taking on the roles of German or Soviet representatives. Being that this is a Crisis Committee, procedure will differ from traditional committees (e.g., general assemblies). These slight procedural differences are discussed in the following section, and it would be to your benefit to look over and fully understand these. Adequate preparation in Model United Nations allows for a more enjoyable experience. You are encouraged to utilize both this background guide and other resources to better your knowledge on this historical event, ensuring success in committee. I hope that this experience serves both as an educational and enjoyable one, and I look forward to seeing you in November. If you have any questions regarding the crisis aspects of committee, please feel free to email me.

Sincerely,

Dan Treval

dtreval18@cbastudents.org

## Directives

Resolutions are non-existent in a crisis committee. In this type of committee, delegates will respond to crises rapidly, in the form of directives. Directives are short documents, often a title and several points, that outline a course of action the committee wishes to take. Crisis committees have the power to take action, compared to the GA's power to *suggest* action. Directives should be worded simply, but precisely, so that one can clearly deduct the meaning of each point. If directives are worded vaguely, actions not intended to take place may occur, causing even more crises for delegates to deal with. Directives are voted on, but they must meet a certain number of signatories before they are voted on.

## Example Directive

### Stop US Action

- Mobilize naval forces to intercept any US vessels entering Cuban waters.
- Admiral Gorshkov will have direct control of small actions
- Any weaponized actions (torpedos to nuclear weapons) must be approved by this cabinet.

## 2 Signatories Needed For Directive

What are signatories? They are delegates that either authored the directive, or support the directive. All signatories must vote in favor of their directive.

## Crisis Notes

Crisis notes allow for delegates to influence what occurs in committee by creating their own events. In High School Model U.N. conferences, delegates create complicated plots with many, many notes over the course of multiple days containing hours and hours of committee time. This conference does not have the luxury of time, as it is an introduction to Model United Nations. This does not mean that crisis notes will not be utilized. Crisis notes will be utilized in a beginner's format. Delegates need not erect complex plots with a myriad of notes. Instead, they should try to get to the point in as few notes as possible. This does not mean that delegates will abandon creativity. Crisis notes allow delegates to show their creativity, and influence debate. The actions in crisis notes need to be within the character's portfolio powers, for example, the minister of foreign affairs cannot move the Navy. Be creative, but stay focused on the topics being discussed during the committee.

Be Legible.

## Example Crisis Notes

To My Accountant (you may make up a name),  
Please transfer 500,000 Rubles from my personal savings to the KGB office in New York City to  
continue funding KGB activity, in response to the minister of finance's actions  
Thank You,  
Vladimir  
KGB Chairmen\*

*\*Delegate should sign each note with both their character's name, and more importantly Title.*

Captain Boris,  
Please reconsider your orders. Transporting that cargo into Cuban waters is a sentence to death by  
American torpedos. Think of your children.

Your childhood friend,  
Vassily

Minister of Finance

## Background

### Pre-World War II

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was formed in 1922.<sup>1</sup> The Soviet Union was the first society based on Karl Marx's *The Communist Manifesto*. Vladimir Lenin was the first Soviet Premier, who famously led the Russian Revolution and Civil War, from the Communist side (Bolshevik Party). After Lenin took power the country's government became Communist and the Soviet Union became one of the world's most powerful and important nations. The USSR eventually encompassed 15 republics including Russia, Ukraine, and the Baltic States.

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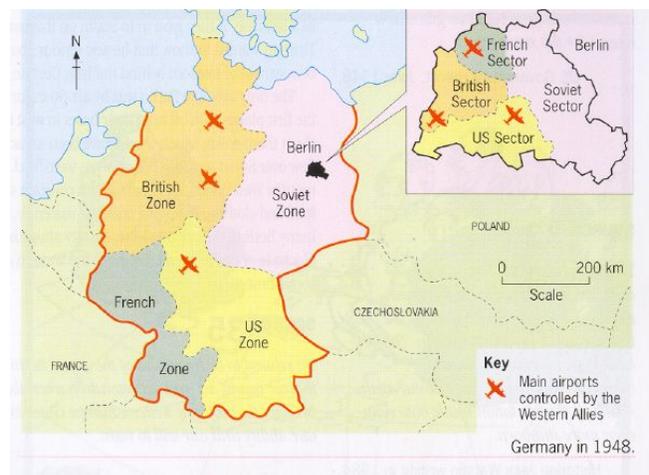
<sup>1</sup> "USSR Established." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 28 July 2016.

## World War II (Europe)

During World War II (WWII), the Soviet Union was an extremely important country and world power. At the start of the war the Soviet Union was a neutral power with a non aggression treaty with Hitler, but after Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, the USSR became part of the Allied Powers. The Soviet Red Army defeated the Germans, pushing them through Germany, past Berlin, to the Elbe River where Soviet forces met U.S. troops, who had landed in Normandy in Operation Overlord.<sup>2</sup> Hitler's full-scale invasion of the Soviet Union, Operation Barbarossa, started out quite successfully until Hitler's armies ran into the Soviet army in Stalingrad, in which the Red Army held the city through a siege, and eventually defeated the Nazi Armies.<sup>3</sup> This combined with the extreme and deadly Soviet Winter led to the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany, Hitler's death, and the fall of the Third Reich. The United States, Great Britain, and The Soviet Union emerged as the victors after the surrender of Germany. There was a split between Communism and Capitalism within the Allied Powers, which led to the division of Berlin and the rest of Germany.<sup>4</sup>

## Post World War II

Once the Germans surrendered in May 1945, the task of rebuilding the nation was placed upon the Allied powers. The Americans, French, British, and Soviets each took up a zone of occupation in Germany. The Soviets had the eastern third of the country, while the other three western countries occupied the western two thirds, and the capital of Berlin was under the control of all of the four nations. The Allied Control Council had authority over the entire country.<sup>5</sup> Soon after the war, political parties were allowed to form for elections with several pre-war parties getting revived such as the Christian Democratic Union and the Social



<sup>2</sup> "World War II History." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 28 July 2016.

<sup>3</sup> "Invasion of the Soviet Union, June 1941." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 02 July 2016. Web. 28 July 2016.

<sup>4</sup> "Berlin Is Divided." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 28 July 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Schleunes, Karl A., and William H. Berentsen. "The Era of Partition." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 01 May 2017.

Democratic Party. However, in the Soviet occupied zone, parties were forced to merge into one party, the Socialist Unity Party (SED). Over the next couple years, it became harder for the Western allies and the Soviets to work together as economic, political, and social differences came about. These issues came to head when in 1948, the Soviets, fearing a unified capitalist Berlin or worse a unified Germany, blockaded West Berlin by closing routes into Berlin from the west. The Western allies responded by flying food and other supplies into West Berlin. This became known as the Berlin airlift and ended in 1949, once the blockade proved to be a failure.<sup>6</sup> The divide between the East and the West became more and more clear.

### **East and West Germany**

In May 1949 the Federal Republic of Germany, or West Germany, was formed with a government that centered around a democratically elected parliament. The country became fully sovereign in 1955, as the Western allies were heavily involved in the country during its first few years. Although the country was sovereign, the British, French, and Americans still maintained a military presence in the country. West Germany joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and a formal alliance with the West soon afterwards. From the country's beginning, its economy began to grow substantially with Allied help, undergoing an "economic miracle" that put the economy as one of the best in the world over the next two decades.<sup>7</sup> The quality of life for West Germans rose greatly during this time, prompting many from the east to look west for opportunity.

After the Federal Republic of Germany was created, the Soviets wanted to form their own state that was aligned with them. In October 1949, a People's Congress was "elected" and created a constitution for the German Democratic Republic. The GDR, or East Germany, was in practice a country run by the SED party and its head, Walter Ulbricht. Under this regime the standard of living stayed poor as East Germany's first five year economic plan failed, and many fled to the prosperous West Germany. This caused East Germany to close its western borders in 1952, although many still left through West Berlin which was still a part of West Germany. In 1955, East Germany matched West Germany joining of NATO by joining the Warsaw Pact, which formally aligned them with the Soviet Union. Ulbricht instituted the Second Five Year Plan in 1956, increasing industrial production. In 1961, East Germany built a concrete wall around West Berlin to prevent more people

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<sup>6</sup> History.com Staff. "Berlin Airlift." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, 2011. Web.

<sup>7</sup> "West Germany." *West Germany - New World Encyclopedia*. N.p., n.d. Web.

from leaving the GDR, after the number of East Germans who fled topped three million.<sup>8</sup> This became known as the Berlin Wall. Ulbricht tightened his control over the country as the SED tried to lead the people to prosperity.

**Topic 1:**

It has been over 15 years since the end of the war and 8 years since East Germany became sovereign, and the state is struggling to cement itself economically as a socialist power. The fascist policies of Western Europe are crippling East Germany, and the communist message is needed now more than ever. As a committee, we will work together to try to improve the economic conditions that exist in the GDR and look to more effectively compete with our West German rivals.

**Topic 2:**

Not only does East Germany need to compete with West German economically, but the GDR needs to gain political clout as the first country behind the so called "Iron Curtain." The GDR has to showcase its power politically and militarily, while still maintaining the peace in Europe. As a committee, we will work to find ways to increase East Germany's political standing and match West Germany's power in the political world.

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<sup>8</sup> Schleunes, Karl A., and William H. Berentsen. "The Era of Partition." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 01 May 2017.

## Character Portfolios

### Walter Ulbricht

Chairman of the State Council of the German Democratic Republic

The Dais will take on this role, making all final decisions of this cabinet.

### Vladimir Semichastny

Chairman of the Committee for State Security

Semichastny is the head of the KGB and is in charge of state security for the Soviet Union. He has a large network of spies under him that work to gather Western intelligence.

### Andrey Gromyko

Minister of Foreign Affairs (USSR)

Andrey Gromyko is in charge of carrying out Soviet Foreign Policy and relations with Warsaw Pact Nations and the rest of the world.

### Andrei Grechko

Supreme Commander of the United Armed Forces of the Warsaw Treaty Organization

Grechko has the power to control *all* military forces within the Warsaw Pact. When the USSR needs large military actions to be orchestrated he is the man for the job.

### Peter Andreievitch Abrassimov

Soviet Ambassador to East Germany

Abrassimov works specifically to carry out Soviet interests in East Germany. Abrassimov should work together with Gromyko as the role of ambassador to East Germany is a specific and crucial part of Soviet foreign policy.

### Erich Fritz Emil Mielke

Head of the East German Ministry for State Security (Stasi)

Mielke is in charge of East Germany's state security. Mielke has a large web of spies and intelligence gatherers under him, and he is the man to turn to for possible classified Western intelligence. Mielke should expect to work with the KGB.

**August Bach**

Chairman of Christian Democratic Union

Bach is the head of the CDU party in East Germany. The party is partnered with the SED, and Bach does what the party wishes.

**Ernst Goldenbaum**

Chairman of Democratic Farmers' Party of Germany

Goldenbaum is the head of the Democratic Framers' Party in East Germany. Similar to the CDU, this party is also partnered with the SED. Goldenbaum should work with Bach to help carry out the SED's plans, while also furthering the cause of Germany's farmers.

**Friedrich Ebert, Jr.**

Lord Mayor of East Berlin

Ebert controls the day to day affairs of East Berlin. Ebert sees first hand the effects and power of the Berlin Wall.

**Valerian Zorin**

Soviet Diplomat to UN

Zorin communicates Soviet foreign policy on a global platform and tries to advance Soviet interests all over the work. Zorin should work with Gromyko on how and what aspects of foreign policy should be especially pushed at the UN.

**Otto Grotewohl**

Chairman of the Council of Ministries (Prime Minister)

Grotewohl is the head of the several ministries on his council; many of which will be present in this committee. He is one of the top officials in East Germany.

**Lothar Bolz**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Bolz is in charge of East Germany's foreign policy. This policy should align very closely with Gromyko's Soviet foreign policy and the foreign policy of other countries in the Warsaw Pact.

**Willy Rumpf**

Minister of Finance

Rumpf is in charge of East Germany's finance. Rumpf has a say in the economic policies of the country and in state industries.

**Hans Bentzien**

Minister of Culture

Bentzien works alongside the SED to try to influence the culture of East Germany away from fascist Western culture and towards communist ideals.

**Heinz Hoffman**

Minister of National Defense

Kessler is the head of the National's People Army of East Germany. He is the man to turn to for small and medium sized military actions within East Germany.

**Erich Honecker**

SED Party Security Secretary

Honecker works to make sure the SED is secure from any threat. He plays a role in intelligence and should work together with Mielke and Maron as they were all part of a group trying to stop refugees from fleeing East Berlin.

**Karl Maron**

Minister of Interior

Maron works to make sure East Germany is safe from any threats. He, alongside Honecker and Mielke, advocated for the Berlin Wall.

## Questions to Consider:

1. How can the GDR increase its economic productivity while adhering to communist principles?
2. What threats do West Germany pose to the East German economy?
3. How can East Germany use its communist allies to help it become an economic and political power?
4. What effects will our actions as a committee have on Europe as a whole?
5. What are my character's interests?
6. What role would my character take in various crises?
7. What resources does my character have access to?
8. Understand your character's agency.

## Further Reading

"World War II History." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 28 July 2016.

"Invasion of the Soviet Union, June 1941." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Council, 02 July 2016. Web. 28 July 2016.

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