



WORLD COMES TO CANADA - OLYMPICS, UNITED NATIONS

DENISE WHITFORD, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Canada is hosting the world...and loving it! While the Olympics have brought some criticism onto Canada, they have energized the nation. The entire country celebrated with Alexandre Bilodeau and Maelle Ricker as they won their gold medals. It is the hope of the University of Alberta that the same energy will be brought to the United Nations Conference that begins today!

With delegates representing nations from around the world, the university's annual HSMUN conference should be full of excitement and international intrigues. According to HSMUN Secretary General, Amy Sanderson, "It gives us confidence for tomorrow to see such eager minds here, willing to contribute to global citizenship."

The secretariat, dias staff and other volunteers have been hard at work for the past months preparing for this conference. From answering e-mails to writing background papers to reading position papers, a lot of work has been put into making HSMUN 2010



a thrilling event!

As representatives of various nations converge on Edmonton, it is the hope of this columnist that the world will be free of crisis for a few days! Hopefully there will not be an international incident at either the Olympics or the United Nations conference in Canada!

HAITI: A MONTH AFTER THE QUAKE

SARAH FLOWERS

A month after a devastating earthquake struck Haiti, the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations are still attempting to bring relief and stability to the nation. At this time, the focus is being placed on finding adequate shelter and sanitation for all of the individuals who were affected by the natural disaster that occurred on January 12, 2010.

Shelter needs are currently being met via the distribution of both tarpaulins and family-sized tents, with another 400,000 plastic sheets being sent to continue providing temporary refuge for the thousands of displaced people still seeking shelter. At press time, nearly 272,000 people (out of nearly 1.2 million displaced people) have



been equipped with some form of emergency shelter. The Secretary-General of the United Nations recently stressed the need for more permanent shelters to be constructed as "the storm season is just months away... Important as they are, tents alone will not suffice" to protect the Haitian people from the more severe weather conditions of the upcoming season.

Sanitation has emerged as another priority, with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) hoping to install more than 3,000 latrines in the next few weeks, with fifty percent of those latrines being constructed by the end of February. Access to fresh water is also

important for disease prevention in the devastated nation.

Alongside aid relief, the United Nations has also continued to work towards stabilizing Haiti. On January 19, the Security Council passed Resolution 1908 (2010) in order to address a variety of concerns such as humanitarian, reconstruction, and security efforts. On the security front, the United Nations has pledged to increase the number

of both military and police personnel under the umbrella of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The organization of MINUSTAH is presently stressing the need for continuous aid. Despite the millions of dollars in donations and numerous programs being implemented to provide relief, more aid is required to truly bring about change. As the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon wrote in the Washington Post recently, "for those who have lost everything, help cannot come soon enough" to the nation of Haiti.

International aid organizations, such as the Red Cross, are still accepting donations for Haiti.

SCHEDULE

Thursday

18:00 Registration
18:40 Opening Ceremonies
20:00 Committee Sessions
21:00 Adjournment

Friday

09:00 Committee Sessions
12:00 Lunch (not provided)
13:00 Committee Sessions
16:00 Adjournment
18:00 Banquet & Dance
Crowne Plaza -
Chateau Lacombe

Saturday

09:30 Committee Sessions
12:00 Lunch (provided)
13:00 Plenary
14:00 Closing Ceremonies
15:00 Adjournment



COMMITTEES

Security Council
NRE 2-127
GA I: Disarmament and
International Security
NRE 1-001
GA III: Social, Humanitarian
and Cultural
NRE 2-001
World Health Organization
NRE 2-003
World Trade Organization
NRE 1-003
Saturday: ETL 1-018
Human Rights Council
NRE 2-090
Saturday: ETL 1-017
UN Environment Program
NRE 1-143
Delegate Resource Center
NRE 2-125

* Please note that some committees change rooms on Saturday.

CONTACT US

Wish to respond to an article? Letter to the Editor?
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WORDS OF ADVICE FROM A FORMER DELEGATE - SPEAK UP!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a returning dais of HSMUN, one of the things I remember most about last year was how much fun the people who were active in committee were having! Committee sessions can be very boring if you're just sitting and listening, especially because laptops will be banned, as will cellphones and MP3 players. The best way to combat boredom in committee is to get involved.

Stand up to speak, there isn't a lot that can go wrong. Keep in mind that everyone around you has about the same level of experience at public speaking, and even more of them are just as scared of getting up in front of everyone as you are. Filling your time is great, but even if you just get up and talk about one thing, one idea you have, you know that people will be talking about it for hours. That can be a very interesting discussion to follow, and everyone talking about it could get your brain going. If you've got an idea that you can call your own the unmoderated caucuses will also be

more than a potty and coffee break for you. People will want to talk to you for more than your pretty clothes and fancy shoes, but because you've got a head on those shoulders too. If you've got both, abiding by the dress code, you're halfway to changing the world.

If that doesn't get you roaring to go there's the less glorious, but equally useful path some take: the silent assassin. These delegates may not speak, but take their ideas around the committee using the note system for more than hilarious pickup lines. These future bureaucrats are the ones who really make the world turn, writing resolutions and making sure the ideas inside them make sense. Even the most eloquent speaker needs someone supporting them, and you can be that pivotal support, or spin their work to suit your needs, without their even realizing it.

In short, you're here for more than just extra credit in Social Studies: you're here to change the world, or be very bored. Which would you rather choose?

Signed, The Rocket



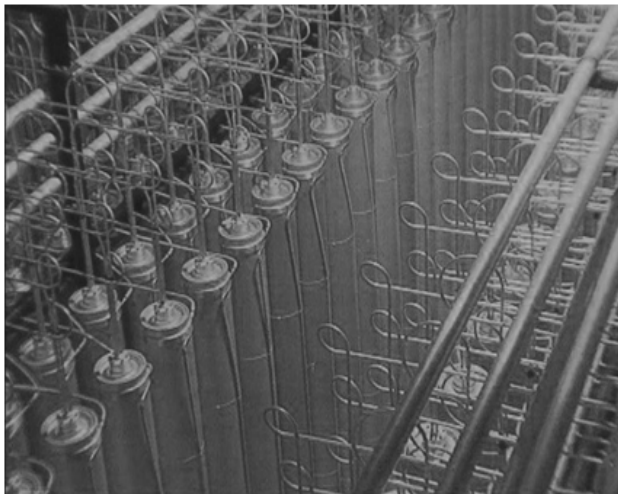
IRAN CONTINUING NUCLEAR ENRICHMENT PLANS

ELZBIETA MYRLAK

Iran's latest proclamation that it has begun enriching uranium to 20% and plans to build ten new uranium enrichment plants in 2011, has left many Western states questioning its true intentions. The news came from the country's top nuclear official, Ali Akbar Salehi, who said on February 8, 2010 that Iran would raise its uranium enrichment level from 3.5% to 20%, enabling it to produce medical isotopes at its Tehran research reactor.

Ignoring the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency's requests to stop all enrichment activities, and nullifying a deal it made with the Western powers in October 2009 in which it was supposed to send 70% of its low-grade uranium for enrichment in France and Russia, this decision led to severe criticism from the international community.

The West fears that Iran's nuclear advancements are geared towards development of nuclear weapons rather than medical isotopes and energy, despite Iran's consistent denials of



this claim. However, while it will take Iran approximately a year to upgrade its uranium enrichment to 20%, and the IAEA has yet to verify its ability to do so, once achieved, it would only take Iran six more months to enrich its uranium to 90%, the level used in nuclear bombs.

As a result, the USA and France have called for the adoption of "strong sanctions, in the hope that dialogue will be resumed," while Israel, Britain, Germany, and Russia likewise voiced

their disapproval and called on Iran to abide by IAEA's restrictions. Meanwhile China, who imports Iranian oil and whose vote is needed if sanctions were to be imposed by the UN Security Council, is currently against further restrictions, but has called for continued discussion of Iran's nuclear program.

US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, presently touring the Gulf to garner support for sanctions against Iran, spoke with Saudi Arabia's foreign minister on Monday hoping to persuade Saudi Arabia to pressure China (who likewise imports Saudi oil) to agree to sanctions. The Saudi minister, however, stated that sanctions are a long-term solution, and a more immediate reaction was necessary.

Hopes now balance on Turkey's meeting with Iranian officials on Tuesday, in which it plans to mediate and promote a deal on Tehran's nuclear program between the Western powers and Iran. As tensions between the two parties continue to rise, a swift and peaceful solution, whether through negotiations or sanctions, is crucially needed.

NUCLEAR TALKS KINDLING TENSIONS IN THE KOREAS

DENISE WHITFORD

Since the enforced armistice that effectively ceased the hostilities of the Korean War, tensions have remained high between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Of particular concern to both the region and the world at large in the past few years has been the development of nuclear weapons capacity in North Korea.

For the past year, the North Korean government has been testing missiles and nuclear

explosives at various sites. This has caused great concern, leading to the beginning of Six Party Talks involving North Korea, South Korea, the United States, Russia, China and Japan. While these have been temporarily suspended, the resumption of the talks has not been ruled out.

Some of the conditions North Korea wants the international community to meet before talks resume would be the withdrawal of sanctions against the nation, increased foreign aid, and the negotiation of a peace treaty to replace the outdated 1953 armistice.

South Korea, while open to negotiating with North Korea, has made it clear that any further attempted nuclear action by North Korea would result in the launch of a pre-emptive strike to prevent further nuclear development. Unfortunately, the government of North Korea has declared that it would view any strike as a violation of the armistice, and a declaration of war.

It is hoped that resolution can be found for this region, as American analysts have declared their belief that North Korea could have as many as eighteen nuclear warheads by 2019.

HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS PRESS CORPS 2010

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