

Honourable Diplomats,

Not long from now, you will be representing your country in what can internationally only be described as the most important diplomatic event of the year. You will be expected to know everything about your country and keep your nation's interests at heart. Therefore, a quick search on Wikipedia will hardly be sufficient preparation for this challenging task.

The Crisis Committee Headquarters members have decided, out of the kindness of their hearts, to help you along the way and give you a list of research that you are required to do prior to the commencement of the debate.

Not only are you strongly encouraged to learn the Crisis Committee Instruction Booklet by heart, there are some other topics you would be wise to carefully examine before you accept your job as a diplomat.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNCLOS for short, is the most important legal document in the international law of the sea. Although the treaty has hundreds of articles, the Diplomats are expected to know the most important aspects of the content. Focus on the dispute settlement procedures and the definitions given to maritime features, as well as all other aspects of UNCLOS that could prove to have a negative or positive effect for your countries' national waters.

Territorial Conflicts in the South China Sea

The South China Sea is one of the busiest shipping routes in the world and large oil reserves are hidden beneath the surface. Needless to say, conflicting and contradicting claims in the South China Sea have been a problem for decades. Study closely which countries exercise a territorial claim to what territory. Additionally, diplomats are advised to look at the actions, both military and otherwise, from the states in question in the disputed territories.

Refugee Problems in South Asia

Although the words "refugee crisis" might not necessarily take your mind to South Asia, the region is currently struggling with a large quantity of refugees. The region faces not just political refugees, but there are also many individuals fleeing their home country due to political or environmental reasons. Contrary to the refugee crisis in Europe, it is not as heavily debated by the South Asian nations. Neither have the states come up with a possible long-term solution. However, the diplomats would do wise as to look into the scope of the refugee crisis in South Asia.

The Spheres of Influence of the US, China and India

A sphere of influence is a country or area in which another country has power to affect developments though it has no formal authority. It is important for diplomats to know how far the US, China and India have influence over the South Asia region. Besides this, diplomats would be wise to look at their spheres of influence in a more general context as well.

List of Countries

In the immortal words of Sun Tzu in his masterpiece 'The Art of War':

“If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles. If you know yourself but not the enemy, for every victory gained you will also suffer a defeat. If you know neither the enemy nor yourself, you will succumb in every battle.”

It is for that reason that we strongly encourage you to not just look at your own countries, but also to look into the countries of your fellow diplomats. A list of all countries represented this year has been drafted up below.

Commonwealth of Australia
People’s Republic of Bangladesh
People’s Republic of China
Republic of China
European Union
Republic of India
Republic of Indonesia
Japan
Federation of Malaysia
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Republic of the Philippines
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Kingdom of Thailand
United States of America
Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Reading List

To help you start your research, the CCHQ has compiled a reading list that all diplomats would be wise to go over before the debate.

<https://pcacases.com/web/sendAttach/1801>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/02/world/asia/china-us-warships-south-china-sea.html>
<http://www.atimes.com/article/australia-toys-with-immigrant-ban-for-big-cities/>
<https://thediplomat.com/2018/10/india-japan-mull-allowing-their-armed-forces-to-use-each-others-military-bases/>
<https://www.dw.com/en/will-bangladesh-give-more-rights-to-rohingya-refugees/av-45925299>

DISCLAIMER

The members of the Crisis Committee Headquarters are in no way responsible for any permanent psychological damage or post-traumatic stress disorder arising from the diplomat’s participation. Diplomats entering the conference hall will do so at their own risk.

Good luck.

The members of the Crisis Committee Headquarters