



Crisis Committee Instructional Booklet

Second Edition

Written by the honourable members of the
Crisis Committee

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First Words

“בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת הָאָרֶץ.” – The Bible

Honourable future Diplomats of the Crisis Committee,

Welcome to the Crisis Committee!

During the LEMUN conference, you will be expected to know about many things. In addition, you are expected to react at once to news you will get... which is not easy! We have written this booklet specially for you, to help you prepare.

In this booklet, we will explain to you

- what you can expect,
- how you should prepare, and
- what will be your job

in the three days that you are a Diplomat.

This is why we recommend you read this booklet carefully before Committee starts. The booklet consists of seven chapters. Here follows a short overview of what you can find in each chapter.

Chapter one - Introduction

Here you will read a few tips on how to get started, and what types of crises you might expect to see during the weekend.

Chapter two – the Powers that Be

Here we explain how the Crisis Committee “works” – from planning what’s going to happen to getting to solutions.

Chapter three – A day in the life

In this chapter you will read what you can expect when Committee starts, and what is expected of you.

Chapter four - A Diplomat’s Tools

Here we explain what you can do as a Diplomat – because it isn’t just voting and debating!

Chapter five – Preparation of Champions

Here we give a detailed description of what you could do to get yourself as prepared as possible for the Crisis Committee.

Chapter six - Communication

In this chapter we explain the best (and the only) way of communicating with both Student Officers and the CCHQ.

Chapter seven – Frequently Asked Questions

Questions that have been asked with some frequency.

Administration

“Every revolution evaporates and leaves behind only the slime of a new bureaucracy.” – Franz Kafka

We need you to help us with the following two things.

1. We need your personal email address. Please send a message to rotteveelmansveld@lemun.org. The title should be “administration of (YOUR COUNTRY).”

The following should be inside the email:

1. your names,
2. the amount of MUN-experience you have,
3. which school you are from,

Please do this RIGHT NOW! Like, right now right now! Have you done it yet? Please do it! It will help us a lot. We will only use it to send you LEMUN-related information!

2. Before we start the conference, we will give you a test. You can pass this test if you have read this booklet and done your basic research. So there’s no need to worry about it.

The test will take about 15 minutes. The questions will be about the country you represent, and on how things work inside the Crisis Committee.

We need you to take this test, so that we know what we can expect from you. Also, it’s good for you to get an idea what you can expect from us!

Now, on to the real thing!

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“It’s not so much the content of the table that matters, but the content of the chairs.” – W.S. Gilbert

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Chapter I – Introduction

“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.” – Niccolo Machiavelli

At any normal MUN Committee, you will receive the issues, the topics of debate well in advance. This is of course to give you, the Diplomat, time to prepare yourself. You can research how “your” country feels about a topic, and think of solid arguments.

The Crisis Committee is different.

Here, we only let you know which country you will represent, and in which geographic area The Crises will take place.

That’s it.

The rest is up to you.

But what are you supposed to do now?

The First Steps Into Research

“Research is what I’m doing when I don’t know what I’m doing.” – Wernher von Braun

It is very understandable that you would get confused at this point. How can you prepare for crises you know nothing about?

But... *do* you know nothing about them?

Let’s look at the facts.

- Something is about to go wrong quite badly. Otherwise, there wouldn’t be a Crisis Committee happening in the first place.
- You know your own country and the area in which everything is about to go wrong.
- If you look at the LEMUN website, you’ll also know which other countries will be represented in the Crisis Committee.
- While the Crisis Committee Headquarters¹ might come up with some “alternative facts²” during the weekend, we ALWAYS start out with a realistic scenario.

So in order to prepare, you can already do two things:

1. Read the Wikipedia page for your country. Be sure to read the English page; it usually has more detailed information! Also, there are many interesting links for you to click on. Yes, that’s a hint.
2. Read the news regularly. Go to websites like BBC, CNN and Reuters³, and read about what is going on in “your region”. Make sure to start doing this every day! It doesn’t really help much to have read one or two stories. It is important to see how stories develop, and to “get a feeling” for what might happen next.

¹ CCHQ for short, although “The Harbingers of Doom” is also acceptable

² Quote: U.S. Counselor Kellyanne Conway

³ These three are “the basic” news outlets. There are more out there, like Al Jazeera, The Hindu or ABC news. Which one is the most read in your country? That might be good to find out!

The Types Of Crises

During the weekend, you can expect different types of crises. Here are some examples you could encounter.

There will probably be a diplomatic incident of some kind. Examples of a diplomatic incident are:

- The shutdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17
- The 2021 Suez Canal Obstruction
- The 2023 Chinese balloon incident

As an exercise, try to think of how your country would have reacted to any of these situations. Also, did you remember them, or did you have to Google them? All three were international headlines when they occurred!

There will probably also be a financial crisis. There are a lot of different kinds of those. It is a good idea to read the Wikipedia page “financial crisis” to get the basic idea, plus some other useful reading tips and examples.

And finally, there might be an ecological crisis. As an example, the most obvious one right now is global warming. The COVID pandemic also counts as one. There is a lot of information available online on how your country reacted to the aforementioned problems. You will have plenty to look into!

If you read the previous pages carefully, you may have noticed something already.

So far, we have already mentioned “crises” (plural) four times. This is not a typo.

There will be more than one crisis going on at the same time.

It is your job as a diplomat to decide which crisis is the most important for your country. You will have to decide which disaster you think should be fixed first.

All you have to do next is convince the rest of the Committee to agree with you.

Chapter II – Who’s who

“I feel convinced that any political picture can be changed to suit the needs of the powers that be.” – Thor Heyerdahl

The structure of the Crisis Committee is made up of three parts.

- The first, the **Crisis Committee Diplomats**⁴: the ones making and defending the decisions.
- The second, the **Student Officers**: the ones guiding the debate, making sure everyone has a say, and keeping an eye on the overall status of the world.
- The third, the **Crisis Committee Headquarters**⁵: the ones who have engineered the entire mess in the first place, and who are nudging the situation in the direction the Diplomats suggest.

Profile of a Crisis Committee Diplomat

“There’s lies, damned lies and politicians.” – Partially Benjamin Disraeli

During the Crisis Committee, you are expected to represent the interests of your country to the best of your abilities.

Let us give you a few examples.

Say that the European migration crisis is ramping up, with thousands of refugees landing on Italian shores every week.

The Italian Diplomat would demand help from the other nations in the Crisis Committee. A treaty in which other nations are willing to take in all refugees immediately would be ideal⁶. Also, the UN needs to look at the root of the problem; where are all these people coming from all of the sudden?

Or imagine that a situation similar to the Falklands War⁷ is happening, with a slight difference: this time the *entire* British Navy is on the way to reclaim its territory. You would be a legendary Argentinian Diplomat indeed if you could convince the British to surrender at this point⁸.

Let’s take another example; the Chinese Balloon incident we mentioned previously. You can imagine that the American diplomat would have a few questions for the Chinese Diplomat about that!

The first reaction to all of the above situations would be a speech given either by you or your colleague Diplomat. This means that, when presented with such a situation, you should immediately start thinking of what you would want to say and who you would want to say it to.

Please remember, there are two Diplomats representing every country, working as a team. So make sure you divide tasks like giving speeches, researching and negotiating.

⁴ That’s you.

⁵ That’s us.

⁶ Also highly unlikely, but we can dream.

⁷ If you don’t know it, Google is your friend!

⁸ This actually happened in Committee. The Diplomat in question received an award and a standing ovation from the entire Headquarters.

About the Student Officers

“No-one is above the law. Not a politician, not a priest, not a criminal, not a student officer. We are all accountable for our actions.” – (Almost) Antonio Villaraigosa

The Rules of Procedure within the Crisis Committee are different from any other committee. This means that the job of a Student Officer is also different.

The most obvious differences are the following.

Diplomats come in twos for a reason.

There are two Diplomats representing every country, working as a team. If the Student Officers think a Diplomat might need more information on the topic of debate, they can suggest a Diplomat step outside to do some extra research. Again, Google is your friend, but you can't use it inside the Committee!

The Student Officers can “volunteer” you to speak.

If the news breaks that something awful is happening in a particular country, it is logical that their Diplomat would have an opinion on this⁹. If the Student Officers feel that a Diplomat hasn't given enough of a statement, they may “make them” take the stand.

The Student Officers are the voices of reason.

Sometimes, a debate can get a little hectic, or a Diplomat may come up with an idea that might look good in the moment but is a really really bad idea when you think about it¹⁰. The Student Officers at this point will step in and give everyone a moment to think of what the consequences could be¹¹.

Finally, the Student Officers are “to keep the immediate peace”.

It has happened in the past that a Diplomat thought declaring war was the solution to a crisis.

It is not.
It never is.

War begins where diplomacy fails.
So if war breaks out, you've failed.

Simple as that.

The Student Officers will remind you of this if necessary.

⁹ Even if it is only “our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, and we expect the committee's full support in coming to a swift solution for this terrible situation”. You can use that one in Committee if you want.

¹⁰ For example, there was a time where the German Diplomat decided that it was an excellent plan to mobilise their ENTIRE ARMY to go and help Ukraine. Ground forces and all. We hope we don't have to explain why this is Not A Good Idea™.

¹¹ And if that doesn't help, Crisis Committee Headquarters might come in and spell out what those might be.

The Crisis Committee Headquarters

“We are a rumour, recognizable only as déjà-vu and dismissed just as quickly. We don’t exist; we were never even born. We are not part of the System. We are above the System. Over it. Beyond it. We’re “them”. We’re “they”. We are the Crisis Committee Headquarters.” – (Not Quite) Men In Black

During LEMUN, the Crisis Committee is in contact with the outside world via The News.

You, the Diplomats, will receive news updates roughly every hour. In these news updates you find out what is happening in the world.

Basically, you get news telling you what the next crisis is, and you are expected to react to this in-committee, thinking of solutions while the crisis is still happening.

The CCHQ are the ones writing the news.

If you need more information about a crisis and want to contact your Secret Service to see if they can find out something more, you can send them a note¹².

The CCHQ are the ones answering that note.

If you have thought up a treaty with several other nations, and you want to confirm with your Head of State that this is an acceptable treaty to sign, you can send them a message.

The CCHQ are the ones replying to that message.

If you want to know more about how to write us messages or what to expect, read chapter Seven.

The Crisis Committee Headquarters is most easily described by its motto: “*Omni potens, male volens*”¹³. We, its members, are the power behind every throne, the mad scientist in every lab, the little pebble that caused every avalanche. We are cause *and* effect.

We try not to let it go to our heads.

¹² More on that in Chapter Four.

¹³ For those of you without a Latin education: “All powerful, ill-willing”

Chapter III – How It Starts

"You're off to great places, to-day is your day! Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way!"
– Dr. Seuss

We have stated several times that your job title will be Diplomat. This, again, is different from “normal” MUNs, where your job title would be Delegate.

Here, we will explain the differences between the two.

The Test

“The only way to pass the test is to take the test.” – Marlo Morgan

The very first thing you will do when entering the Committee is The Test. As we have stated, this test is only difficult when you *haven't* read this booklet or done any research.

The fact you are reading this right now probably means you're okay.

A Secret Mission

“A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday, but never remembers her age.” – Robert Frost

When The Test is finished, you will receive a sealed envelope containing a personal briefing from your Head of State. In this message, you will probably receive Secret Orders.

These orders can be very different. Maybe your Head of State wants to make sure one particular crisis is solved as soon as possible.

Or maybe your Head of State doesn't like another Head of State, and wants you to not be friendly with that particular country.

Or maybe your Secret Service has found out a particularly interesting bit of information, and wants you to find the highest bidder to sell it to.

It is your job, alongside the “normal business” of debating in the Crisis Committee, to carry out these orders.

In the envelope, you will also receive the first few Press Releases. These are the starting points of the Crises that you will have to deal with.

The Start of the Crisis

“So it begins.” – Theoden King of Rohan

As soon as you have finished reading¹⁴, the Crisis will start in earnest.

You will receive the next Press Release, and the game will be on!

¹⁴ You might want to read quickly.

Chapter IV – What You Can Do

“A Diplomat is a person who can tell you to go to hell in such a way that you will actually look forward to the trip.” - Caskie Stinnett

As we have spent the last few pages explaining, the way the Crisis Committee works is completely different from a “normal” MUN.

There are several ways to let the world know how your country feels about a situation. Giving speeches– like in a regular MUN – is still a great idea, and you should really do that as often as possible¹⁵.

But there are many other things a Diplomat can do as well!

The Paperwork

“Paperwork wouldn’t be so bad if it weren’t for all the paper. And the work.” – Darynda Jones

As you have probably guessed, you will not be writing resolutions during the Crisis Committee.

Instead, there is the option of giving a Written Statement – it’s rather like a speech, but in writing. So people can read it again and ask questions about it.

A written statement can be defined as an “official announcement of (unilateral) action”.

A treaty is a second option. You may enter negotiations with other diplomats to unite your efforts. If your government¹⁶ gives the OK, you can sign a treaty, which will be considered “fact” when signed¹⁷.

Separate negotiation chambers will be made available to you. Because you have two Diplomats, one of you can go and negotiate, while the other stays in Committee to keep an eye on the developments.

A treaty can be defined as “legally binding agreements”.

More powerful than a treaty is an action plan.

When an action plan has been made and signed by at least two nations significant to the crisis it pertains to, it can become a “turn of events”.

This means it will become part of the story.

This is as dangerous as it sounds.

An action plan can be defined as “joint immediate action”.

A written statement must be published in Committee for it to take effect.

A treaty and an action Plan *can* be announced, BUT they can also be made in secret and submitted to the CCHQ; they will still take effect that way!

¹⁵ Read: the StOff will be counting how many speeches you give.

¹⁶ Read: after you’ve explained what you’re planning to CCHQ via note and we’ve said “sure, sounds fun”

¹⁷ But *not*, take note, before.

The cards up your sleeve

“The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting.” - Sun Tzu

In the briefing you will get at the start of the conference, there will also be some cards.

You will be granted one Spy Card, and also a Favour card.

Here we explain what you can do with them.

Spy Cards

“Once is happenstance. Twice is coincidence. The third time it’s enemy action.” – Ian Fleming

You will receive one spy card. You can play this card by sending it to your intelligence agency, with a note attached detailing a specific mission.

Your intelligence agency will then try to follow your instructions. If their mission is successful, they will get back to you after some time with the information – or situation – that you requested.

That seems easy enough, but it is amazing how many things could go wrong. Here are some things to keep in mind.

- **Be specific** with your instructions, and describe the kind of mission you have in mind.
 - For example, “Send a spy to Japan” will probably result in a report on the benefits of sushi.
 - On the other hand, “Please send a spy to Tokyo University of Science, second Engineering Division, to copy, steal or otherwise obtain the information *and* technology required to access the newly discovered mineral layers that were described by the CNN in the ocean crust southwest of Hokkaido” is very likely to yield a set of blueprints and insightful calculations on things like structural integrity.
- **Trying to contact** your spy after he has been sent is probably going to get him killed. Because he’s on a secret mission.
- **There are no guarantees.** Every mission has a chance of failure. Some missions have a very high chance of failure (like for instance, “Assassinate President Putin”, or “Infiltrate the CCHQ”).

Favour Cards

“Each player must accept the cards life deals him, or her: but once they are in hand, he or she alone must decide how to play the cards in order to win the game.” – Voltaire

The second type of card available at this conference is the favour card. Again, this card is used by sending it to the CCHQ, but its use is rather different from the spy card.

Where the spy card gives you a completely new possibility, namely, to send an agent on a mission, the favour card enables you to add extra weight to a ‘regular’ request. Though this concept might seem a bit abstract, we are sure the examples provided below will help you understand. Here are some things to keep in mind.

- In most cases, the favour card represents your head of state putting his/her diplomatic weight behind one of your requests – but that doesn’t mean (s)he

will solve your problems for you! For example, if you sent the CCHQ a favour card with a note “Please get me that ocean drilling information”, you can expect an annoyed response from a secretary or an out-of-office reply.

On the other hand, if you found out yourself that this valuable piece of information is in possession of the Tokyo University of Science, you could send the directorate of said university a letter c/o CCHQ in which you ask for the information to be disclosed to a delegation of scientists from your country, with your favour card attached. The card would in this case represent, for example, a phone call between your head of state and the president of the university, which would greatly increase your chances of getting the information.

- Like the spy card, the favour card is one-use only. However, past experience has shown that most Diplomats still haven't used their favours by Sunday afternoon, which is of course a waste of a valuable resource. Saving up for later isn't always the best solution either!
- Again, there are no guarantees. There are things that even a head of state can't achieve. No matter how hard he might try, his majesty the prince Alois von Liechtenstein won't be able to convince the United Kingdom to relinquish their claim to the Falkland Islands.

Wild Cards

“Last night I stayed up late playing poker with Tarot cards. I got a full house and four people died.” – Steven Wright

During the conference, there is the possibility to ‘earn’ new favour cards and additional spy cards.

Exceptional feats of diplomacy or extraordinary actions might earn you one such. But it doesn't happen often.

Chapter V – Research

“In fact, the world needs more nerds.” – Ben Bernanke

By now, you should have a reasonable idea of what to expect during the committee. To make sure you feel as confident as can be, we have outlined here what makes for a great preparation for the actual event.

Primary Phase

“Research is something that everyone can do, and everyone ought to do. It’s simply collecting information and thinking systematically about it.” – Raewyn Connell

First, you should cover the basics.

The following things you are *absolutely expected* to know:

1. Who is my prime minister/president/leader/figurehead?
2. Is there a monarchy in my country, and if yes, does our royal family possess any power?
3. What political party is currently favoured? What are their policies?
4. Has my country got a noteworthy secret service?
5. What sort of military can my country muster?

With this information, you can already make an educated guess on how your country would react to a potential crisis. This sort of information also tends to contain rather a lot of numbers and percentages (like the number of tanks you have available¹⁸, or the percentage of Sunni Muslims, and so on), so we would strongly recommend you to have a copy of this information with you in-committee. Yes, you may take a cheat sheet. In fact, bring two.

Secondary Phase

“Play is the highest form of research.” – Albert Einstein

The second step to solid research is actualities. Find a local newspaper – most countries have an English version online these days. The BBC and CNN websites also tend to provide a wealth of (sometimes humorously misspelt) information.

Read up on your Prime Minister’s behaviour and whether there have been any major scandals recently. Note the number of accidents that have happened or whether there have been any major disasters recently. If you encounter anything interesting, make notes and take down dates – if you have this sort of information ready, you could technically hold a perfect speech inside five minutes.

You may also assume *we’ve* read it all, and draw your own conclusions as to whether *you* should¹⁹.

It is important to know that we tend to start off with crises that are genuinely plausible.

In fact, they tend to be so plausible that we have used actual BBC news reports, virtually unedited²⁰, as our own because they fit so perfectly in our story!

¹⁸ Also of note: where are these tanks? Buried in a wheat field, or in pristine condition next to the most volatile border?

¹⁹ As you may have noted, we are quite good at passive-aggressive recommendations.

²⁰ Remember the humorous misspellings? We don’t do those... Usually...

Tertiary Phase

“The trouble with research is that it tells you what people are thinking about yesterday. It’s like driving a car using a rearview mirror.” – Bernard Loomis

Now that you know what’s going on in your country and who’s in charge, it’s time for a little more in-depth research. You should be able to answer questions like:

1. What is your country relying on financially?
2. What are the demographics in your country?
3. Is there a history with a neighbouring country that could come back to bite you?
4. Has your country had a problem with terrorism in the past?
5. How would your government be evacuated should disaster strike directly?

It’s considerations like these that’ll keep you from sitting slack-jawed when an unimaginable horror unfolds in front of you, especially if *you’re* the one who’s supposed to fix it.

Quandary Phase

“Paradox is a sign of progress.” – Niels Bohr

If you’ve gone through all these steps, it’s time to broaden your horizons.

Look up what other nations will be in the Crisis Committee. Note whether you’ve got any neighbours in-Committee, and look up whether or not you already have trade agreements with them. It’s also wise to take a quick look at other countries’ Basics: have they got a larger military than you? Are there any significant differences between your policies? Could you strike a deal with them?

Basically, what you’re doing is finding your allies before Committee even starts. If you know which countries roughly align with yours, policy-wise, you know with which Diplomats you have a greater chance of negotiating. The sooner you can pick out who your friends are in-Committee, the better your country will do!

Quintessential Phase

“As for the future; your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it.” – Antoine de Saint Exupery

If, after all this, you still have a preparatory itch to scratch, you could start running “hypotheticals” – you can come up with disaster situations, and think of a way your country would handle them.

For instance – your country suddenly has to deal with major flooding. Which parts of your country would be hit the hardest? How would you deal with the problem? Would your infrastructure hold?

Or a debilitating disease would sweep through your capital city. Have you got the manpower to maintain a quarantine zone? Have you got enough physicians to provide aid for the population? Can you airlift your government out?

Another option is that a swashbuckling criminal has emptied the proverbial safe of your nation's largest bank. Could the other financial institutions handle the strain? Would your country's economy collapse? Are you great friends with Switzerland?

These, of course, are relatively mild situations compared to "our" crises. Still, it's always a good idea to come up with some basic evacuation and/or disaster plan; it'll ensure you won't have to cook everything up in-committee.

Of course, we tend to be of the opinion that there is no such thing as "enough research". But if you have gone through all these phases and are sitting pretty on top of several pages of notes, we suppose we could consider your research "adequate".

Chapter VI – Communication

“When life gives you lemons, don't make lemonade. Make life take the lemons back! Get mad! I don't want your damn lemons! What am I supposed to do with these?! Demand to see life's manager! Make life rue the day it thought it could give Cave Johnson lemons! Do you know who I am? I'm the man who's gonna burn your house down! With the lemons! I'm gonna get my engineers to invent a combustible lemon that burns your house down!” – Cave Johnson

Dealings with the Crisis Committee Student Officers are similar to dealings with any other Student Officers: you are to be polite, smile, follow each and every rule they present you with and you keep your head down²¹. It's also a clever idea to bring them cookies on occasion.

The Crisis Committee Headquarters, however, is an entirely different case.

Since entering the Headquarters is strictly forbidden²² until specifically instructed otherwise, most communication you'll be having with its members will go via note.

After several years of watching the consequences of this reasonably innocent statement unfold, we now provide three “iron rules” that will hopefully clear up any confusion the words “communication will go via note” may cause.

Rule 1. *Notes will be written on notepaper.*

On the LEMUN website you will find several templates which you can base your notepaper on. You are expected to have printed notepapers with you when the committee starts.

Rule 2. *Your note is to be addressed to the Crisis Committee Headquarters AND its intended recipient.*

Crisis Committee Headquarters a place, not an institution. It does not constitute a full address. If a note has not been addressed properly, it will be tallied and promptly returned to sender. When your tally reaches three, your notes henceforth will be shredded unopened until you send us a formal letter of apology.

Rule 3. *Do not assume that you will get your note back.*

If you send us a draft of your treaty or action plan, to be approved by your government before being signed by your collaborators, we will keep your note for filing purposes and send our approval on a different note. Keep copies of your work, and again please note there are printing and copying facilities on the premises!

These three rules cover the basics when in dialogue with CCHQ.

²¹ Mostly, of course, so that when you do break all the rules in a way so spectacular it is hard to put into words, when the Student Officers are looking for the culprit they'll never even consider suspecting you because you're always so well-spoken and have been fetching cookies for them, too.

²² On pain of singing a Justin Bieber “song” whilst wearing only a pair of underpants on one's head and one sock on the anatomical area of personal choice in front of the General Assembly

While addressing us, however, there are some other things you really should keep in mind:

Please approach us with politeness and formality. Attempted familiarity when in conversation with the Crisis Committee almost always ends badly²³; lack of respect will result in minor sanctions. Blatant disrespect will be met with the full force of the CCHQ's ingenuity.

Notes will be answered in order of priority. Especially during "rush hours"²⁴, notes can pile up and remain unattended for quite some time.

Please be advised that sending us notes about why your previous notes has not been answered yet can have only three possible outcomes:

1. We had actually forgotten it and will send you an answer forthwith
2. We have been buried under a mountain of paperwork and your note only served to further swamp us
3. We were about to get to your note due to a recently vanquished mountain of paperwork but are now too annoyed with you to do so.

Please note that the majority of these outcomes are not in your personal favour. However, if you decide to chance it, there is no regulation to stop you.

It must also be noted that within CCHQ, we have a finite pair of hands²⁵ available. Any correspondence you are looking forward to receiving – be it a governmental press statement, a report on your collaborative effort with regards to a to-be-signed treaty, or an update from one of your spies – will get there either when we have decided it's high time you had it, or when we have time to deal with it for you.

We cannot describe to you the importance of staying on our good side any further.

²³ It has happened before.

²⁴ Which can crop up out of the blue and last more than half a day

²⁵ Though our resident neuroscientist and concert pianist are both working on that

Chapter VII – Frequently Asked Questions

“Where am I? Who am I? How did I come to be here? What is this thing called the world?” – Søren Kierkegaard

Q. Is my country in possession of nuclear weapons?

A. *(We didn't even know how to answer this one. Why do you want to know? How can you not have looked that up? We opted to remain silent in horrified fascination.)*

Q. Where is the Panama Canal?

A. *This one we didn't reply to on paper, either. We simply walked into Committee, said “In Panama” and walked out again.*

Q. Can we invade country x?

A. *Have you got permission from your government? No? No.*

Q. Can I set up a private meeting with Delegation X?

A. *Please fill in the Negotiation Chamber Request Form provided to you by your Student Officer. Also, yes.*

Q. Am I allowed to steal other Diplomats' top secret documents?

A. *NO.*

Q. Am I allowed to read other Diplomats' top secret documents?

A. *Absolutely. What's more, pictures count as evidence. Printing facilities are available.*

Q. Should I answer The Phone²⁶ if it rings?

A. *Do you value your career?*

Q. Can I bring my laptop?

A. *On your own head be it – we will not be held responsible for any theft or broken equipment. You are incidentally not allowed to use the Internet in-committee. There are perfectly good computers available, too. Essentially the answer is “Sure, but why?”*

Q. Will any alliance I sign that has not specifically been ratified by the CCHQ be valid?

A. *The answer is kind of implicit in the question, isn't it... No.²⁷*

Q. Can I make a decision in Committee that hasn't been ratified by the CCHQ?

A. *That really depends on the decision. Can I go to the loo? Yes. Can I give Country X all my resources? No.*

Q. Can we actually physically be removed from Committee?

A. *Yes. It has happened before. Please help us in making sure it doesn't happen again.*

²⁶ You'll know it when you see it.

²⁷ If such a situation does occur, the Diplomat will be held personally responsible for upholding “their” end of the alliance, without any backing of their government. Life expectancy is about five hours.

Chapter VIII – Final Words

“There comes an end to all things; the most capacious measure is filled at last; and this brief condescension to evil finally destroyed the balance of my soul.” – Dr. Jekyll

And so, at last, we come to an ending.

We sincerely hope the previous pages have offered you insight into what is expected of you during the coming LEMUN, and that you will now move into your preparatory phase with renewed energy and a clear mind.

On the LEMUN website you will find more resources that will assist you in your journey.

For instance, the templates for your notepapers can be found there.

There will also be a few “first press releases” put up, so you have a solid idea of what you can expect news-wise during the weekend.

Some humorous note exchanges may be provided also.

But most importantly, we implore you to remember that the game is most fun when we all play it together.

We hope you will make use of the lines we’ve dropped, and we look forward to seeing you in conference.

August 2024

The Crisis Committee Headquarters