Research Report

Leiden Model United Nations 2016
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Forum:	*General Assembly First Committee*
Issue:	*The situation in Tajikistan*
Position:	*Chair*

Introduction

Tajikistan (official name: Republic of Tajikistan) is the smallest country in Central Asia with a population of 8 million people. It has borders with Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and China. Tajiks are the largest ethnic group in the country, with Uzbeks making up 25% of the population. The country is mountainous, with valleys to the south and north, and is Central Asia's poorest nation. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan underwent profound economic and politic changes. After the civil war of 1992, sporadic fighting continued in remote areas. This war was ended by a UN-mediated settlement between the government, which was backed by Russia, and the Islamic United Tajik Opposition (UTO). However, the country has missed almost every deadline set in the agreement.

Definition of Key Terms

CIS

"The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS; Russian: Содружество Независимых Государств, СНГ, tr. *Sodruzhestvo Nezavisimykh Gosudarstv, SNG*), is a regional organization formed during the breakup of the Soviet Union. Nine out of the 15 former Soviet Republics are member states, and two are associate members (Ukraine and Turkmenistan). Georgia withdrew its membership in 2008, while the Baltic states (Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia) refused to participate.The CIS has few supranational powers, but aims to be more than a purely symbolic organization, nominally possessing coordinating powers in the realm of trade, finance, lawmaking, and security. It has also promoted cooperation on cross-border crime prevention. Furthermore, eight of the nine CIS member states participate in the CIS Free Trade Area. Three organizations are under the CIS overview, namely the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Eurasian Economic Union (alongside subdivisions, the Eurasian Customs Union and the Eurasian Economic Space, which comprises the land of over 180 million people), and the Union State. While the first and the second are military and economic alliances, the latter aims to reach a confederation between Russia and Belarus, with a common government, flag, currency, etc."

UNMOT
"The United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) was a peacekeeping mission established by the United Nations Security Council in December 1994[1] and extended on several occasions until its mandate expired in May 2000.[2] Its purpose was to monitor peace agreements during and after the Tajikistan Civil War. The observers were first deployed in the wake of the ceasefire, in 1994, between the ruling government of Tajikistan, led by Emomali Rahmonov, and the United Tajik Opposition. After the UN-sponsored armistice ended the war in 1997, the UN expanded the mission's original mandate to monitor the peace and demobilization. The mission was headquartered in Dushanbe, Tajikistan"

Coalition
"A coalition is a pact or treaty among individuals or groups, during which they cooperate in joint action, each in their own self-interest, joining forces together for a common cause. This alliance may be temporary or a matter of convenience. A coalition thus differs from a more formal covenant. Possibly described as a joining of 'factions', usually those with overlapping interests rather than opposing."

General Overview

Problems in the Soviet Union had already provoked dissatisfaction with the situation in Tajikistan in the late 1980s. In February 1190, demonstrations against the government housing policy caused a violent clash in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital. Using the riots as a pretext to repress political dissent, the regime imposed a state of emergency that lasted long after the riots had ended. Criticism of the regime was banned from radio and television. Tajikistan's Soviet government voted for independence of the republic in September 1991. However, the vote did not have the purpose to break with the Soviet Union: It was a response to opposition demands and similar declarations made by Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the Republic joined the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The political opposition in Tajikistan consisted of several individuals and organisations. The three largest opposition parties were granted legal standing in 1991. The major Islamic figure in the country sided openly with the opposition coalition beginning in late 1991. Whether or not the opposition was able to

govern was never tested because it had a brief representation in a 1992 coalition government that did not have proper authority of the country.

In the early period of independence, the old guard wanted to depict itself as the new government of Tajikistan, facing a power grab by Islamic radicals who brought fundamentalist repression similar to that of Iran and Afghanistan. However, both claims were misleading. The elections for the republic's president were neither free nor representative of the opinion of the people. The election was held in February 1990 under the strict constraints of the state of emergency. The president elected was Rahmon Nabiyev, a communist.

In 1992, small-scale clashes occurred between the opposition and a national guard force, assembled by Nabiyev. In May of that year, Nabiyev had stopped negotiations with the opposition and had gone into hiding. The opposition seized power from the Soviet Supreme, precipitating a civil war. Eventually, the opposition was defeated. They formed a coalition of self-declared democratic and Islamic groups and fundamentalists. From early 1993, armed insurgency close to the Tajik-Afghan border continued to destabilise the country.

Once in possession of Dushanbe, neo-Soviets stepped up repression. There were mass arrests and executions of people captured without formal arrest. Smaller battles continued elsewhere in Tajikistan and across the border in Afghanistan until mid-1990s. The opposition coalition factions were divided over what form the new regime in Tajikistan ought to take: secular parliamentary democracy, nationalist reformism, or Islamicization. Proponents of the last option were themselves divided over the form and pace of change.

In October 1992, the UN Secretary General sent a good offices mission to Tajikistan, at the invitation of the acting president of Tajikistan. This caused a dispatch of a UN unit of officers to monitor the situation in the country in January 1993. A Special Envoy was appointed in April 1993, which chaired three rounds of inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation. This resulted in a temporary cease-fire and the establishment of a commission to monitor its implementation. On 16 December 1994, by resolution 968(1994), the Security Council established the United Nations Mission of Observers to Tajikistan (UNMOT).
On 4 September 1997, the Secretary-General indicated that to carry out its new tasks UNMOT should be strengthened a great deal. Its civil affairs component

would need to be enlarged and additional expertise added in the areas of public law (including human rights), police, electoral affairs and coordination of international assistance.
In November 1997, the Secretary-General said that progress towards the security concerns had been made, leading him to recommend that the Security Council expand UNMOT's mandate as proposed in his September report. The Council, by its resolution 1138 (1997) of 14 November, expanded the mandate of UNMOT and increased the size of the Mission in accordance with the Secretary-General's recommendations.
The latest threat to Tajikistan's peace came before the presidential election of November 1999, in which the current president ran unopposed. The UTO boycotted the vote and quit the peace talks to protest the lack of opposition candidates. The government reported that opposition candidates had not succeeded in meeting the registration deadline and were therefore not allowed to run for president.
The Observer Mission led to a breakthrough between the government and the opposition. On 5 November 1999, a protocol was signed, guaranteeing for preparation and holding of parliamentary election. The situation is Tajikistan is still politically and economically unstable, even though there have been several attempts to improve it.
Chinese troops are now involved in guarding the Tajik-Afghan border. This is possible because of the friendly relations between China and Tajikistan and because China is aware that the threat from Afghanistan can compromise its own security. Also, China is interested in protecting their infrastructure projects on the economic belt of the Silk Road, which are built on Tajik territory. Another threat to the peace in Tajikistan is the fact that the largest Russian military base outside of the Russian Federation has been operating in Tajikistan since 2004 and its tenure has been extended to 2042.
In Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, a terrorist organisation, is active and they have recently joined the Islamic state. What's more, the radical party, Hizb ut-Tahrir, is actively working to destabilize the situation in the country. The population of Tajikistan is mostly Sunni Muslim and they are primarily targeted by extremist propaganda.

Major Parties Involved

Tajikistan

Tajikistan is the most important party in this issue.

Afghanistan
Afghanistan has a border with Tajikistan. At this place, there are conflicts which are yet to be resolved.

Commonwealth of Independent States
Commonwealth of Independent States an organisation in which former Soviet States are united.

Russia
Russia is Tajikistan's most important ally.

Previous Attemps to solve the issue

- A Special Envoy was appointed in April 1993, which chaired three rounds of inter-Tajik talks on national reconciliation.
- "United Nations Security Council resolution 968, adopted unanimously on 16 December 1994, after noting statements by the President of the Security Council and reports by the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on the situation in Tajikistan, the Council established the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) and addressed the process of national reconciliation in the country. The Security Council established UNMOT, consisting of 40 military observers, and 18 international and 26 local staff, with the following mandate:
  (a) to assist the Joint Commission in the implementation of the political agreements;
  (b) to investigate and report on ceasefire violations;
  (c) to mediate with the Tajik parties and peacekeeping forces in the country;
  (d) to support the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Envoy;
  (e) to co-operate in the distribution of humanitarian assistance."
- "United Nations Security Council resolution 1138, adopted unanimously on 14 November 1997, after recalling all resolutions on the situation in Tajikistan and along the Tajik-Afghan border, the Council expanded and extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) until 15 May 1998.[1]

- The Council observed further progress in the implementation of the peace agreement between the Government of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition (UTO), and the ceasefire was respected. The security situation remained precarious and there violence in the centre of the country, though other parts remained quiet.
- The two parties in Tajikistan had made progress with regards to Commission on National Reconciliation, exchange of prisoners of war, the registration of UTO fights in Tajikistan, the repatriation of refugees to Afghanistan and the formation of a joint security unit to protect UNMOT personnel. All of these developments were welcomed by the Council, which then expanded the UNMOT mandate to:[2][3]
  (a) co-operate in the election and referendum process;
  (b) investigate report violations of the ceasefire;
  (c) monitor the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of UTO troops;
  (d) co-ordinate United Nations assistance to Tajikistan;
  (e) maintain contacts with both parties, the Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping force and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe."

Possible Solutions

- Mediate with the Tajik parties and peacekeeping forces in the country.
- Establish special forces to control clashes around the Tajik-Afghan border.
- Providing military assistance in order to help stabilize the situation in Tajikistan.

Appendix/Appendices

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Independent_States
http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16201033
http://www.europeanforum.net/country/tajikistan
http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/tajikistan.htm
http://journal-neo.org/2015/10/17/tajikistan-s-big-problems/"
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_968
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_of_Observers_in_Tajikistan
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coalition

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_1138