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Security Council
Chair Report

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WMUN 5.0 Security Council

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"Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East"

I. Meet the Security Council Secretariat

President of Security Council- Khaled Wahbi

Khaled: Hello and welcome to WMUN 5.0! I'm Khaled Wahbi, the President of the Security Council. I'm 16 years old from Saudi Arabia and a junior at Kingdom Schools. I have always been intrigued by politics and foreign affairs from a very young age when my father -- a senior diplomat -- would tell me stories of the places he's been and the people he met as a Saudi political representative in the Saudi mission to the United Nations in New York. My interest was pushed further when in 7th grade, I joined my school's MUN club. That captivated me and opened the door to new horizons and seeing the world around me from a different perspective. Participating in MUN allowed me to hone my leadership skills, debating, public speaking, critical thinking, among several other valuable skills, and coming up with creative and out-of-the-box solutions. I am truly passionate about MUN, and in our age of misinformation, political extremes, and pandering, I believe that it is essential that everyone, especially the new generation, be aware of the

political, economic, and social issues that plague our world for a brighter and more promising future. I can't wait to meet all of you at the conference and experience the compelling discussions and creative solutions you'll have.

Chairperson- Youssef Estafanous

Youssef: Hey, delegates! My name is Youssef Estafanous, and I'm going to be one of your Security Council chairs, alongside Zaneerah and Nydah. I'm going into my senior year of highschool, which makes me 16 years old. I like to engage in a variety of hobbies, such as but not limited to my chess addiction, running, and video games. Of course, MUN is also a not-so-small part of my life. Hoping to know more about you in this conference.

Chairperson- Zaneerah Zaheer

Zaneerah: Hello, My name is Zaneerah, and it's an honor to be chairing for the Security Council in WMUN 5.0. I am Pakistani-Canadian, 17 years old, and I am now entering my sixth year in MUN. I've always believed that one of the most important things we all can do is stay educated, and I believe MUN is the perfect opportunity for that. I've been a chair and delegate many times, and each has been unforgettable. I am looking forward to what this conference will bring.

Chairperson- Nydah Alanzi

Nydah: Hello everyone, and welcome! My name is Nydah Alanzi, this will be my 30th conference, and I'll be one of your chairs. I enjoy knitting, swimming, reading, and listening to music. I'm Saudi and British, so I grew up with two cultures, therefore, I love learning about countries and their history and traditions, which is what led me to participate in my first conference at 11. By attending MUN conferences, I gain experience and knowledge, as well as meeting new people. The agenda set for the UNSC is very intriguing and I am very excited to be working with all of you. I hope that the house will have a heated and fruitful debate and I can't wait to meet you all. I wish you all the best of luck.

II. Committee Introduction

The Security Council, one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It is for the Security Council to decide, for example, when, where and how a United Nations peace operation should be deployed. Unlike the General Assembly, its decisions are binding on all states. As such, there should not only be fair and equitable representation of all nations in the Security Council, but also an ability to maintain both worldwide and regional peace.

At any given moment, the Security Council has 15 Members, five of which are permanent; being China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The remaining seats (ten) are distributed as such: five for African and Asian States, one for Eastern Europe, two for Latin American and Caribbean countries, and two for Western European and Other countries.

III. Topic Introduction: (Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East)

The topic of nuclear proliferation regards the idea of preventing an arms race and the deployment of nuclear weapons into warfare. The most well-known treaty that seeks to prevent this is the NPT, or the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is signed by 189 UN member states. Despite this number of signatories, nine member states continue to possess nuclear weapons. While all agree that nuclear disarmament is key to peace and security, NWS (nuclear weapon states) are still reluctant towards giving theirs up. This is why non-proliferation, which simply regards limiting the increase of nuclear weaponry, is currently a more viable option than complete disarmament.

In the Middle East, no countries possess nuclear weapons except the state of Israel recognized by the United Nations. Israel has not signed any treaties regarding proliferation nor any protective measures

regarding nuclear weaponry. This has caused a stir within the Arab community, as many parties such as Saudi Arabia disagree with the idea of possessing WMDs (Weapons of Mass Destruction). The Iran Nuclear Deal regards the United States' efforts to halt the development of nuclear testing in Iran, which aligns with Syria's similar desire to put research into a nuclear program.

IV. Historical Background

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and the means for their delivery at longer ranges has been an important part of the debate about security in the Middle East since at least the 1970s. The 1991 Gulf War brought these concerns to the forefront, especially among Westerns observers. The post-September 11 environment, the subsequent debate over the "axis of evil", and the 2003 war against Iraq have strongly reinforced these concerns, as a matter of national security strategy, but also in regional settings.1

The perceived nexus between weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and global reach has made developments in the Middle East a matter of homeland as well as regional security. Throughout the Cold war, strategists accepted the risk of nuclear Armageddon as a "permanently operating factor" and discussions of regional security acknowledged the possibility of escalation and the potential for nuclear and chemical use.

Nuclear weapons and missiles have been part of the regional equation at least since the 1956 Suez crisis , during which Russia threatened (albeit not very credibly) nuclear strikes against Britain and France in response to their intervention in Egypt.

Several factors contribute to the prominence of WMD and ballistic missiles in Middle Eastern security today. First, the Middle East is the place where unconventional weapons and missiles have been used, at least in a limited, tactical fashion, in modern conflict. Egypt employed chemical weapons in Yemen in the 1960s, and Libya is alleged to have used them in Chad. They were reportedly employed in Afghanistan and, more recently, Sudan.2 Iraq used them against the Kurds, and they were employed on a large scale by both sides in the Iran-Iraq war. Missiles were also used in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war,(Egyptian Scuds and Syrian Frog-7s), in the "war of cities" between Iran and Iraq, in the civil war in Yemen, and during the 1991 Gulf War. They have been fired, ineffectively, in Italian territory by Libya. Threats to employ these systems are a regular feature of confrontation in the region, and on its periphery.

Second, even without use, the Middle East is a leading area of proliferation. Most of the world's leading WMD proliferators are arrayed along an arc stretching from North Africa to Pakistan (and

nuclear and missile tests in South Africa may affect proliferation norms in the Middle East). The presence of active conflicts and flashpoints across the region means that the possession of WMD is not just a matter of national prestige and strategic weight, but a very real factor in military balances and war fighting.

Third, the prominence of WMD in the Middle Eastern security environment is accompanied by great uncertainty about the motivations and strategic culture of regional actors. The ways of thinking about WMD, especially nuclear weapons and missiles developed during the Cold War, are often assumed to have less relevance in a Middle Eastern setting. The question whether "rouge" proliferators will act rationally and can be deterred in the conventional sense is unclear. In this and other contexts, the prospect of conflict involving WMD in the Middle East raises a variety of uncomfortable issues for Western Strategists, and presumably for regional actors themselves. The ongoing Pakastani-Israeli confrontation, with the risk of regional escalation, lends greater weights and immediacy to these issues.

Fourth, the pace and character of WMD proliferation in the Middle East has been of intense interest to extraregional actors. Russia, China, North Korea, and potentially others are leading suppliers of weapons, materials, and technological know-how for developing indeginous

capabilities. Pursuit of Middle East peace and access to the region's energy supplies are extraordinarily prominent issues in international affairs, and will compel continued American and Western attention. For these and other reasons, the region is demanding of Western military presence and intervention. Proliferation can interact with the Middle East peace process and stability in the Gulf and the Mediterranean. The potential for new nuclear powers in the region, coupled with the deployment of missiles of increasing range,could profoundly alter the calculus of Western intervention and engagement in the Middle East. So, too, could a shift to a "world of defenses," operationally and strategically. And as the 2003 war against Iraq shows, the issue of WMD possession and potential use can be a casus belli in its own right.

Finally, and to a growing extent, American concerns about WMD capabilities in the Middle East reflect a more profound concern about the security of the U.S. homeland itself, especially after September 11.3 The prominence of international terrorism with ties to the Middle East together with the growing lethality of the "new terrorism" pose the risk of terrorist use of WMD on American territory.4 The easy mobility of people, materials, and technology means that proliferation in the Middle East is not a remote phenomenon for the United States and its allies. Whether delivered by missiles or couriers, highly destructive weapons are the most dramatic illustration of the transregional character of the

new security environment. The growing reach of these weapons challenges traditional notions of regional security. Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Eurasia, and the Western Hemisphere are now far more interdependent in security terms. The spread of WMD in the Middle East affects security on a global basis, and developments far afield can influence patterns of proliferation inside the region.

In recent years, international concern about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the Middle East has increased significantly. The actual use of chemical agents by Iraq, the active accumulation of WMD by Iran, Iraq, and Libya, and the introduction of long range surface-to surface missiles (SSMs) into the region have leant greater urgency to regional and international initiatives to achieve effective arms control measures. Yet, the prospects for creating the political conditions necessary to achieve such agreements, let alone the complete elimination of WMD in the region, remain very uncertain.

See Henry Sokolski, "Post 9/11 Nonproliferation, " *E-notes,* Foreign Policy Research Institute, January 25, 2002.

See Gordon M. Burck and Charles E. Flowerree, *International Handbook on Chemical Weapons Proliferation,* New York: Greenwood Press, 1991, pp.221 and 341-555 ; and Sterling Seagrave, *Yellow Rain,*

New York, Evans, 1981. Cited in Geoffrey Kemp and Robert Harkavy, *Strategic Geography and changing the middle east,* Washington D.C : Brookings Institution Press, 1997.

Although one could also argue that September 11 demonstrated the potential for mass destruction and disruption without the use of WMD per se.

Some of the most prominent terrorist incidents of recent years have a Middle Eastern connection, but historically the Middle East is not the leading venue for such incidents, including the attacks on the Americans. See Bruce Hoffman, "Terrorism Trends and Prospects" in Ian O. Lesser et al., *Countering the New Terrorism,* Santa Monica, Calif,: RAND, MR-989-AF, 1999.

V. Key Terms

- UNSC - United Nations Security Council
- Veto Power - The veto power refers to a permanent member state's ability to 'cancel' decisions made by the United Nations Security Council
- Binding - involving an agreement that cannot be broken
- P5 - The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council; China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America
- Non-permanent members - Ten members of the United Nations Security Council which are elected every two years
- Non-proliferation - preventing a rapid multiplication of something
- Disarmament - the total elimination of arms
- NPT - The Non-Proliferation Treaty
- NWS - Nuclear Weapon States
- Proliferation - Rapid increase in the number or amount of something
- WMD - Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Scud - one of a series of tactical ballistic missiles developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.
- SSM - surface-to-surface missiles

VI. Guiding Questions to Help with Position Papers

- How has the Security Council previously tackled this issue?
- What is the significance of the veto power in regards to the Proliferation of WMDs in the Middle East?
- Which permanent members are greatly affected by this topic? Why is that relevant during final decisions?
- What worldwide precedents have been established that may affect the outcome of the debate?
- Why would Israel be so inclined to keep its nuclear weapons?
- How has the Iran Nuclear Deal affected the way in which nuclear warfare is handled in the Middle East?
- Are there any outside sources for nuclear testing from Middle Eastern countries that don't possess weapons?
- Is non-proliferation an achievable goal?
- Why do WMD play such a prominent role in contemporary Middle Eastern calculus?
- What have countries who are against the proliferation of weapons done in the past?
- How has the mass use of weapons of old war affected today's decision regarding the use of WMD?
- What is your country's stance toward the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Middle East

VII. References for Further Reading

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