[BDMUNC 2017s] Committee Update

Second All-Russian Congress of Soviet

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**Attribution**

Dais of Second All-Russian Congress of Soviet,
Summer Conference of Bright Dream Model United Nations Conference 2017
Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,


Guided by the perennial principle of ensuring wide participation, the academic team of BDMUNC 2017 strives to develop innovative academic materials while preserving the feasibility of topic structures, so as to deliver, as always, a series of unique committees approachable to delegates with diverse background. Rules and procedures are well respected but shall not serve as the limiting force, so that all participants would be able to fully acquire the pedagogical essence of each committee.

With rapid technological progress defining our era, the side effect of technology is nevertheless being amplified. In “AI Now” Public Symposium 2017 and Shanghai Atmospheric Environmental Policy Forum, delegates shall closely investigate the impact of technology on social ethics and our everyday environment. Instead of engaging in diplomatic communications with little focus on details, participants in both committees will be inspired by the intimate nature of seminar-style conference design to rethink the two sides of technology.

Remote and mysterious as it seems, Catholic world before the Middle Age nurtures millenniums of Western culture and offers a wonderful historical lens for us to understand the modern era. In the First Council of Nicaea of A.D. 325, delegates are endowed with the eyes of priests to relive the excitement of a culture-shaping religious history.

Munich Security Conference reexamines the broad concept of “security” in the context of contemporary global geopolitical environment. Through intense decision-making processes that lead to direct confrontations, delegates shall fully unpack and understand the dynamic and subtle nature of global politics and country interdependence.

Institutions are the foremost social constructs. Pertinent stances, substantial background knowledge and legitimate power are key to understand the establishment and
transformation of political institutions through role plays. The U.S. Special Committee of the Presidential Elections Reform sets up a stage for the discussion on electoral reform to unfold, based on a solid understanding of election procedures. The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets, on the other hand, provides a unique platform towards designing a rational, effective political system.

Almost always, a nation shall serve as its own savior. The United States, in the middle of the Civil Rights Movement in 1964, faces a severe social turmoil. Senators of the United States Senate are anticipated to solve the dilemma of civil rights by clearly comprehending civil rights and establish absolute rule of law. On the verge of collapsing, the 1945 Japanese Cabinet have no choice but to move on, with the destiny of a post-war nation in the hands of its ministers.

Enjoy the conference. Looking forward to meeting you in July.

Bright Dream Model United Nations Conference Academic Team
Dais of Second All-Russian Congress of Soviet
SUN Haodong, Dais
CHAI Hua, Dais
SHU Xuelei, Dais
YU Yi, Dais
Committee Overview

Introduction

After the February Revolution, a Provisional Government took control of Russia. With the abdication of the Tsar, people rejoiced at the end of the monarchy. The whole country seemed to breathe a sigh of relief, and looked forward to the better future they believed Russia’s new government would bring. However, in fact the new government proved quite unable to deliver what had been expected. It was increasingly seen as a product of the old regime and as unrepresentative of the Russian people.

In July, the masses swelled again pressing their demands for peace and land, this time not finding any "compromise", but bullets, mass arrests and deportations. On October 25, 1917, soldiers and workers were storming the Winter Palace, renouncing the Provisional Government that for eight months had not met their demands of an immediate end to the war and nationalization of the land.

It should be made aware of that our committee is the Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets, the second convention of All-Russian Congress of Soviets. Therefore, it is important to have a thorough understanding of the concepts and functions of our congress.

All-Russian Congress of Soviets

The All-Russia Congress of Soviets is the supreme authority of the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic. It is composed of representatives of urban Soviets on the basis of one deputy for every 25,000 electors, and representatives of Gubernia congresses of Soviets on the basis of one deputy for every 125,000 of the population (Constitution of the RSFSR, 1918).

After the October Revolution ousted the provisional government, Bolsheviks made the Congress of Soviets the sole, and supreme governing body of Russia. It was a democratic body and a platform for soviets to discuss national matters. The Congress was formed of representatives of city councils (1 delegate per 25,000 voters) and the congresses of the provincial and autonomous republican councils (1 deputy for every 125,000 inhabitants).
The soviets elected the delegates to the Congress, and the Congress held the national authority, making the highest decisions (Hough & Fainsod, 1979).

However, as the civil war progressed, and the rise to power of Stalin, the soviets' authority was progressively reduced, and decisively turning the Congress into a puppet parliament. The congress was set to convene at least twice a year by 1918 constitution. However, the 1925 constitution reduced it to once a year. Then finally after the twelfth convention, it was disbanded and replaced by the Supreme Soviet of Russia in 1937.

**The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets**

The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets was convened in Smolny Institute from 25 to 27 October (7 to 9 November), 1917. By nightfall of 25, delegates swarmed into the Smolny Institute, and the Congress saw the tide rise to an overwhelming majority of boisterous and sweating Bolsheviks; elected to the Congress by Soviets throughout the country. The 649 delegates nominated to the Congress of Soviets represented 318 provincial and local soviets, and 390 of them were Bolshevik, 160 Socialist-Revolutionaries (about 100 were Left SRs), 72 Mensheviks, 14 Menshevik Internationalists, and 13 of various groups (Kulegin, 1982).

The congress began in the assembly hall of the Smolny at 22.40 on 25 October, and coincided with the "storming" of the Winter Palace. At the First Sitting, the Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries proclaimed a declaration of protest “Against the Military Plot and Seizure of Power” and left the congress. Considering the question of power, the congress at 05.00 approved the “Workers, soldiers and peasants!”, an appeal written by Lenin and read by A.V. Lunacharsky, in which a transition of power to the Soviets was declared (Второй, 1928).

The Second Sitting started on 26 October at 21.00. The congress then passed the Decree of Peace and the Decree of Land, both written by Lenin. At 04.00, the Decree for the Organization of Power proposed by the Bolsheviks was approved by a majority vote. The congress elected an All-Russian Central Executive Committee consisting of 101 people. Then The Provisional Workers and Peasants' Government and the Soviet of People's Commissars, comprising solely of Bolsheviks (headed by Lenin), was entrusted with ruling the country. On 27 October at 05.15 the congress was concluded (Второй, 1928).
Topic Overview

In the real 3-day congress, it mainly passed the decree on several major issues and left plenty of others in the vacancy. Therefore, this committee expects to solve as many problems as possible in our 5 sessions. At the end of our committee, we do expect a Draft Resolution to conclude all the solutions which will outline the development routine for the New Russia as well as decree issued to be obeyed by all Russian citizens.

New government

Before the revolution, Russia was actually governed by a ‘Dual Power’ system which contained two political parts. One was the Provisional Government consisted of members of the Duma who had played a key role in pressing the Tsar in abdication. It was a temporary government which would run the Russia until elections could be held in November. Another part was the Petrograd Soviet consisted of workers and soldiers representatives, which looked after their interests and appeared all over Russia.

Questions to consider:
What should be the form of new government?
Whether it is ‘all power to Soviets’, ‘power to democracy’ or ‘coalition government’?
Should the new government cancel the election of Constituent Assembly?
If decided the ‘all power to Soviets’, how to deliver the power and form a new government?

The First World War

The Foreign Minister of the PG, Muliukov, promised the Allies that the government would honour its promises to them to continue the Great War to ‘decisive victory’. (Carmichael, 1962) But the Petrograd Soviet called for a ‘peace of revolutionary defensism’ – a war of defence to preserve the Revolution’s gains but without costly attacks on the enemy. Meanwhile, Lenin demanded an immediate end to the war.

Question to consider:
Whether the new government would continue the war or make peace?
Land issue

Many fanatic peasants had already seized land estates and formed peasants committees to take control over their villages. They did several things like cut rents and increased wages, but they expected to benefit from land reform soon from the new government. Also in the cities the peasants now had the guns of the deserters returning to the villages.

Questions to consider:
How to give the peasant land and pass the land reform?
Whether the land should be nationalised or privatised?

Workers in factory

The workers were mainly concerned with the problems of everyday living. Factory committees demanded an eight-hour day, better working conditions, more food in the shops, and better pay. Socialist agitators were active in mining and industrial centres where many workers took control of the factories.

Questions to consider:
How to fulfill the demands form workers?
What should e done to restore the discipline and order in factories?

Economic problem

Prices had increased rapidly since the war began. The government had been forced to print more money to meet the costs of war. Also food shortages and famine occurred in cities and villages which baldly damaged the living standards.

Questions to consider
What should be done to tackle the economic problems?
What would the priority of economic polices?

National question

The collapse of the Romanov dynasty encouraged many national groups to present demands for more self-government. The Finns and Ukrainians were the first to start national movement and got rid of the Russian governance.
Questions to consider:

Was the future of the Empire at stake?

Should the government fulfill the demands from national groups?

If so, how to address the problem, allow the formation of new state? Or give the right of autonomy?

**Armed forces**

In Russia soldiers and sailors set up committees which undermined or destroyed the authority of the officers. Some unpopular officers were killed. (Wildman, 1980) They called for a negotiated peace and demanded fairer treatment and better conditions. In Petrograd many units were strongly influenced by socialist political groups.

Questions to consider:

How to control the army effectively, and restore the order into it?

What should be done to prevent reactionary force which would be possibly overturn the new regime?

Here we just briefly list some of major issues that we expect to be solved in our committee, but for sure there are more possible points to be addressed during the debate. In the flowing updates, we will further present the problems in details. We would like to stress again that the ultimate goal of our committee is to build up the first socialist state while we are trying to solve the existing problems.
Rule of Procedures

Rules and procedures in ARCS are obliged to the overall framework of Robert Rules of Orders, including but not limited to the list of speakers, the template of speech, debate and orders to chair the committee. Apart from that, our committee has some new rules in certain parts of the session.

General rules

List of speakers
The Committee will have an open Speakers' List for the Topic being discussed. A delegation present may add their name to the Speakers' List by submitting a request in writing to the Dais, and may similarly remove their name from the list in the similar way.

Template of speech

Content
No delegate may address a session without having previously obtained the permission of the Dais. The Dais may call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion, or offensive to committee members or staff.

B. Duration
When any Speakers' List is opened, the speaking time is automatically set to 90 seconds. Delegates may also move to set a new speaking time at any time when points or motions are in order during formal debate.

C. Yield
A delegate granted the right to speak from a speakers list may, at least 15 seconds remaining after the speech, yield to another delegate, to questions, or to the Chair.

D. Reply
A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate may request in writing a Right of Reply. The decision of the Dais whether to grant the Right of Reply cannot be appealed.

**Debate**

**Content**

One continuously open Speakers' List will be established for the duration of the Topic, except as interrupted by procedural points or motions, caucuses, and introductions on working papers or formal documents (Draft Resolutions, Draft Directives, Amendments, etc.)

**B. Moderated Caucus**

A motion for a moderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open. The delegate making the motion must briefly specify a topic, a speaking time, and an overall time limit, not to exceed twenty minutes, for the caucus.

**C. Unmoderated Caucus**

An un-moderated caucus temporarily suspends formal debate and allows members to discuss ideas informally in the committee room. The delegate making the motion should specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed twenty minutes. The motion will be put to a vote immediately, and a simple majority is required for passage.

Tips: Rules listed above are only an extract of whole contexts of Rules and procedures for BDMUNC. Full content will be updated afterward and this generality is merely for guidance and overview.

**Special procedures**

At ARCS, due to the academic goal of our committee, we emphasize the advisory special procedures in pursuit of highly interactive and efficient discussions. Our focus is on the essential content of discussions, thus the general atmosphere is allowed to be free of unnecessarily strict rules. Here we provide further explanations on how we attempt to assure the quality of discussion and hope you read carefully to prepare in advance.
A. Personal Speech

In anytime of a formal session, delegates are free to move for a personal speech which should be passed by a simple majority. The duration should be set from 3min to 5min. The content of speech should contribute to the progress and move of whole committee, which could express personal opinions on certain topic, or summarise previous discussion and suggest following focuses.

B. Free Debate

This rule is aimed to enhance the efficiency of discussion and to provide more freedom on the communication among delegates, thus highly recommended by the Dais team. A free debate is encouraged to be considered besides moderated and unmoderated caucus when the floor is open during the meeting. A delegate should move for a free debate which requires a simple majority to be passed. Duration and topic of discussion should be stated. The delegate moved for the free debate would automatically be the first one to speak, and within the total time limit, any other delegates can raise the placard waiting for Dais’s call and stand up to make any response. A delegate could speak for more than one time.

Once again, we are aware that some of the delegates maybe have little experience on MUN conferences, especially historical special agencies. Therefore, at the formal sessions we would further explain the rules, and please feel free to sound any confusions you have.
Role Application

This committee is consisted of 4 main party groups: Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, Right Social Revolutionaries and Left-Wing Socialist-Revolutionaries. Delegates will play the role of real individual politicians who are strongly guided by different ideologies. However, the members belonged in one party might also have disagreements and fractions within the party itself, holding individual views on certain specific issues. In this role application part, we will briefly introduce the four parties at first, then we require documents to apply on some specific roles.

Introduction

A. Bolshevik:
Bolshevik in Russian literally means “the majority”, and it was originated from the Second Congress of the Social Democratic Labour Party in 1903. At that time, two major leaders of SDLP, Lenin and Martov, argued with each other over the future structures of the party, whether it should be a smaller party with professional revolutionists and massive non-party supporters or a party that consist of a large number of activists. In the final vote, Lenin’s idea got majority support and he led them form the Bolshevik Party out of the SDLP (Simkin, 1997).

Bolsheviks wanted to drag Russia from the First world war and establish the dictatorship of proletariat, it partly participated in the revolution in 1905 and Russian State Duma, but it mainly gained the support from the low-class people which are industrial workers and soldiers.

In February Revolution and October Revolution in 1917, the Bolshevik Party, with the well-organized base among agitated people, overthrew the Tsarist government and prevailed the battle with Bourgeois provisional government successfully under the command of Lenin. Therefore, the first Soviet regime was established in Russia.

B. Menshevik:
Menshevik in Russian means the opposite of Bolshevik, the “minority”, which was also originated from the Second Congress of the Social Democrat Labour Party in 1903. The remaining members of SDLP who followed the idea of Martov named themselves as Menshevik.
Mensheviks were more moderate and favouring liberal than Bolsheviks. They believed party should be democratic, allowing it members to have a say in policy-making. They supported trade unions to improve working conditions. Also they believed Russia would need a long period of bourgeoise democratic government during which the workers should develop class consciousness and the number of urban workers (proletarians) would grow.

After the February Revolution, Menshevik partly supported the new provisional government, but its support rate decreased dramatically in the Russian Constitution Assembly Election. (Simkin, 1997)

Socialist Revolutionaries placed their central hope for revolution with the peasants who would provide the main support a popular rising in which could form a democratic republic. Land would be taken from landlords and divided up amongst the peasants. They accepted that the development of capitalism was a fact that would promote the growth of a proletariat who would rise against their masters. But there is no need for the peasants to pass through capitalism, which they could move straight to a form of rural socialism based on the peasant commune that already existed. (Acton, 1979)

After the February Revolution, the members of SR were the main components of new provisional government, and then it was separated into left wing and right wing because of their different ideologies.

C. Left Socialist Revolutionary Party:
Left SR showed their inclination to quit the First World War, publish the land reform laws and overthrow Kerensky’s government. So according to the overlap of ideology, Left SR cooperated with Bolsheviks in against of the Right SR.

D. Right Socialist Revolutionary Party:
Right SR members were on the contrary of the Left SR members, they believed the war should continue, and were willing to cooperate with the Party of People of Freedom which wanted to retain Tsar and construct a constitutional monarchy Russian empire.

List of Delegation
A. Bolshevik: (16)
Alexandra Kollontai
Alexander Shliapnikov
Andrei Bubnov
Alexei Rykov
Felix Dzerzhinsky
Grigory Zinoviev
Ivan Teodorovich
Joseph Stalin
Leon Trotsky
Lev Kamenev
Matvei Muranov
Mikhail Kalinin
Grigori Sokolnikov
Vladimir Lenin
Viktor Nogin
Vladimir Milyutin

B. Menshevik: (14)
Aleksandr Martynov
Alexander Potresov
Akaki Chkhenkeli
Fyodor Dan
Irkli Tsereteli
Isidore Ramishvili
Julius Martov
Matvey Skobelev
Nikolay Chkheidze
Noe Zhordania
Pavel Axelrod
Razhden Arsenidze
Seit Devdariani
Vasily Anisimoff

C. Left SRs: (8)
Alexander Antonov
Boris Kamkov
Dmitry Ivanovich Popov
Isaac Steinberg
Maria Spiridonova
Mark Natanson
Mikhail Artemeyevich Muravyov
Yakov Blumkin
D. Right SRs: (12)
Alexander Kerensky
Andrei Argunov
Avram Gots
Boris Savinkov
Catherine Breshkovsky
Ilya Rubanovich
Mikhail Gots
Nikolai Avksentiev
Nikolay Rusanov
Vadim Rudnev
Viktor Chernov
Vladimir Zenzinov

**Role Application**

It should be highlighted here that the seats would be partly open for application: some of party members who are of relatively bigger importance, would be assigned to delegates who prove themselves to be qualified through application. The rest of the seats would be assigned randomly to delegates who choose not to apply, though you may contact the Dais team if interested in any of the roles presented.

The list of delegations requires role application:
Vladimir Lenin
Leon Trotsky
Alexandra Kollontai
Aleksandr Martynov
Pavel Axelrod
Julius Martov
Alexander Kerensky
Viktor Chernov
Boris Savinkov
Maria Spiridonova
Yakov Blumkin
Boris Kamkov

Here list the respective requirements for the document of role application:
1. State the reason why the delegate chosen to apply is relatively important to others, how you will play on the role of him/her in this congress;

2. Explain and demonstrate your understanding of political ideology which possessed by the corresponding party, and what are the contributions of your role in the party affairs.

Please submit your application to arcs@bdmunc.org before 23:59:59, the 16th of May.
Future Updates

In the next updates, we will introduce the historical background of Russia from the Tsarist Russia in WWI to February Revolution, and ideologies including Marxism, Socialism and Leninism, political parties. Also we will further indicate the current situation and problems from the February Revolution to October Revolution. The writing of position paper will be required.
Bibliography


Constitution of the RSFSR, (1918) CHAPTER SIX, The All-Russian Congress of Soviets of Workers', Peasants, Cossacks' and Red Army Soldiers' Deputies Article 24