

Committee: Historical Crisis 1

Topic: OPEC Oil Crisis

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

In October of 1973, an international fiasco brought the world's attention to the question of whether oil and raw materials should be separated from politics or leveraged by countries as a political weapon. The effects of the crisis were far-reaching, and affected countries including the United States, Canada, UK, among others. An embargo proclaimed by members of OPEC sought to put pressure on countries supporting the Yom Kippur War⁶. Oil prices rose nearly 400%, pushing the affected countries into an economic downward spiral. The embargo was lifted in 1974² when peace negotiations were made between Syria and Israel. This oil shock was the first of its kind and had long-lasting impacts on the world economy and how countries thought about energy. This committee strives to promote collaborative debate amongst delegates that grapples with the effectiveness and fairness of the use of natural resources for political advantages and foresees a future with solutions to such issues.

III. Crisis Description

With the tensions between Syria and Israel intensifying, war began to erupt. Countries that provided aid to Israel were immediately treated as enemies of the Arab coalition⁵. Syria

responded by placing an embargo on all oil being exported. Countries that were affected included Canada, Japan, Netherlands, United States, the U.K., South Africa, and Portugal. With oil prices rising, countries affected were sent into an economic downfall.

Throughout the oil price shock, countries that were affected struggled to cope with the high prices of oil. Long gas lines and closing businesses were taking their toll⁴ and a solution needed to be found quickly. Political figures such as US President Richard Nixon and UK prime minister Edward Heath scrambled to find a way to resolve the conflicts between Syria and Israel. While the countries affected by the embargo sought to disarm the political power that oil-bearing countries carried, the feasible solution they all worked towards was seeing that peace was found between the Arab coalition and Israel.

IV. References and Research Resources

1. Chen, J. (2019, April 23) Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Retrieved from <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/o/opec.asp>
2. Corbett, M. (n.d.). Oil Shock of 1973–74. Retrieved from https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/oil_shock_of_1973_74
3. Ephross, P. (1998, September 20) Timeline of Yom Kippur War. Retrieved from <https://www.jta.org/1998/09/20/lifestyle/timeline-of-yom-kippur-war>
4. Kettell, S. (2019, July 12). Oil Crisis. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/oil-crisis>
5. Lallanilla, M. (2014, March 21). OPEC Oil Embargo: A Timeline. Retrieved from <https://www.livescience.com/44277-opec-oil-embargo-timeline.html>
6. (2019, July 28). OPEC enacts oil embargo. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/opec-enacts-oil-embargo>

V. Note to the Delegates

Thank you for choosing to participate in MUNSA XXIV this year and especially the Historical Crisis Committee. We hope this topic will be an engaging challenge for you to

participate in. If you have any conference-related related concerns or questions please feel free to contact us by email. We are looking forward to working with you at the conference.

Sincerely,

Camille Wiley - cwiley3823@stu.neisd.net

Alec Toland - atoland1461@stu.neisd.net

VI. Director General Contact Information

Joseph Ruelas - jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net

Dana Marion - dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net