

TOPIC:

1 November 1955, The question of stabilizing the conflict between Vietnam and the United States of America

Introduction

Dear Delegates of the Historical Security Council, I am glad to formally welcome you to the committee. It is up to you delegates to find concrete solutions to the events that took place during the day of the 5th of November 1955, this is the date the session will be held on during EGMUN 2018, anything after this set time will not count since the simulation is held on the 1st of november 1955, thus you must represent your countries accordingly to that time period, (i.e. everything before the 1st of November 1955).

It is expected of you to have done thorough research on this topic taking into account the sheer magnitude and seriousness of this conflict. Thus, you will find all the main events and decisions that have led up to this years councils session, but still you are expected to conduct individual research as well.

The Vietnam war is in its earliest stages, and the overwhelming cold war tensions are felt amongst Member States. It is up to you as the delegates to prevent further disaster in this ongoing conflict between feuding parties and other involved Member States. Just to clarify, the USA did not send ground troops to Vietnam until 1964, however they had given training and equipment, and massive financial support to the South Vietnamese forces as well as France, while the north was said to be heavily supported by the USSR and China. The delegates are expected to prepare amendments to build the resolution.

Background info:

Ever since the 19th century, Vietnam has been a colony of the French Indochina. But during the Second World War (WW2) Japan had invaded Vietnam. A political leader Ho Chi Minh who was highly influenced by Chinese and Soviet communism formed the League for the independence of Vietnam, also known as the Viet Minh. After WW2, Japanese forces withdrew from Vietnam after being weakened by Viet Minh guerrilla wars that were supported by the USA, and thus the highly French influenced Bao Dai was left as emperor. But there was resistance from the Viet Minh, so Ho Chi Minh took over the Northern parts of Vietnam and took the city of Hanoi and declared himself president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. But this of course did not sit well with the French, thus leading to an extensive conflict from 1946 up to 1954 between the French and North Vietnamese known as the first Indochina war, during this war, Communist China would support the North, thus strengthening the North Vietnamese forces which would prove to overwhelm the French. The French lost the battle against the Viet Minh forces in light of their skillful guerilla war tactics

in the decisive battle of Dien Bien Phu (May 1954) thus marking the end of French colonial force in Vietnam.

Following this development, the Geneva conference decided to split Vietnam along the 17th parallel. It was also decided that Ho Chi Minh would remain in power of the North and Bao Dai in the South. The treaty also planned for elections to reunify the Vietnamese nation in 1956. But in 1955 Ngo Dinh Diem who was an anti-communist rose to presidency of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam (ie GVN) this would begin the reign of South Vietnam. At this point the world stage was filled with cold war tensions, the USA had pledged support to Diem and South Vietnam. Diem received American support through military training and equipment. Diem would target Viet Minh supporters, he gave them the name Viet Cong (ie Vietnamese communist), Diem would arrest around 100,000 people, an a fraction of them would be either executed or brutally tortured. An estimate of 12,000 were executed.



BBC: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/asia_pac/05/vietnam_war/html/introduction.stm

Timeline:

1887- France has become a colonial power in Vietnam, with the territories of Cochin China, Cambodia, Tonkin and annam and later Laos

1923- Ho chi minh (Vietnamese nationalist) is being trained in the USSR as an agent of the Comintern

June. 1940- The third reich takes over France

Sep. 1940- Japan invades french indochina

May 1941- Ho Chi Minh establishes the league of the independence of Vietnam (viet minh)

Oct. 1949- People's republic of China is formed

1950- Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) is established

Jan. 1950- The people Republic of China and the USSR start to support the Communist parts of Vietnam following them recognizing those parts as being legitimate, USA does not recognize the Communist party of Vietnam and neither does the UK, instead they recognize the south vietnamese government lead by Bao Dai (French puppet) .

Sep. 1954- SEATO signed in Manila

Other sources of timelines strongly suggested to read and be STRONGLY aware of:

<https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/vietnam-war/timeline-of-the-vietnam-war/>

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/vietnam/index-1945.html>

<https://alphahistory.com/vietnamwar/vietnam-war-timeline-1955-1959/>

Stakeholders:

USA- The USA has been involved ever since the second world war in states that have been under threat from communism. The USA believes in the domino effect and will not tolerate the defense of democracy and ensure that there is not authoritarian rule

USSR- The USSR has been supporting all communist rising around the world even before the second world war, currently it holds several puppet states and controls a lot of european power balances.

France- France was the colonial power of Vietnam since the 1890s. France has tried remaining a relevant colonial power, but following agreements after the second world war and Japanese influence, France was able to re secure its once colonial power back in Vietnam

Vietnam- At this point Vietnam is highly divided, with a Buddhist majority and a christian leaders it is difficult to become united under a single political ideology since there is also the rampant growth of nationalism and communism. And the also being divided based on the 17th parallel.

China- Has been the second largest communist state under Mao Zedong to support vietnam in secret in its search for unity. Russia has prompted china's suit to communism and work closely

Important documents and UN resolutions or agreements:

OBS! All UN resolutions can be found in the following website according to year, please research these to understand previous solutions within all committees and years since the star:

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>

Geneva conference 1954

UK, France, USSR, USA People republic of China, would begin to attempt solving issues in regards to Asia. The focal point of the conference was the concerns regarding the disputes between Vietnamese nationalists who followed the commands of HO CHI MINH and the French who aimed to continue their colonial influence in Vietnam. Throughout these disputed USA supported the French. The powers would agree to temporarily divide Vietnam on the 17th parallel in aims to reunify Vietnam following election to be held in 1956. During those two years no foreign troops would be allowed to stand in Vietnam.

Potsdam conference

This conference was held in 1945, it would mostly focus on Europe post WW2, however, at this conference, France requested that all French colonial power would be restored in Vietnam that had been present before the war and thus this was granted by the World Powers.

Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) 1954-1977

This treaty, heavily influenced by Dulles had a goal of protecting regions in Southeast Asia from communist takeover and to form a prosperous future for nations.

Key terms:

- **Truman doctrine:** The notion that the US should support all democratic states in case of being threatened by authoritarian or communist powers
- **Domino effect:** The notion that if one state turns into a communist power other in the region will follow that lead
- **Communism:** A society by which property is owned by communities and each individual works to the best of their ability to achieve common prosperity and in return get receive what is appropriate to the given work.
- **Capitalism:** an economic and political theory by which the country's industries income is controlled on profit based income for private owners rather than the state.
- **Nationalism:** efforts placed by individuals in a patriotic manner to their nation and placing the nation as a priority.

Previous solution or attempts to the problem:

- The call for democratic election for 1956 to define a single government for Vietnam
- The Geneva conference
- Two state solution

Bibliography:

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