



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



6th Legal-Legitimacy of Taiwanese Sovereignty

Hello delegates my name is Faris Khan and I will be your head chair for the 34th annual MVHS MUN conference! I'm currently a senior at MVHS and I have been in MUN for 4 years now and love it. Coming in freshmen year, I did not know much about what was going on in the world, but now that I've been exposed to so many issues, it's really made me more aware of what goes on worldwide and how it affects many people. MUN has really improved my communication skills, and my debating skills, and I hope you will stay in MUN for all 4 years as well, and if you've been in MUN for 4 years good job. Besides that, I take some AP classes at school, and I am involved in some extracurricular activities: I am the president of MSA (Muslim Student Association), vice president of Autism Youth Ambassadors, and I am a member of National Honor Society. Also, every Saturday, I volunteer at the Fountain Valley Regional Hospital for 3 hours, and I have been volunteering there for 7 weeks now. In my free time, I love to play basketball, watch Netflix, and hang out with friends. I look forward to seeing all of you in committee and hope you have fun! If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at mvhsmunlegal@gmail.com.

6th Legal, or The Sixth Legal Committee of the General Assembly, is charged with making recommendations and establishing general consensuses on legal and arbitative matters. This committee is open to all UN member states who may contribute their opinions and ideas for how best to resolve the issues tabled. This committee thus presides over issues such as sovereignty, land ownership, and regional resource allocation.

I. Background of Legitimacy of Taiwanese Sovereignty

After the unsettling Chinese Civil War, a war between the Republic of China and the Communist Party People's Republic of China (PRC) in which the Communist party took over Mainland China, the Republic of China separated from Mainland China and kept control of what is today Taiwan. The ambiguous issue of Taiwanese sovereignty emerged when the Treaty of San Francisco was signed in 1951. The PRC and ROC were not invited to sign this treaty and Taiwan being sovereign was still uncertain, yet the ROC government claimed to have already taken control over Taiwan. This led to a dispute between the two and since then, it is still equivocal to this day. Taiwan's full name is even classified as the Republic of China, but many believe it should be a part of the People's Republic of China. Another branching-out issue is the participation of Taiwan in the United Nations. Taiwan is not a member in the United Nations, and China believes that Taiwan should not be allowed to participate because it is still a part of China and is not classified as sovereign. Many question why Taiwan does not reunify with China because of China's size, yet the effects of reunifying with China are harmful. Currently Taiwan is politically independent since it is not a part of China, but if Taiwan were to



reunify, it

would lead to a loss of political freedom. Jobs would be readily available, yet economically one would be earning a low amount. This is similar to the recent British-exit (Brexit) debate with money. The British believed they could sustain themselves economically which is why a majority voted to separate from the European Union, yet many economists believe it was not the right choice. The idea here is that if Taiwan were to merge with China, the Taiwanese would be worse off economically and politically. There are many arguments that can be made for this issue, and it is a topic that will remain prevalent for a while unless something is done to finalize a decision.

II. UN Involvement

The UN was mainly involved in removing the Republic of China's permanent seat in the United Nations. Resolution 2758, passed by the UN General Assembly in 1971, only allows the People's Republic of China to participate in the UN. This adds onto the dispute of the Taiwanese sovereignty because the UN does not consider Taiwan a sovereign nation, although it is considered independent at this point. The Republic of China not being in the UN delays the issue from being resolved as the PRC and ROC have no way of formally interacting. In 2007, Taiwan applied to the UN as a member under the name Taiwan, but was rejected because of Resolution 2758. The UN has only taken steps to debilitate the issue rather than arrive at a conclusion.

III. Possible Solutions

Up to this point, the PRC and the ROC still have conflicting ideals of whom Taiwan belongs to. For an effective solution, it should address both ideals and come to a congenial conclusion for the ROC and PRC. Currently Taiwan is not part of the UN, and it is important that it should be, so this could possibly be the first step in the solution to allow a formal meeting between the PRC and ROC at a summit or international meeting. Resolution 2758 stands in the way and a possible repeal of this resolution may be required in order to allow for Taiwan to be a member of the UN. Sanctions can be placed on China if it does not recognize Taiwan as a sovereign nation, yet this should be a last



resort if

China has still not recognized Taiwan as a sovereign nation. Incentives can be offered as well by countries to urge China to recognize Taiwan.

IV. Bloc Positions

Asian- This region is highly polarized about this issue, with China's closest allies siding against the sovereignty of Taiwan and those less influenced by China's hegemonic status being more in favor of Taiwan

European- The vast majority of Western states favor Taiwan in this situation, due to the fact that these states have the economic wherewithal to contradict China's views without facing economic pressures.

African- Many of these states have little opinion on the issue, but those that do favor Taiwan as they identify strongly with the struggle of Taiwan against China as many of them faced similar battles against colonial hegemonic powers.

Latin- Much like the aforementioned African Bloc, the majority of Latin states do not have a strong opinion of Taiwan's situation, save for those who can relate Taiwan's separation from China to their own revolutionary struggles.

Middle East- Many Middle Eastern states have strong economic ties with China and, as such, side more in favor of it than Taiwan.

V. Questions to Consider

- 1) How is Taiwan not being in the United Nations affecting this matter?
- 2) How can bias sources such as the media alter the people's view of Taiwanese sovereignty?
- 3) What incentives could be offered to convince China to recognize Taiwan as sovereign?
- 4) In general, how can China be convinced to accept a nation as sovereign which China believes it has control of?

VI. Works Cited

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