



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



UNEP: The South China Sea

Greetings Delegates! My name is Casey Surch, and I will be your Head Chair for the 34th annual MVHS Model United Nations Conference. I'm a senior here at Mission Viejo and I have been a delegate for six years and this will be my third conference as a head chair. With Model UN I have travelled to San Francisco three times. I am super excited to spend the weekend with you guys and thought you should get to know me a little better. I am a member of the Film program at Mission Viejo Diablo Heat. I ran three seasons of cross country, have been a member of several clubs, and when I'm not at school I'm working. My favorite things are the beach, chicken, and my cat. I'm elated to learn from you guys and debate these topics. Remember to be respectful of the topics, but also have tons of fun! Email any questions and your position papers to mvhsmununep@gmail.com. See ya soon!

I. Background

The South China Sea has existed for millions of years. Nations like China, the Philippines, Japan, and Vietnam have only existed for a fraction of that. In the short course of these countries interactions we have found conflict in governance, trade, war, crime, and an ecological crisis. The issue in the South China Sea has no clear beginning. Problems can be traced back to 1876 when China made its first official claims on the Paracels Islands. The Sino-French war breaking out was one of the first modern wars in the sea. Territories from Korea to Indonesia were invaded and natives lost power. Countries like France and China claimed territories through conquering. The people of these nations began to desire self-governance or want a change.

Codependency was huge in this region as even enemies kept each other alive. China rented out the port of Shanghai to France for 99 years thus proving the necessity of each other in the region. The boom of trade in this area led to growth. Nations went on the offensive to control the material rich area of the South China Sea. As changes of ownership in Vietnam, the Philippines, Tai Wan, and Hong Kong occurred, China kept pushing boundaries claiming control of the Paracels Islands and the Spratly islands. Disputes over these two regions are still present today.

With the conflict over control of the region came a humanitarian conflict. Violence in the 1990's led to internal conflict. Attacks on alleged pirates led to crimes and multiple allegations. This violence has led to China testing military weapons and military operations in the disputed regions. These techniques not only anger other nations, but damage the weak ecosystems of the islands.

The South China Sea is in danger. The Philippines sued China over the dumping and destruction of the sea. As China pushes its aggression to control this sea they have taken on the burden of island construction. Not only is this an offense tactic, but a reckless one. Billions of creatures are killed and lose their homes due to artificial construction. This hazardous process is increasing each year. With the destruction of habitats comes the decimation of species. Clams are being overfished and the lack of a ruling body leaves these creatures and many others to quickly become endangered. Poaching in this region has led to an increase in crime and piracy. Methods to fish include cyanide, dynamite, and other harmful chemicals. The use of these methods is inhumane and illicit.



Mission Viejo High School MUN

34th Annual Conference

Vox Populi



II. Past UN Involvement

UNCLOS is a major treaty and document binding restrictions on international waters and control. The document restricts on the ownership of land in the South China Sea. The legitimacy of this document is not huge as many parties break separate clauses. The Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia 2003 worked to neutralize tensions. This helped in communications, yet nations refused to back down. This led to a tricky situation causing a lack of foreign intervention from neighbor states. The creation of a free trade area led to an increase of exports. While this increased trade, the fragile ecosystems have collapsed in part due to traffic and waste. The UN Security Council has referred the South China Sea to the agenda as recently as May. The issue is one of the world's most pressing as violence against people and our planet occurs.

III. Possible Solutions

In order to solve this issue, delegates need to resolve an issue with the environment, political powers, economies, and crime. Policy ranges from regional ties to public interests. NATO bloc will ally with Japan and Korea and focusing on the environment and the dangers it faces. Delegates need to resolve issues with overfishing, island creation, waste, and harmful fishing tactics. Setting community standards and police forces are vital tools for the region. Keeping in mind the nations like China and Vietnam fighting for land, a committee can only resolve the issues through compromise and respect. China and allies will focus on following the policies set. China is legally responsible for most of the land and waters claimed. With this the nations must protect their claims at all costs. This bloc will work on negotiations to control land and continue the lifestyle the government runs. Vietnam and other local island nations will focus on protecting their claims. These countries must compromise to keep their claims. These countries have gone to war and face much crime from the South China Sea. TO work together, delegates must rework existing compromises and set new environmental standards. Nations must respect individual country policies. Remember to work together for each countries desires, but every individual needs as you ease tension in the South China Sea... Good luck!

IV. Country Blocs

African: Focus would be on trade. With China as a huge trading ally focus on keeping your partners is huge.

Asian: Mixed solutions in the region. Tensions go with each partnership. Policies include preservation of your nation and stability to the region. Focus on economy, political stance, and preservation of the environment.

Western: This block emphasizes stability and the environment. Focus on regulations and peacefully resolving issues in the region. Promotes democracy and peace. Set ecological standards.

Latin: Focus would be on trade. With Asia as a huge trading ally focus on keeping your partners is huge.

Middle Eastern: This issue is close to home as you focus on issues like piracy, island creation, and trade.



Mission Viejo High School MUN
34th Annual Conference
Vox Populi



V. Guiding Questions

1. What agreements/solutions has my nation sponsored?
2. Where are my nation's trade interests? Will sanctions benefit our beliefs?
3. Is this topic severe enough to call for military action? Other action?
4. How can my nation represent the voice of the indigenous people?
5. Is there any solution to protect the environment in the region? How much money? How many limitations?

VI. Works Cited

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/the-south-china-sea-crisis-next-stop-the-un-security-council-16397>

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/15/world/asia/south-china-sea-dispute-arbitration-explained.html?_r=1

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/09/06/experts-find-new-solutions-south-china-sea-dispute.html>

http://www.un.org/depts/los/nippon/unff_programme_home/fellows_pages/fellows_papers/ngu_yen_0506_vietnam.pdf

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/009083299276177>

