

Sino-Soviet Council 1955-1967

DUMUNC XXXV
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**Chairs: Rachel Sun and
Savely Zakharenko**

Hey Delegates!

Savely and I, as well as the rest of our dais, are ecstatic to be working with you this year in the Sino-Soviet Council. We are excited about the conversations that wait for us in February! Our committee this year is of great personal interest to both Savely and myself. This committee will serve as a historical committee with a bit of a crisis flair. We will be following the course of history with major events in Sino-Soviet relations between the years of 1955 and 1967. While we all know the course that history took, it is your responsibility as delegates to determine if history should be rewritten. You will represent members of the councils of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. While diplomacy and the mutual benefit of both nations are of utmost importance, each of your main priorities should be the success of your own country. The decisions you will make throughout the weekend should reflect the course of action you believe is best for the prospering of the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and Sino-Soviet Relations.

As you prepare for the conference, I urge you to think innovatively about the priorities of your country during this time period. We would like to see your understanding of the global state during these years and proposed actions and priorities in your Position Papers, due during the first committee session (or before via email). Make use of the resources found on the DUMUNC website (www.dumunc.org) as you prepare to join us for DUMUNC XXXV! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at rachel.sun@duke.edu!

See you in February!

Rachel Sun

Historical Background

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the world entered an especially formative period, filled with international tension. Coming out of World War II, the Allies were charged with restoring world peace and order. However, with drastically different governmental policies, the Allies faced disagreements about their nations' visions for the new world. With The United States, United Kingdom, USSR, and the Republic of China all operating as major global players with varying interests, the state of international relations was uncertain.

The interest of the United States and the United Kingdom was always the promotion of democracy. While the Soviet Union and the Republic of China had been their allies in WWII, the US and UK saw the spread of Communism as a major threat. This concern made the Soviet Union and the Republic of China adversaries of the democratic nations. United States President Harry Truman came into office in 1945 at the conclusion of the war. Initially, Truman's policy was to maintain peaceful relations with Joseph Stalin and the United States' Eastern counterpart, the Soviet Union. However, as Truman began implementing American Foreign Policy, especially the Marshall Plan, Stalin began to resist American global actions. This initiated the beginnings of the Cold War, with the Soviet Union at odds with the United States. The Cold War was characterized by intense fear of Communism in the West, a focus on the development of military technology that could be used as a scare tactic and deterrent from active warfare, and an intense global environment with nations formally and informally declaring their affiliation of one of the major powers- the US or the USSR.

In 1949, the Chinese Communist Party emerged victorious in a Chinese Civil War, and Mao Zedong emerged as the leader of the new People's Republic of China. Given their ideological similarity and previous demonstrations of alliance, the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China made for ideal allies. This led to the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance, signed in 1950. The most significant facet of the treaty was the arrangement of a large loan from the Soviet Union to the PRC for the recovery economically of their nation post-civil war. The PRC's Communist ideology and alliance with the Soviet Union made them, too, an adversary of the United States.

It is this context of alliance and geopolitical struggle with the West that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the People's Republic of China enter the period of 1955-1967.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

With the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953, a major concern for the Soviet Union in 1955 the succession of power and how the new leader will continue with Stalin's legacy. Nikita Khrushchev became Stalin's successor and has been acting as the leader of the Soviet Union for two years. Khrushchev was a loyal follower of Stalin, but has begun implementing policies that do not align holistically with Stalinism. This was faced with mixed responses from other government officials and from international leaders, including Mao Zedong.

Preferring peaceful coexistence with the West, but not at the expense of maintaining the strength of Communism and the Soviet Union, Khrushchev has begun launching the Soviet Union deeper into the Cold War. Priorities for Khrushchev during this time include an improvement of life in the Soviet Union and the strengthening of Communism via the Soviet Union's success and prospering rather spread via force. This has manifested itself in the form of a more relaxed governing of the Soviet Union and approach to foreign relations with countries that became adversaries under Stalin's reign, such as Yugoslavia. Continuing with his vision for the Soviet Union is the top priority for Khrushchev. This includes initiatives such as the development of a military pact rivaling that of the West's NATO.

With regards to relations with the People's Republic of China, Khrushchev has maintained Stalin's support of Mao Zedong and the PRC via increased aid and peaceful interactions in accordance with the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance. However, Khrushchev sees the Soviet Union as the leader of the East and will not hesitate to cease support of Mao if the People's Republic of China becomes an obstacle to Khrushchev's vision for the Soviet Union.

USSR Representatives on the Sino-Soviet Council

Representing the USSR on the Sino-Soviet Council will be ten members of the Council of Ministers.

First Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union: Second in command over the government of the USSR. Responsible for coordinating the activities of other ministries and serves as highest advisor to the Premier.

Minister of Foreign Economic Relations: Responsible for administering foreign trade policy and foreign aid agreements.

Minister of Internal Affairs: Responsible for concerns within the Soviet union, especially oversight of the Militsiya, or the Soviet police force, and suppression of economic crimes such as private business.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Responsible for constructing and directing Soviet foreign policy, with both economic and political considerations.

Minister of Information and Press: Responsible for the dissemination of information to the people of the Soviet Union and maintenance of the Press.

Minister of Defense: Responsible for the military and overall defense of the USSR.

Minister of Finance: Responsible for the development and maintenance of the state budget and all monetary concerns.

Minister of Justice: Responsible for courts, prisons, probation, and maintenance of Soviet law.

Minister of Atomic Energy and Industry: Responsible for the supervision of the nuclear industry and development of nuclear warheads.

Chairman of the KGB: Responsible for the direction of the KGB, the Soviet Union's security agency. Focuses include intelligence and the secret police.

People's Republic of China

As of 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong has run the People's Republic of China. With the priority of continuing to grow the People's Republic of China into a global superpower, Mao has begun initiatives to restructure society. Industry is being promoted and agriculture is being reorganized. With the financial help of allies, the Soviet Union, the PCR is on the precipice of a formative moment in Chinese history.

In addition to bringing the PCR into world dominance, Mao faces the obstacle of recovering from years of internal and external conflict.

Land reforms and an empowerment of peasants to takeover agricultural development characterized this period. In 1950, the PCR engaged in the Korean War, requiring even more efficient use of resources within the country. Private businesses have been brought under state control and Mao is embarking on initiatives as part of his Five Year Plan for industry.

Chairman Mao held a great respect for Joseph Stalin and appreciated having Stalin's Soviet Union as an ally. However, as Khrushchev has taken power in the USSR, Mao has grown increasingly disturbed by the Communism that Khrushchev is promoting. As Khrushchev grows further away from Stalinist ideals, Mao has begun to envision developing a more Chinese Communism that stays true to the ideologies he believes are absolute. With this skepticism of Khrushchev, is becoming more hesitant about engaging fully in the alliance with the Soviet Union.

PRC Representatives on the Sino-Soviet Council

Representing the People's Republic of China on the Sino-Soviet Council will be ten members of the State Council.

Secretary General of the State Council: Second in command over the government of the People's Republic of China. Responsible for coordinating the activities of other ministries and serves as highest advisor to the Premier.

Minister of Foreign Affairs: Responsible for constructing and directing foreign policy, with both economic and political considerations.

Minister of National Defense: Responsible for the military and overall defense of the People's Republic of China.

Minister of Justice: Responsible for courts, prisons, probation, and the maintenance of law.

Minister of Finance: Responsible for the development and maintenance of the state budget and all monetary concerns.

Minister of State Security: Responsible for the direction of intelligence and security for the People's Republic of China

Head of the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television: Responsible for the supervision of the television, radio, and film industries, giving authority over the dissemination of information in the People's Republic of China.

Minister of Public Security: Responsible for internal affairs, especially the state police force.

Minister of Science and Technology: Responsible for all science and technology industries, including the development of military technology.

National Development and Reform Commissioner: Responsible for the direction of overall economic policy of the People's Republic of China, including international economic concerns.

Preparation for the Committee

The information here is meant to give you an understanding of the global landscape leading up to the time period of focus for this committee. In preparation for the committee, you should use this context to think critically about what the goals of your country and your position would be, and what actions can be taken to achieve those goals. Between the years of 1955-1967, many major international events took place. I recommend consulting a timeline (such as http://faculty.washington.edu/qtaylor/a_us_history/cold_war_timeline.htm) to understand what some of these events were and how your nation responded to them. This should simply be used to instruct your thinking about your country's priorities and goals as, depending on your collective actions in the committee, not all of these events will occur in the exact same way for our purposes and your country may collectively react differently.

Resources

1. 'Diplomacy' by Henry Kissinger
2. <http://php.isn.ethz.ch/lory1.ethz.ch/publications/areastudies/documents/sinosov/Kuisong.pdf>
3. <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/nikita-sergeyevich-khrushchev>

4. http://faculty.washington.edu/qtaylor/a_us_history/cold_war_timeline.htm
5. <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/general/onthisday/bday/0417.html>
6. <https://www-ceeol-com.proxy.lib.duke.edu/search/article-detail?id=46096>
7. <http://content.ebscohost.com.proxy.lib.duke.edu/ContentServer.asp?T=P&P=AN&K=96796522&S=R&D=poh&EbscoContent=dGJyMNLr40Sep644yNfsOLCmr0%2Bep7ZSsKi4SK%2BWxWXS&ContentCustomer=dGJyMPGsr0y0r7dMuePfgex44Dt6fIA>
8. <http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/china-1900-to-1976/china-1949-to-1953/>