



NGMUN IV

Ryan Sanghavi
Secretary-General

• Armaan Bhojwani
Under-Secretary-General

• Katie Cheung
Chief of Staff

• Oona Lundgren
Conferences Services

League of Arab States: Third Arab-Israeli War: June 11, 1967



Table of Contents

Letter from the Secretary-General.....	3
Letter from the Director.....	4
Sensitivity Statement, Terms, Historical Background.....	5
Current Situation.....	8
Regional Positions.....	10
Works Cited.....	12

Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NGMUN 2022! In our third installment of the conference, and our first installment to be held for a second consecutive year, we have developed some of our most ambitious—dare I say thought-provoking—committees to date. You must remember that you are representing the views of your country or your character, not yourself. This will be imperative as you debate issues, especially if you are advocating for a side of the conflict which you yourself do not believe in. We hope to see controversy presented with respect in committees such as UNHRC: Gay Rights or in the Arab League—in other words, we hope to see true diplomacy.

The Nobles MUN club has been one that has grown and developed significantly in recent years. NGMUN started as an idea between two dedicated members of the club, Will Whalen (N' 19) and Julia Temple (N' 20), before my time at Nobles, and NGMUN I was held my freshman year. Since then, though NGMUN's leadership has separated from the MUN club's leadership, our secretariat and daises have grown significantly with regards to their experience and their enthusiasm. The Nobles MUN club has outperformed our wildest expectations since my freshman year, with one of our recent accolades including Best Large Delegation at Harvard MUN 2021. Many of the award winners from that conference and from various others will be chairing committees for NGMUN this year; in other words, our staff is extremely driven, so you should trust their decisions in committee and you should feel free to raise any questions with them or ask for advice at any time.

I would briefly like to touch on our expectations for this conference. Firstly, position papers will be required for any delegate seeking an award at the end of the one-day conference. Not only will position papers expand your own knowledge of the issue and your delegation's stance, they also show your chair and co-chair(s) that you take your position at this conference seriously. Secondly, by all means you should be excited to debate and resolve conflicts, but if discourse between you and other delegates gets too heated, remember that this conference is a simulation. You should exhibit diplomacy, not hostility. Even if you are assigned to a specialized committee where fights and arguments are in the name, there will be no tolerance for directly disrespecting the character of any of your fellow delegates. With that being said, may this conference bring growth for us all. Thanks for opting to spend your weekend with us!

Sincerely,
Ryan Sanghavi
Secretary-General
rsanghavi22@nobles.edu

Dear Delegates,

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the League of Arab States at NGMUN 2022! My name is Katie Cheung, and I am thrilled to be your chair alongside my incredible co-chairs, Nate Madden and Ashley Wang. Currently, I am a junior at the Noble and Greenough School. I have grown up in Needham, Massachusetts where I enjoy playing soccer as well as running track (bonus points if you'll talk about the Premier League with me). Also, I have a bunny named Coda and love to go on hikes with my dog Maple!

I was introduced to Model UN as a freshman, and instantly fell in love with the critical thinking and public speaking it requires. Since then, MUN has become one of my favorite extracurricular activities, in which I've fostered some of my closest friendships. While Regional Bodies are my favorite, I have participated in all forms of committees at numerous universities. From presenting speeches during moderated caucuses to negotiating mergers outside the committee room, I learned to think quickly and formulate effective solutions to real-life problems. Whether this is your first or fifteenth conference, I hope to support you all in doing the same!

The Six-Day War, also referred to as the Third Arab-Israeli War, June War, or Naksah, was a brief conflict that took place between June 5-10, 1967. This committee will be taking place on June 11, 1967, just one day after the official end of the war. Throughout all three Arab-Israeli wars, the entire Middle East alongside global superpowers such as the United States, Great Britain, and France were cast into political, social, and economic turmoil. With nations such as Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Egypt rising to the forefront of the conflict, Israel's capture of the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and Golan Heights has left a myriad of questions regarding the region's future. As the world would later learn, tens of thousands of casualties resulted from less than a week of warfare, highlighting the dire need for intergovernmental collaboration.

Lastly, it is important to recognize that participating in Model UN within the United States is a privilege others around the world cannot access. This committee is an amazing opportunity to not only develop public speaking skills and diplomacy, but also to create a comfortable environment for everyone to share their voice. I encourage you to conduct research beyond this background guide, and begin to think of creative yet pragmatic solutions. Additionally, the more prepared you are to contribute and discuss with your fellow delegates, the more you will take away from this committee.

Please send position papers to my email below, and if you have any questions or concerns be sure to reach out. I look forward to a stellar day of debate, collaboration, and, of course, fun!

Best,

Katie Cheung

kcheung23@nobles.edu

SENSITIVITY STATEMENT

While the issues you debate are on the world stage, we ask that you debate with a high level of respect and sensitivity for others. Specifically when discussing the Israeli-Arab Wars, any anti-semitism or Islamophobia along with racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination will not be tolerated in committee. Any discriminatory language or ideas in speeches, resolutions, or at any other point in the conference is prohibited and will not be tolerated at NGMUN.

TERMS

1. Haganah: Zionist military organization representing the majority of the Jews in Palestine from 1920 to 1948
2. To nationalize: transfer (a major branch of industry or commerce) from private to state ownership or control
3. Annexation: when one state claims sovereignty over a territory and that claim is recognized

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

First Arab-Israeli War

The War of 1948, also known as the War of Independence, began on May 15, 1948 when five military units, from the armies of Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq, invaded Israel following the termination of the British mandate for Palestine. The war lasted until December 1949, resulting in the fall of the Arab forces and the successful establishment of Israel as a state (see Map 1). Despite the immense military personnel and equipment amassed by the Arab states, the Arab forces collapsed due to a lack of motivation and education throughout the armies. On the other hand, the Israeli army deployed experienced fighters who succeeded through means of thorough preparation and organization. On May 12, 1948, intelligence provided by the French consulate on the Arab's invading forces and their plans to invade the newly established state greatly contributed to Israel's success in confronting the Arab invasion.¹

Although the invasion by the Arab forces was criticized by the United States and the Soviet Union, its efforts were applauded by the Republic of China. The initial plans for the Arab army included the annexation of Tel Aviv by the Egyptians, and within the first stages of conflict, Egyptian forces advanced to within 16 miles of the city.² The original plan had also included Syrian and Lebanese forces invading from the north while Jordanian and Iraqi forces invaded from the east to meet at Nazareth. Here, they united and pushed forward towards Haifa. However, Lebanon decided not to take part in the war just before the plan was sprung into action.

¹ Meir Zamir, "'Bid' for Altalena: France's Covert Action in the 1948 War in Palestine," in *Middle Eastern Studies*, by Routledge, 21.

² Jeremy Gypton, "Arab-Israeli Wars, 1948–1982," *ABC-CLIO*, last modified 2022, <https://worldatwar-abc-clio-com.ezproxy.nobles.edu/Search/Display/1301451.31>

There is evidence that this occurred due to secret negotiations between Israel and Lebanon's Prime Minister, Riad al-Sulh.³

Although two cease-fire agreements were brokered by the United Nations during the war, Israel and the Arab states did not formally reach an armistice until February. Israel gained territory formerly allotted to Palestinian Arabs by the United Nations Resolution of 1947. Egypt maintained control over the Gaza Strip and Jordan maintained control over the West Bank. These armistice lines were preserved until 1967.

Second Arab-Israeli War *see map 2

Commonly referred to as the Suez Crisis or the October War, the second conflict in this sequence began on October 29, 1956 after the nationalization of the Suez Canal in Egypt. Due to Egypt's growing ties with communist nations such as Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain refused to finance Egypt's construction of the Aswan High Dam.⁴ This ended 72 years of British occupation of the canal and signified the dissolution of Britain's colonial powers in the Middle East. Due to Egypt's infringement on the Egyptian-Israeli armistice through blocking Israeli ships' access to the Suez Canal, Israeli powers drove towards Egypt in an attempt to annex the valuable waterway that controlled two-thirds of the oil used by Europe.⁵ Israel was swiftly supported by French and British forces. After many days of conflict, Egypt emerged victorious from the Suez Crisis causing the British, French, and Israeli governments to withdraw their troops in late 1956 and early 1957.⁶ Now, Britain and France feared that Gamal Abdel Nasser, the president of Egypt, would halt shipments of oil from the Persian Gulf to western Europe. When diplomatic efforts to settle the crisis failed, Britain and France secretly prepared military action to regain control of the canal and, if possible, to depose Nasser.⁷ As the Europeans allied with Israel, the relationship between Israel and Egypt turned hostile due to Nasser's blockade of the Straits of Tīrān as well as the many raids by Egyptian-supported commandos into Israel during this time.

On October 29, Israeli troops crossed the border to Egypt towards the canal. As tensions rose, Britain and France ordered for the evacuation of Israeli and Egyptian troops from the canal and mediated a cease-fire brokered by the United Nations. The cease-fire between Israel and Egypt was adopted due to pressure from the United States. On November 5, British and French troops occupied then annexed Port Said and Port Fuad. The next day, an Anglo-French ultimatum was addressed to Egypt and Israel requiring that they both withdraw ten miles from the canal zone. The ultimatum also requested that Egypt allow a temporary occupation of the zone, which they rejected.⁸ Anglo-French powers then proceeded to assault Egypt in the Canal zone the following day. At this time, Israel still controlled the Gaza Strip and key points on the

³ Mahmoud Muhareb, "Secret Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon's Prime Minister Riad al-Sulh," *Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies*, accessed January 2, 2022, https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep12698?seq=8#metadata_info_tab_contents.

⁴ Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Suez Crisis," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Suez-Crisis>.

⁵ History, "Suez Crisis," History, last modified November 9, 2009, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/suez-crisis>.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Suez Crisis," *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

⁸ Charles Evans, "1956 Suez Canal Crisis," Nova Online, last modified 2010, accessed January 2, 2022, <https://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/evans/his135/events/suez56.htm>.

Sinai Peninsula as a result of the War of 1948. On November 21, the first UN peacekeepers arrived in the Canal zone.⁹ On December 22, the United Nations removed Anglo-French troops from the canal, and Israeli forces withdrew from the Gaza Strip and Sinai in March 1957.

With the conclusion of the Second Arab-Israeli War, Nasser emerged victorious as a hero for the Arabs and Egyptian nationalism. Israel regained shipping rights in the Straits of Tīrān, but failed to gain similar results in the Suez Canal. Finally, Britain and France lost the majority of their economic and political influence in the Middle East.

Map 1: Armistice Lines



Map 2: Second Arab-Israeli War



⁹ Evans, "1956 Suez," Nova Online.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

On June 5, 1967, Israel launched approximately two-hundred military aircraft with 18 individual airfields in Egypt as their target, thus commencing what is known today as the Six Day War. In a single attack, Israel diminished 90% of the Egyptian air force, and on that same day, desecrated the air force capabilities of Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, essentially gaining complete control over the Middle Eastern skies.¹⁰ But dominance in the sky was just the beginning as Israel simultaneously launched a ground assault into the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza strip, as well as deploying troops to Syria's Golan Heights and its eastern border with Jordan (see Map 3). On June 6, Israeli forces took control of Gaza, Ras el Naqeb, and Jebel Libni from Egypt.¹¹ Additionally, Israel began its conquest of Jerusalem by seizing its Northeast end, as well as nearby Ramallah, Ammunition Hill, and the city of Talpiot. After enduring over 10,000 casualties, Egyptian Field Marshal Abdel Hakim Amer ordered his forces to retreat and allow Israel to claim victory over the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip.¹² On the 6th, the United Nations proposed Resolution 233, which called upon "the Governments concerned to take forthwith as a first step all measures for an immediate cease-fire and for a cessation of all military activities in the area."¹³ Resolution 233 ultimately failed as it did not put a stop to Israel's fighting with Egypt, Jordan, or Syria.

Battle on the second front between Jordan and Israel saw its final day on June 7. On this day, Jordan pressed an offensive in Jerusalem by shelling Israel with a magnitude of guns.¹⁴ This attack by Jordan would end up being miniscule to the response that they had invoked. Israel proceeded to respond with a devastating counter attack on East Jerusalem and the West Bank, taking control of both locations. Seeing the continuation of destruction being unleashed on all three fronts, the United Nations proposed a second ceasefire initiative titled Resolution 234. The initiative demanded both Israel and the Arabs "should as a first step cease fire and discontinue all military activities at 2000 hours GMT on 7 June 1967."¹⁵ Though Resolution 234 was initially rejected by Egyptian president Nasser and Syrian regime leader Hafez Assad, Israel was able to persuade Jordanian king Hussein into accepting Resolution 234 after repeated casualties within the Jordanian military. The third day of warfare saw Israel assume control of Jerusalem, establishing the end of fighting between Israel and Jordan.

June 8th did not bring about any sizable shifting of claim to territory, but fighting against Egypt within the Sinai Peninsula carried on, despite the bulk of Egypt's military being in retreat. Finally, Egypt accepted Resolution 234 and thus the fighting along the Sinai Peninsula through the Suez Canal came to a halt.¹⁶ The final phase of fighting took place along the northern border

¹⁰ "Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

¹¹ "Timeline: The Six Day War". 2022. *Npr.Org*. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216>.

¹² "Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

¹³ The United Nations. "Resolution 233." *DigitalLibrary.un.org*. Last modified June 6, 1967. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90711?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

¹⁴ "Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

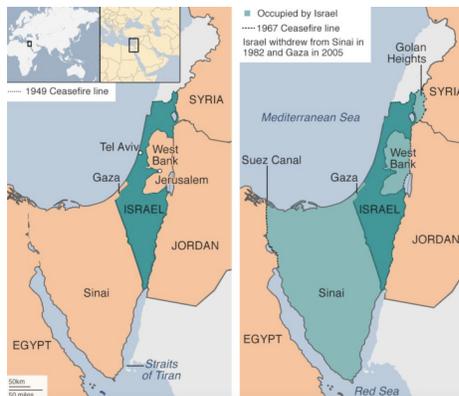
¹⁵ The United Nations. "Resolution 234." *DigitalLibrary.un.org*. Last modified June 7, 1967. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90711?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

¹⁶ "Timeline: The Six Day War". 2022. *Npr.Org*. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216>.

of Israel against Syria. On June 9th, Israel initiated an intense aerial strike against Syrian forces, and proceeded to send a great number of tanks and infantry into a crucial military region of Jordan called Golan heights. Within the following twenty-four hours, Israel had taken control of Golan Heights, but not without inflicting several hundred casualties upon Syrian forces. Also on this day, flaring political tensions forced Egyptian president Nasser to resign in disgrace of devastating losses, only to return to power after heavy public demand for his leadership.

By June 10th, Israel had killed around 20,000 Arabs, while sustaining no more than 800 casualties themselves. Israel emerged from the six days with significantly more land than it possessed prior to the war.¹⁷ The United Nations put forth its final statement titled Resolution 235. This affirmed the previous two resolutions as well as requested “the Secretary-General to make immediate contacts with the Governments of Israel and Syria to arrange immediate compliance with the above-mentioned resolutions.”¹⁸ At last, Syria agreed to the cease-fire and the Six Day War came to an end.

Map 3:



¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸The United Nations. "Resolution 235." Digitallibrary.un.org. Last modified June 6, 1967. <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90711?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

REGIONAL POSITIONS

Pro Israel

In the Six-Day War, Israel was the victor and principal combatant on one side of the conflict. This nation's main objective was to overtake multiple regions in the Middle East such as the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. Israel is looking to maintain control over its newly acquired territory and strengthen its global standing.

Pro Arab

The Arab states of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan composed the main trio that fought against the Israelis. Additionally, Syrian-backed Palestinian guerrilla attacks on Israel increased hostility between the two countries. These Arab nations hope to constrict Israel's geographic and military growth by regaining control over the territory that was won by Israel.

Beyond the Middle East

Prior to the Six-Day War, the US repeatedly rejected Israel's requests for military support and approval for an Israeli preemptive attack on Egypt. On June 6, 1967, Robert McCloskey, the US State Department spokesman at the time, announced that "our position is neutral in thought, word, and deed." When he was asked if the US would remain neutral no matter how the war developed, he said, "that is our effort."¹⁹ Also, while the USSR publicly declared support for the Egyptians by providing a modern air force, there were reports of Soviet delegates urging Egyptian officials to avoid any conflict that would involve the USSR and the US. In the 1960s, Israel also bought French aircrafts and British tanks. With underlying ties to various global superpowers, the six days of fighting have altered the world's view of Israel's strength and highlighted the disarray of the Arab states.

NEXT STEPS

So where does this leave the Middle East on June 11th? Israel has emerged as the uncontested victor, but millions of dollars in damage to the surrounding Arab countries follows in the war's wake.

The first issue is the handling of displaced persons. Over one million Arabs are now considered to be inhabiting Israeli territory.²⁰ Will Israel continue to occupy the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and Golan Heights? If so, will the Israeli government be responsible for taking care of the refugees living in these territories? Since national identity and legal identity do not go hand in hand, a refugee crisis is on the horizon.

The second problem that needs to be addressed is who is responsible for the resulting military damages. While Israel may have caused the bulk of destruction, it had also been the

¹⁹ "Six-Day War: U.S. Government Declares Itself Neutral' in the Arab War against Israel."

²⁰ "Six-Day War". 2022. *HISTORY*. <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war>.

most supportive of ending the war on June 7th which contrasted the Arab sentiment. The militaries of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria are not the only ones to have been depleted. Libya, Iraq, Algeria, Morocco, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia all provided backup military support to the Arabs after they lost much of its forces in the first few days of the war.²¹ As a means of replenishing their supply of ammunition and weapons, uncertainty regarding the possibility of these countries siding with Israel arises.

Third, the lack of stable infrastructure created by the Six Day War is a prominent concern. Critical roads and buildings have been reduced to rubble in Jerusalem, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In order to avoid further economic and humanitarian devastation, countries must formulate effective short term and long term solutions to restore public works such as bridges and highways to ensure the flow of commodities to critical institutions like hospitals, schools, and government buildings.

The final and arguably most important goal of this committee is to establish a legacy of long-lasting peace between Arabs and Israelis. On May 31, 1967, only a few days prior to the Six Day War, the president of Iraq stated that “The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear – to wipe Israel off the map.”²² The next day, Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol claimed that “Arab propaganda raised the contention that Israel is concentrating forces in order to attack Syria.”²³ As the explicit denunciation of opposing nations transformed into days of lethal warfare, the idea of peace and prosperity within the Middle East has slipped farther away. As a delegate, the success of this committee will be heavily dependent on each country's ability to compromise while maintaining individual country policy.

²¹ Six-Day War - Wikipedia". 2022. *En.Wikipedia.Org*. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War.

²² 6 Days War: Crucial Quotes | Survival". 2022. *Lessons.Myjli.Com*. Accessed January 2. <https://lessons.myjli.com/survival/index.php/2017/03/20/6-days-war-crucial-quotes/>.

²³ Ibid.

WORKS CITED

- Boddy-Evans, Alistair. "Timeline: The Suez Crisis." ThoughtCo. Last modified July 3, 2019. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://www.thoughtco.com/timeline-the-suez-crisis-4070809>.
- Bowen, Jeremy. "1967 War: Six Days That Changed the Middle East." BBC News. BBC, June 4, 2017. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39960461>.
- Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Arab-Israeli wars." Encyclopedia Britannica, May 18, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars>.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Suez Crisis." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Suez-Crisis>.
- Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Six-Day War." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Last modified June 8, 2021. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War>.
- Evans, Charles. "1956 Suez Canal Crisis." Nova Online. Last modified 2010. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://novaonline.nvcc.edu/eli/evans/his135/events/suez56.htm>.
- Gypton, Jeremy. "Arab-Israeli Wars, 1948–1982." In *World at War: Understanding Conflict and Society*, ABC-CLIO, 2022. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://worldatwar-abc-clio-com.ezproxy.nobles.edu/Search/Display/1301451>.
- History.com Editors. "Six-Day War." History.com. Last modified August 21, 2018. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war>
- History. "Suez Crisis." History. Last modified November 9, 2009. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/suez-crisis>.
- History. "Six-Day War." History. Last modified May 11, 2018. Accessed January 2, 2022. https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war#section_3.
- "The Global Six-Day War." Wilson Center. Accessed January 2, 2022. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/the-global-six-day-war>.
- "Timeline: The Six Day War." NPR. NPR, June 4, 2007. <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=10694216>.

Mayer, Thomas. "Arab Unity of Action and the Palestine Question, 1945-48." *Middle Eastern Studies* 22, no. 3 (1986): 331-49. Accessed January 2, 2022. https://www.jstor.org/stable/4283126?seq=2#metadata_info_tab_contents.

Muhareb, Mahmoud. "Secret Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon's Prime Minister Riad al-Sulh." Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies. Accessed January 2, 2022. https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep12698?seq=8#metadata_info_tab_contents.

“Six-Day War: U.S. Government Declares Itself ‘Neutral’ in the Arab War against Israel.”
Six-Day War: U.S. Government Declares Itself "Neutral" in the Arab War Against Israel.
Accessed January 2, 2022.
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/six-day-war-u-s-government-neutral>.

Zamir, Meir. "'Bid' for Altalena: France's Covert Action in the 1948 War in Palestine." In *Middle Eastern Studies*, by Routledge, 21-32.