

# Committee Guide

Historical Security Council



**The Six-Day War (1967)**



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## 1. A personal introduction to the Chairs

Dear delegates, welcome to this year's OLMUN!

My name is Sören and I will be one of your Presidents for the Historical Security Council 2026.

At the time of OLMUN I will be 21 years old, and I am from Germany. I am currently studying International relations (major) and History (minor) at the University of Erfurt. The rest of the time I spend riding my bike through the Ammerland and the countryside around Erfurt, doing genealogy research or reading fantasy or science fiction books.

I also regularly follow all kinds of geopolitical developments and international relations, a hobby more and more present in recent months and years...

This MUN will be my third time as a Chair, after previously chairing the ECOSOC (2024) and Security Council (2025) and following my first OLMUN experience as a Delegate 2023. Isabella and I are both preparing everything for our committee and hope to create a memorable OLMUN experience for you. If you have any questions and concerns, personal or otherwise, feel free to approach me.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all in a few months!

Best regards, Sören :)

Dear delegates, I also wish to welcome you to this year's conference!

My name is Isabella Meyer and I will be chairing the Historical Security Council 2026 alongside my co-President Sören.

I am currently 20 years old and I live in Oldenburg, Germany. As of August 2025 I work in a hospital as part of my FSJ (voluntary social year) while also aiming to begin my studies in medicine this fall. My hobbies include reading (lots and lots), listening to music, dancing and playing the cello. My favorite artists currently are BTS, Seventeen and NCT.

This year's conference will mark my fourth year as Chair (GA3rd in 2023 and 2024, SpC in 2025) and my fifth year at OLMUN overall.

As Sören said, we both are working diligently in order to arrange and create an amazing time at OLMUN for everyone involved, especially you! Should any questions arise, please don't hesitate to contact either Sören or me.

I am also definitely looking forward to meeting each and every one of you. Let's have a great time together!

Kind regards, Isabella :)

## 2. About the Usage of this Guide

To debate successfully, it is essential for you to have a vast historical and political knowledge concerning the historical events to understand the topic.

To help you, we created this Committee Guide, which will give you a short overview of the HSC and the topic in general. We will also provide you with further resources for your research. In order to be fully prepared we strongly advise you to read the Rules of Procedure, which can be found on our website.

First of all however, we would like to state that this guide is merely supposed to assist you in your research; it should **not** be your only source of information. We expect and implore you to conduct your own in-depth research, focusing on your country's individual actions and the conflict's progress. Therefore, it is necessary to also do some research on your country during the time of the historical conflict. Some examples would include its culture, allies, political structure, financial supporters etc.

Furthermore, for the sake of a fruitful and interesting debate it is important that you adhere to your country's policy and the historical accuracy, even though it might not align with your own personal point of view.

If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to reach out to one of us, we're happy to support you anytime. We wish you good luck with your research and hope it will be fun.

## 3. General information about the Committee

The Historical Security Council is a fictional committee that aims to simulate the Security Council at a specific point in the past. The HSC follows largely the framework as the Security Council, but adjusted to fit the Security Council from the time of the topic. As such, rules of procedures as well as the member states can vary from the present-day Security Council. Just like the Security Council, the HSC will have 5 permanent member states with a veto right. The veto states will always remain the same, except for topics set before 1971. In these Committees the Republic of China replaces the People's Republic of China. Furthermore, there will be a number of non-permanent member states that will be adjusted to fit the topic.

The HSC allows for delegates to explore a historical topic in-depth and get a look into the history and development of the United Nations Security Council. This year, the Historical Security Council, set in early June 1967, will discuss the ongoing military escalation and

creation of a long-lasting peace framework in the Middle East. To make the Debate as exciting and as historically accurate as possible, the Rules of Procedure as well as the member states will be adjusted to fit the Committee better.

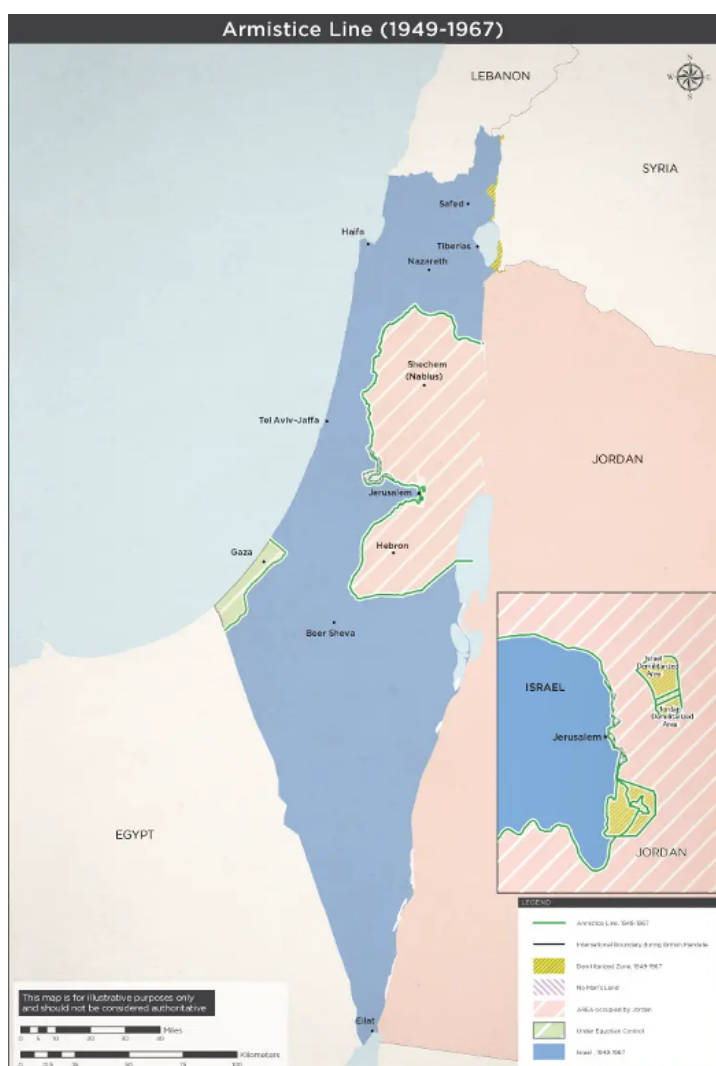
## 4. Topic Overview

The pendulum of history is currently swinging towards a catastrophe that could reshape the Middle East for generations. We stand in the sweltering heat of June 1967, and for the first time since the Suez Crisis 1956, the delicate architecture of regional stability has not just cracked - it has shattered.

The United Nations Security Council is tasked to arrest a slide into total war that threatens to draw the world's superpowers into a direct nuclear confrontation as Israel's right to exist is being put to the test by its neighbors.

The current crisis has accumulated over years of unsolved friction. Since the 1949 Armistice Agreements, the borders between Israel and its neighbors - Egypt, Syria and Jordan have been defined as "no man's-land". Some characterise Israel as being at a constant state of war: In the north, the Israeli-occupied Golan heights and Jordanian-occupied West Bank have become theatre border raids and constant skirmishes. In the south, the Sinai peninsula, once a buffer zone monitored by the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), is now staging ground for massive Egyptian troop movements.

The catalyst for the current state of "Maximum Alert" was the mid-May



Picture 1: Jew. Virtual Libr., „Six-Day War Maps: Israel's Pre-1967 Borders“.

demand by the Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser for the total withdrawal of UNEF peacekeepers. Their departure has removed the only physical barrier between the Egyptian and Israeli war machines. This was followed by the closure of the Strait of Tiran to all Israeli-flagged vessels and strategic material. Israel views this blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba as an illegal act of aggression and a *casus belli*; Egypt maintains it is a sovereign right to protect its territorial waters.<sup>1</sup>

***“The problem today is not just Israel, but also those behind it. If Israel embarks on, an aggression against Syria or Egypt, the battle against Israel will be a general one and not confined to one spot on the Syrian or Egyptian borders. The battle will be a general one and our basic objective will be to destroy Israel. I probably could not have said such things five or even three years ago. If I had said such things and had been unable to carry them out my words would have been empty and worthless.”***<sup>2</sup>

- Statement by President Nasser to Arab Trade Unionists (May 26, 1967)

The Arab Republics view the current mobilization not as an act of unprovoked aggression, but as a necessary assertion of Pan-Arab sovereignty against what they perceive as a lingering colonial presence. From the perspective of Cairo and Damascus, the 1949 Armistice lines are merely temporary “Green Lines” that have allowed for the continuous displacement of Palestinian refugees. President Nasser maintains that the closure of the Straits of Tiran is a legitimate exercise of Egyptian maritime authority, arguing that no nation should be forced to grant passage through its territorial waters to a state with which it remains in a legal state of war. To the Arab coalition, the presence of Zionism represents a western-backed encroachment on Arab soil, and the current military buildup is framed as a long-overdue rectification of the “catastrophe” of 1948.

The ghosts of the Suez Crisis haunt the present diplomatic deadlock, as the cessation of hostilities in 1956 produced only a fragile truce rather than a permanent peace settlement. While the conflict ended with the withdrawal of British, French, and Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula, the core issues - maritime rights, border security, and regional recognition - were merely frozen by the insertion of UNEF. Because the 1956 settlement relied on the presence of a “buffer” rather than a diplomatic framework, the sudden removal of UN peacekeepers in May 1967 has instantly revived the original *casus belli* of a decade ago.<sup>3</sup>

1 Bass, Warren. “The Six-Day War, 1967.” In *A Surprise Out of Zion?: Case Studies in Israel’s Decisions on Whether to Alert the United States to Preemptive and Preventive Strikes, from Suez to the Syrian Nuclear Reactor*. RAND Corporation, 2015, pp. 15-16.

2 „Statement by President Nasser to Arab Trade Unionists (May 1967) | Jewish Virtual Library“.

3 Oren, „Escalation to Suez: The Egypt-Israel Border War, 1949-56“, 367.



The “Red Line” is thin. A miscalculation by a single pilot over the Sinai or a stray shell in the Galilee could force the superpowers to choose between abandoning their proxies or risking World War III. The United Kingdom and France, their colonial influence waning, watch the Suez artery with bated breath, knowing that a disruption in oil flow would paralyze the European economy.

The UN finds itself in an existential crisis. The sudden withdrawal of UNEF has led many to question the efficacy of international peacekeeping. Secretary-General U Thant’s decision to comply with Egyptian demands remains a point of intense debate. The Security Council remains the last forum where a “Hotline” of diplomacy still exists. The mandate of this Committee is to replace the failing 1949 Armistice with a Permanent Framework for Peace, addressing the following three pillars:

1. **Maritime Sovereignty vs. Freedom of Navigation:** Can a legal compromise be reached regarding the Straits of Tiran that respects Egyptian sovereignty while guaranteeing Israeli access to the Red Sea?
2. **Demilitarization and the “Buffer” Concept:** With UNEF gone, the Council must propose a new security mechanism. This includes the potential for multi-national patrols, the enforcement of “no-fly” zones, and the cessation of cross-border fedayeen raids and retaliatory strikes.
3. **Resource Diplomacy and Recognition:** Permanent peace necessitates the resolution of the Jordan River’s “Water War” and the status of Palestinian refugees. A fundamental requirement is the shift from a state of “truce” to one of “recognition”; specifically, the right of all regional states to exist within secure borders must evolve from a matter of dispute to a matter of legal standing.

And the question remains: Which role is the UN going to play in the future peace framework?

## 5. Historical Research and Accuracy

How do I conduct research about historical events?

How can I reconcile my arguments historically correctly with my country's position at that time?

We have read a post by Erika Harlitz-Kern and would like to recommend it to you as you assess the historical accuracy of your arguments.

According to Harlitz-Kern, historical accuracy is not an absolute, objective “truth,” but rather a state of historical validity. Because the past is reconstructed from scanty, contradictory, and “tainted” evidence, historians act as investigators who must interpret biased sources through rigorous methodology. Accuracy is therefore a professional judgment subject to change as new knowledge emerges, **making it a “valid” interpretation of the facts rather than a perfect recreation of reality.**

Read the full post here: <https://ehkern.com/2013/06/20/historical-truth-vs-historical-validity/>

The Committee is set in time on June 4, 1967—the day before the war actually broke out. Please note that for your research and argumentation, you may utilize only those facts that were known at this specific point in time; you are strictly prohibited from basing your arguments on future events or information that emerged subsequently. Arguments that contravene this stipulation are inadmissible. In this regard, we refer you to Rule XXIX of the Historical Security Council Rules of Procedure.

## 6. Tips for Research

As of now, the only information you have regarding this year's topic is only going to be your own, private knowledge of the topic and/or the facts we've included in this Guide. That means it is now your turn to start your own in-depth research for which we've prepared some tips.

First of all, we'd like to state that we are aware that the usage of artificial intelligence as an assisting or even main tool to do research and write texts is becoming a rather prominent and recurring instance. We, as not only your Presidents but also former delegates of our own, strongly advise against heavy usage of AI during your preparatory work. In order to really get to know and understand the topic on a fundamental level, it is necessary to do

more than just copy and paste Chat-GPT generated speeches. In order to enable everyone to have fruitful, entertaining and efficient debates that will simply **not** be enough.

We are aware that we cannot force you to fully abstain from the help of AI, however we strongly implore you to do as much on your own as possible since we **will** be checking whether the documents you will be sending to us have been written by AI. Should that be the case, there will be consequences.

Don't forget to not only look up the historical incident of the Six-Day War itself: you should inform yourselves about the history leading up to it as well. Another important aspect of your research should be the country you will be representing. What was your country's role in the conflict, was your country involved in negotiations, tensions, conflicts, dependency on another involved party etc. What were your country's motivations?

See it as an opportunity to learn not only about the country and its history but the geo-political past that has shaped the world as we know it today as well.

In order to give you a good starting point, we have prepared some useful information that should definitely enable you to find your footing and help you with doing some ground work. We would however like you to use some other sources of your own as well: The better your preparation, the more fun the committee sessions are going to be.

## 7. What's Next?

In preparation, we ask all Delegates to research their own country's position on this conflict and to prepare a **Policy Statement** and a **Draft Resolution**. Please take a look into this year's **Handbook**, to familiarise yourself with the formal and content-related requirements.

We ask all delegates to send us their documents by **June 8th** at the latest. We guarantee feedback for all submissions received by **June 6th** and reserve the right to request a resubmission if we see significant room for improvement. As we are both very busy, we would like to thank all Delegates who submit their documents several weeks before the conference. These Delegates can then expect more detailed feedback.

When sending us the document, we kindly ask you to add a list of the sources you used during your research.

For procedural reasons and due to the historical nature of the Committee, all Delegates should have their notes and speeches available in **analog form** and not rely on digital devices.

## 8. Sources (Bibliography)

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## 9. Key Terms

- **Aqaba, Gulf of:** A large gulf at the northern tip of the Red Sea. It provides Israel's only access to eastern markets via the port of Eilat and is bordered by Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.
- **Armistice Agreements (1949):** A set of bilateral agreements signed between Israel and its neighbors (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria) to end the formal hostilities of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. They established "Green Lines" as temporary boundaries, not permanent borders.
- **Casus Belli:** A Latin expression meaning "an act or event that provokes or justifies war." In this context, Israel views the closing of the Straits of Tiran as a casus belli, while Egypt views it as a sovereign maritime right.
- **Eshkol, Levi:** The Prime Minister of Israel during the 1967 crisis. Known for his cautious "wait-and-see" approach and efforts to secure American diplomatic backing before considering military action.
- **Fedayeen:** (Arabic for "those who sacrifice themselves"). Paramilitary groups, often supported by Arab states, that carry out cross-border raids into Israeli territory. These incursions and the subsequent Israeli "Retribution Operations" are a major source of border instability.
- **Golan Heights:** A strategic plateau on the border between southern Syria and northern Israel. In 1967, Syrian artillery positions on the heights frequently shelled Israeli agricultural settlements in the Galilee below.
- **Hussein, King:** The monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Despite past friction with Egypt, he signed a mutual defense pact with Nasser on May 30, 1967, effectively placing his military under Egyptian command.
- **Mobilization:** The act of assembling and readying military troops and supplies for war. By June 1, 1967, nearly all regional powers had called up their reserves, leading to a state of total military readiness.

- **Nasser, Gamal Abdel:** The President of the United Arab Republic (Egypt). A charismatic leader of the Pan-Arab movement, his decision to expel UNEF and block the Straits of Tiran is the primary driver of the current diplomatic emergency.
- **Pan-Arabism:** An ideology calling for the unification of the countries of the Arab world. In the 1960s, this movement was characterized by secular nationalism and a collective stance against the existence of a Jewish state in the region as well as a movement for decolonization and Arab unity against Western influence.
- **Sinai Peninsula:** A vast, sparsely populated desert region in Egypt. It has served as the primary “buffer zone” between Egyptian and Israeli forces since 1956, previously monitored by the UN.
- **Tiran, Straits of:** The narrow sea passages between the Sinai and Arabian peninsulas. They connect the Gulf of Aqaba to the Red Sea. Their closure by Egypt in May 1967 effectively cut off Israel’s southern maritime supply route.
- **U Thant:** The third Secretary-General of the United Nations. He has faced international scrutiny for his decision to immediately withdraw UNEF forces upon Egypt’s request, citing the lack of a legal basis to remain without the host country’s consent.
- **UNEF (United Nations Emergency Force):** Established by the General Assembly in 1956 to secure and supervise the cessation of hostilities. Their withdrawal in May 1967 is seen by many as the “point of no return” for the current crisis.
- **United Arab Republic (UAR):** While originally a political union between Egypt and Syria (1958–1961), Egypt continued to use this official name until 1971. In this Committee, “UAR” refers specifically to the Egyptian administration.
- **UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organization):** The first-ever UN peacekeeping mission, established in 1948. Unlike the armed UNEF, UNTSO consists of unarmed military observers tasked with monitoring the 1949 Armistice lines.
- **Zionism:** A nationalist movement that emerged in the late 19th century, advocating for the self-determination of the Jewish people and claiming the establishment of a sovereign Jewish state in their claimed ancestral homeland.



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