



Delegate Preparation Guide





LETTER

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

It is my honor to welcome you to the inaugural session of Rocky Hill High School Model United Nations. As the Director - General of Committees, I am proud to witness the dedication, enthusiasm, and intellectual curiosity that each of you brings to this conference.

RHHS MUN I is the culmination of months of effort from a skilled team of writers, organizers, and leaders who have worked tirelessly to craft engaging and thought-provoking committees. These background guides serve as a foundation for your research, but it is your insight, critical thinking, and diplomacy that will bring these topics to life. Throughout the conference, you will step into the roles of diplomats and decision-makers, navigating complex global issues with nuance and collaboration. The debates you engage in, the alliances you form, and the resolutions you craft will challenge you to think beyond borders and embrace the true spirit of diplomacy.

I encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind, a willingness to listen, and the confidence to voice your ideas. Whether you are a seasoned delegate or attending your first conference, know that your contributions matter. Your words have power, and your leadership has the potential to inspire change.

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, I wish you all a successful and rewarding conference. If you have any questions or need guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to seeing you in committee and witnessing the incredible discussions that will unfold.

Best of luck, and welcome to RHHS MUN !!

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Director General of Committees
Rocky Hill High School Model United Nations



FALKLAND ISLAND CRISIS - ECOSOC

Introduction:

The Falkland Island Cabinet Crisis was a transformative event in British governance that held global implications for post-WWII relations. Provoked by an Argentine tactical attempt to seize control of the Falkland Islands - one of the British Overseas Territories (BOTs) - the conflict led to division in the cabinet of then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Esteemed and highly decorated members of her cabinet contended over their stances on whether to pursue a military or diplomatic approach to the potential war. In this manner, the questions that arose from this crisis set an important precedent for future conflicts, and the balance between applying militant force or political stratagem was defined.

Historical Context:

The Falkland Island archipelago, located about 300 miles (480 kilometers) off the coast of Argentina, has long been considered an area of interest and contention. With official claims by the British government as one of their British Overseas Territories (BOTs), yet with such close proximity to the Argentine nation, the Falkland Islands have provoked escalating sovereignty disputes between the aforementioned parties.

An Argentine invasion had been anticipated by British intelligence forces prior to its occurrence; the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) had predicted in October of 1977 that Argentina would attempt to invade the South Sandwich Islands, depicted adjacently. This group of islands, comprising the South Georgia Islands and the South Sandwich Islands, form one of Britain's most significant BOTs.

JIT's forecast proved true in March of 1982, when a seemingly unremarkable Argentine scrap dealer, Constantino Davidoff, seized control of eastern South Georgia. This invasion was, through the perspective of the British royal government, a declaration of war. However, Davidoff and his team claim they had only been conducting a business deal. Still, reports of the team planting the Argentine flag while playing the national anthem lends to their account some plausible deniability. In either case, this initial occupation in the South Georgia Islands set off what can be referred to as the undeclared Falkland Islands War.

There was no immediate official British response, as Foreign Secretary Lord Peter Carrington, who was responsible for foreign diplomacy, was abroad in Israel and Admiral Terence Lewin, who was the head Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, was in New Zealand. Keen to capitalize on this absence of a British declaration, the Argentine military junta, headed by General Leopoldo Galteri, initiated its invasion scheme for controlling the Falkland Islands.



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Under the guise of rescuing Davidoff and his team from British detainment, the Argentine military junta sent troops to escort them back to their Argentine homeland. While they were executing this mission for liberation, the troops simultaneously launched their invasion in April of 1982.

A month prior to this physical encroachment, however, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had instructed the Ministry of Defense to make a contingency plan for such a scenario. Having already attempted to take a defensive measure, this spurred her to be more proactive and vigilant in her fight as the British representative leader in this Argentine conflict. Nevertheless, the British government was ultimately unprepared for this turmoil.

Although such pre-emptive actions were taken by the British government, the failure to realistically acknowledge the potential of war was a highly contentious political topic. Lord Carrington was so affected by his failure to predict the Argentine invasion that he deigned to resign from his position rather than continue disgraced.

Subsequent to her attempt to implement defensive protocol, Thatcher realized that this issue with the Argentine government was sure to escalate. With this, she recognized the need to gain diplomatic allies in the conflict so that Britain would be supported on the global stage. She appealed to the United Nations' Security Council (UNSC), of which Britain was a significant contributor, to pass Resolution 502, a globally recognized official demand for Argentina to leave the Falkland Islands. In this manner, Thatcher ensured that Britain was backed by external forces.

Seeking guidance and acting consistently with the British procedure for war, Thatcher was quick to start formulating a war cabinet that could advise her on this pressing matter. It was formed on April 6th of 1982. While the intent was for this council to come to a consensus on the British response to the Falkland Islands issue, division in opinion rendered this objective unfulfilled.

Thatcher's war cabinet comprised some of her closest advisors: Francys Pym, Richard Luce, John Nott, Anthony Parsons, Michael Heseltine, William Whitelaw, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Clive Whitmore, and Sir Terence Lewin. She was also in close relations with Sir Henry Leech, though he was not an official cabinet member.

Although the cabinet was quick to assemble, coming to a consensus was a difficult feat for them. The members were split into two primary factions: one advocating for a diplomatic approach - consisting of Pym, Luce, and initially Nott - and another advocating for a military approach - consisting of Thatcher, Heseltine, Whitelaw, Howe, Lewin, Leech, and later Nott.



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Representatives:

Francys Pym - British Foreign Secretary (Diplomatic Approach)

Richard Luce - Minister of State for Foreign Affairs (Diplomatic Approach)

Sir John William Frederic Nott - Secretary of State for Defence
(Diplomatic → Military Approach)

Anthony Parsons - United Kingdom Permanent Representative to the United Nations
(Military Approach)

Michael Heseltine - Secretary of State for the Environment (Military Approach)

William Whitelaw - Deputy Prime Minister (Military Approach)

Sir Geoffrey Howe - British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Military Approach)

Clive Whitmore - Principal Private Secretary (Advisor, no stance)

Sir Terence Lewin - Admiral of the Fleet and Chief of Defense Staff (Military Approach)

Sir Henry Leech - Admiral of the Fleet and First Sea Lord (Military Approach)

The crisis within her own cabinet was compounded upon by a negative public opinion on Prime Minister Thatcher. With British citizens already discontent with her deflationary economic policies, government cuts, and resulting unemployment rates, Thatcher's career as a politician was up for stake.

Additionally, considering how Thatcher was the first female British prime minister, it is reasonable to surmise that the choices she made in her career would set the precedent for the British public opinion of female leaders. With this in mind, the Falkland Island was not merely a source of Anglo-Argentine contention, but also an incident that would define Thatcher's reputation. For this reason, she was determined to take decisive and affirmative action.



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Compounded upon by the internal strife in her cabinet and the looming threat to her political career, Thatcher's actions were being judged on a global playing stage. Foreign nations, upon request, took it as their responsibility to hold official positions on this crisis.

The United States in particular had a highly involved role in the negotiations for a resolution of the Falkland Islands War.

President Ronald Reagan strongly advocated for finding a peaceful resolution to this conflict. Although he initially did not intend to become involved in this matter, instead delegating the task to his Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the escalation of the conflict forced him to take an official position as an advisory council for the nations.

In this manner, US Secretary of State Alexander Haig played a key role as a diplomatic mediator, pushing strongly for a peaceful resolution in this Anglo-Argentine conflict. With a flailing reputation, Haig believed that a diplomatic success on this international stage would provide to his career a redeeming statistic. With vigor, he insisted that both parties should come to a peaceful solution, taking care to emphasize the neutrality of the United States in this conflict.

Nonetheless, when Resolution 502 was presented in UNSC, the United States voted in favor. In this manner the interests of the United States were linked closely with the outcome of this incident.



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Questions to Consider:

In your discussions, delegates will take the positions of influential cabinet members and key members involved in the Falkland Islands War and Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet Crisis before coming to a resolution. It is strongly advised that this simulation should treat this scenario as an ongoing conflict. While adhering generally to the situation's historical context is recommended, delegates retain the freedom to bypass historical accuracy during this simulation. To reiterate, delegates should not feel obligated to follow historical events precisely as they occurred.

1. Should the British's tactical response to the Argentine invasion be diplomatic or military?
2. What concessions can be made to address and/or resolve the internal divisions within Thatcher's cabinet to reach a consensus?
3. To what extent should international opinions be weighted in the decision making process?
4. How can the British government leverage Resolution 502 for their benefit?
5. What measures can be taken to prevent outright destruction of the Falkland Islands, leaving territorial integrity in the interest of its inhabitants?
6. How might Thatcher's leadership impact the British political stage?

Key Terms:

- **BOTs** : British Overseas Territories
 - Territories that are officially under the British government
- **JIC** : Joint Intelligence Committee
 - Works to gather intelligence on external military endeavors
- **Southern Sandwich Islands**
 - Candlemas, Vindication, Saunders, Montagu, Bristol, Bellingshausen, Cook and Thule
- **Argentine Military Junta**
 - Governing body of the Argentine nation at the time
- **Ministry of Defense**
 - Works to protect the nation against external threats
- **United Nations Security Council**
 - Works to maintain international peace and security
- **Resolution 502**
 - Internationally recognized demand for Argentine troops to leave the Falkland Islands



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