



Study Guide

Historical Crisis Committee

AGENDA ITEM

The Death of Hu Yaobang: Responding to the 1989 Tiananmen Protests

Chairing Panel

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Welcome

Forum: Historical Crisis Committee on the Cabinet of Deng and Zhao

Topic: The Question of the 1989 Tiananmen Square student protests

Co-Chair: Henri Cornec

Co-Chair: Wiktoria Pedryc

Dear Delegates,

We would firstly like to extend our warmest welcome to you. We are both looking forward to the negotiation and debate that will arise from this committee, and are confident you will provide insightful discussion. A crisis committee is unlike any other Model UN committee, as you have powers outside the discretion of the committee allowing you to achieve a number of goals. This in essence creates a situation where you can affect not only what your committee discusses, but the very topic of discussion, all whilst at the negotiation table. A historical crisis committee takes this one step further, allowing you to literally change the course of history.

For many foreigners, the Chinese government's response to the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests remains one of the main events governing their view of the People's Republic as a violent, authoritarian surveillance state. Now that China is poised to become the world's leading superpower in the years to come, understanding the causes and consequences of the student protests is more important than ever. Does it really not matter whether a cat is black or white as long as it catches mice?

With this in mind and keeping in mind the effects on the future throughout the session, we now turn back to the past. Following this is a detailed study guide that gives some background information for the topic that we will be discussing. However, we strongly encourage you to research material outside of this study guide, particularly surrounding your given cabinet member as you will be required to make decisions for which you may need to infer their stance for the social context in which they existed. In the appendices, you will find more resources on the topic of this committee that you may find useful and on how the committee will operate. We wish you happy preparation, and we look forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,

Wiktoria Pedryc and Henri Cornec

A Note on Preparation

This committee shall operate unlike any others at the conference, as will be outlined below, and as such there is different emphasis on where preparation is needed and an even greater demand for preparation. Committee procedure is an important aspect and we encourage you to attempt to familiarise yourself with the system being engaged. This committee will not have traditional country positions nor as much preparation material, and so – for you, and this committee to be successful – we recommend you spend time reading up on the nature of politics at play in direct relation to your given ministry, your cabinet minister, and the context of their life. This should give you a greater idea of what actions you can personally take, what decisions your minister may make, and allow you to think on your feet. Do not be surprised if there is limited information on your minister's positions, and do not be discouraged – we will seek to provide as many resources as possible, and provided you have sufficiently researched



their context, you should be able to make appropriate decisions. And of course, failing all of this, your friendly chairs will do their best to help!

Introduction

Each delegate this year will be stepping into the position of a member of the 13th Politburo Standing Committee of the PRC or of a senior member of the Chinese Communist Party in 1989, as it deals with the immediate aftermath of the death of party progressive Hu Yaobang. His death has become a catalyst for what has since become known as the '89 democracy movement, a push within most of the PRC - but especially Beijing – for more democracy, party accountability, freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The People's Republic of China has long had a history of dealing with protests within its territories since the end of the Cultural Revolution, and particularly with student-led protests. However, the student protests on Tiananmen Square starting in April 1989 surpass every post-Mao ear protest witnessed until 1989, with many students not only demanding a halt to widespread party nepotism and an end to the inflationary pressure that resulted from Deng's "opening up" reforms, but rather a fundamental overhaul of the Chinese one-party political system. Following the death of Hu, who many saw as one of the only reformers in the communist party, public mourning for Hu quickly turns political, mounting pressure on the Chinese leadership.

Committee History

The Politburo Standing Committee formed in 1928 has long been – with the exception of the Cultural Revolution – the most powerful government organ of the PRC and has thus shaped most of the political proceedings within and outside of China. The cabinet traditionally consists of the five to eleven members ranked in protocol sequence, i.e. order of importance. The General Secretary or Party Chairman are generally ranked first, with other top party leadership ranked in varying order. After the Cultural Revolution, Politburo members were no longer selected and expelled by a single person but are elected by a body of elders on the Central Advisory Commission. Even though the Politburo technically reports to the Central committee, it is in reality the most influential government body of the PRC and most of its decisions are regarded as de facto law. After Deng's economic reforms and the Cultural Revolution, Deng tried to reinforce the power of the Politburo. However, even though the CCP officially advocated for a system of democratic centralism, the Politburo had to compete with the elder commission of the Central Advisory Committee for influence. Deng himself sat on both committees which allowed him to wield great influence even after his official retirement. After promoting discussions with student protesters in 1987, even making concessions to them that would have ended one-party rule in China, Hu Yaobang was forced to resign from the Politburo Standing Committee and Zhao Ziyang replaced him. For the sake of this committee, the two chairs shall fill the role of paramount leader, with the delegates taking on the role of key Politburo members, with less relevant members to the topic not being present.



Committee Procedure

One of the more defining and challenging aspects of this committee will be its procedures, so we encourage you to read this section carefully, and the extra material, but we will also cover this in person.

Rules of Debate

The committee will be held in a similar fashion to unmoderated caucus and there shall be no speakers list, to allow for the constant dialogue needed to deal with the crisis. Points and motions shall still operate in a similar fashion and delegates may motion for an unmoderated caucus or round robin/round table discussion. Round robins are common in this type of committee, and their use is encouraged.

Committee Action

As in all committees, Historical Crisis also utilize written output, but the nature of this is at odds to the typical resolutions developed in General Assemblies etc. This committee has three main types of written action: directives, communiqués and press releases, as well as crisis notes on an individual level. These may be carried out as a committee action, or by an individual, a key aspect of this committee.

Voting

To pass a committee action (directive, communiqué or press release), a simple majority must be obtained of those voting (excluding abstentions), and need a quarter of the committee included as sponsors or signatories. All amendments will be treated as unfriendly and will be voted on during voting procedure. A motion and 2/3 majority is required to enter voting procedure, however no speaking requirements are needed.

Directives

Directives will be your most used and most useful committee wide action. Directives are similar to resolutions, but are made up only of operative clauses and involve concrete action, as opposed to recommendations. Directives are typically given creative or witty title so that they may be remembered. Directives can be voted on immediately after introduction.

Communiqués

Communiqués are messages from the committee to another person or organization, generally in the form of letters. At a committee wide level these are mostly used to send requests to other bodies, open negotiations or other similar activities. Communiqués are drafted to fit the situation in which they are being used, and thus can be as formal or informal as desired. A good communiqué has some background, specific purpose and appropriate tone



Press Releases

Press releases are statements made to the media in order to provide information, influence the thinking of or halt unrest in the public. A good press release is concise and with a clear purpose.

Individual Action

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of a HCC, individual action allows delegates to act beyond the approved committee action through their portfolio powers. As in this committee each delegate is assigned a particular person, with a particular ministry at their disposal. We therefore encourage delegates to be creative and find ways to maximize their potential capabilities, whilst remaining realistic – i.e using their ministry powers to impact variables outside of that sector. There is a lot of leeway in this regard, and the dais will be happy to help with any questions.

Procedure

Crisis notes are the method for taking individual action although they are very similar to directives and communiqués, and are sent to the chairs. Crisis notes should build on one another, often containing an overarching goal

Writing a Crisis Note

Direct – a direct style crisis note is written in the same format as directives, thus have a witty title, specific operative clauses and a clearly stated goal. This is to allow the dais to better understand what the delegate is hoping to achieve. Communiqués may also be sent in this style. The benefit of direct style their concise, clear and focused manner.

Letter – a letter style crisis note is written similar to the communiqués used by the committee. The difference however is that a letter style intends to create a longstanding dialogue with the delegate and dais through the format. Letter notes begin with the delegate establishing a point of contact (spouse, sibling, secretary, etc.) who will enable the delegate to carry out actions by receiving orders. Generally, after establishing a point of contact all future crisis notes shall be written to this person, including communiqués to others.



Definition of Key Terms

Opening Up – Capitalist Market reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping to allow for more rapid growth in the PRC

Tiananmen Square – Main Square of Beijing, often called the Gate of Heavenly Peace, located at the entrance of the Forbidden City. Mao proclaimed the PRC on this square in 1949. It also contains some of the PRC's most important monuments, such as the Great Hall of the People, the People's Monument and Mao's Mausoleum.

Democracy Salon – Small discussion groups that began popping up on Beijing university campuses to engage students and intellectual politically

Anti-bourgeois liberalization campaign – After Hu was forced to resign, the Party began aggressively stopping student campus protests and restrained political freedoms, taking aim at Hu and Western-style liberalisation.

People's Daily – Official Communist Party newspaper

Martial Law – Imposing direct military control over most of the normal functions of government, often overriding normal executive branch systems of checks and balances.

Topic Overview

After the Great Cultural Revolution and the death of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping effectively rose back from political exile, calling for widespread criticism of the Cultural Revolution in the "Beijing Spring". He also called for a holistic analysis of Mao's successes and mistakes, as he did not believe that Mao's hard-line class struggle theory would allow the PRC to develop the way it needed to after the economic damage the Great Leap Forward and the Great Cultural Revolution had caused. Even though he does not officially hold a senior party position, all major policy decisions of the PRC are taken in Deng's home in Zhongnanhai with a caucus of senior party members, called the "Eight Elders".

Starting in 1978, Deng begins implementing the reforms subsequently known as China's "opening up". Even though they are mainly thought of as the economic "Four Modernizations" (Agriculture, industry, science and technology, and national defence), it also includes subsistent



“opening up” to other “imperialist” superpowers. Not only does Deng meet with Margaret Thatcher to discuss the return of the territory of Hong Kong, but he even visits the White House.

Economically, Deng liberalises the Chinese market and makes it focus more heavily on exports. A new form of economic system emerges: Socialism with Chinese characteristics. This new system allowed China to quickly advance to a major nascent market economy which benefits many but also disenfranchises others. In these times of rapid change, many student graduates feel unprepared for a future in an economic system many do not understand, and rapid inflation is responsible for widespread uncertainty.

Adding insult to injury, the transition to a semi-capitalist pricing system means that regulations are still lax, a fact that a great many exploit. Often, these are friends and family members of senior party officials which angers the general population who feel that they are not getting a fair share of the economic growth that is starting to emerge in the PRC.

When Hu Yaobang, a prominent party reformer, dies of a heart attack on April 15, many citizens start to mourn publicly. However, the mourning quickly turns political as more and more students are blaming the central leadership for Hu’s death and for not implementing many of his reformist ideas. Political posters start appearing all over Beijing and soon, over 100,000 people are gathered in Tiananmen Square, demanding democracy, freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

We therefore find ourselves in our current position. The leaders of the student protest have just released their first written demands and are awaiting a response from the CCP leadership.

A position update shall be provided, giving exact details, on the conference day.

Politburo Members

Note: *The Chairs shall act as paramount leader Deng Xiaoping*

Deng Xiaoping – paramount leader of the People’s Republic of China 1978-1989 (retirement), Secretary General of the Communist Party of China in 1950s, undecided how to view the protests in the beginning, possibly convinced by party elders later on.

Zhao Ziyang - Premier of the People's Republic of China 1980-1987, Vice Chairman of the Communist Party of China 1981-1982, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China 1987-1989, General Secretary, views protests favourably, wants to engage in dialogue

Li Peng - Premier of the People's Republic of China 1987-1998, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, sees the protests as “anti-party and “antisocialist tendencies”, wants to crush them by military force



Li Ximing - boss of the Communist Party of China in 1989, part of the conservative wing of the party, sees protests as anti-communist and anarchic, favours military intervention

Qiao Shi - Chairman of the National People's Congress, ambivalent towards the student protests, apparently did not cast vote on whether to send the army on June 3rd

Hu Qili - former high-ranking politician of the Communist Party of China, supported Zhao Ziyang, in charge of political propaganda and favourable towards the student protests, wants government to talk to them à openness and tolerance towards students

Wan Li - Vice Premier of the State Council of People's Republic in China, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, reformist wing of the party, wants open dialogue and public debate

Yao Yilin - First Vice Premier of the PRC 19, students are "unpatriotic", in favour of a quick repression of student protests

Li Xiannan - Chairman of the National Committee of the CCCPC, supports Li Peng who wants to use military force to stop the students

Yan Mingfu - Leader of the United Front Work Department for the Communist Party of China, favourable towards the student protests (and their reasons for them): In charge of potential dialogues with the students

Qin Jinwei - Minister of Defence, opposed to using force and martial law on the students

Yang Shankun - President of the PRC, supports the student protests, praises Zhao's speech, changed his position opportunistically when it became clear that Li had more support

Li Tleying -

Committee Goals

This committee must now come together to successfully advise paramount leader Deng Xiaoping on what action to take. The People's Republic is in a fragile position, in uncertain economic times. The world is watching the newly reformed China, wondering how the authoritarian government will respond to the calls for democracy and accountability. In the face of these challenges it is of utmost importance that the Politburo show a unified and strong face to the public.



Each committee member will have their own goals and strategies, which must fall harmoniously under these committee wide aims of finding a, preferably peaceful, solution to this conflict, which reinforces the committees ability whilst not angering an attentive world community.

Further Procedure Reading

We strongly encourage the delegates to read this PDF if they find themselves lost or confused as what steps to take for preparation.



Crisis handbook.pdf

