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DRESS FOR SUCCESS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

ELZBIETA MYRLAK



Returning delegates always remember that one day during HSMUN when Sweden came in twenty minutes late in jeans and a crumpled “Beatles” t-shirt. Fashion and etiquette faux pas are as often a part of the Model United Nations as any other social event, but can be easily prevented if delegates take heed of a few simple rules.

Attire during the three day conference should balance on the fine line between business casual and business formal. For both genders this means the absolute prohibition of jeans (even black ones), running shoes, and t-shirts; for women it also means no mini-skirts or strapless tops. It does not suggest, however, that delegates must all wear the same black suit, and that they have no freedom whatsoever to show their country’s personality through dress. At the simplest level, men should wear dress pants with a dress shirt and tie; the suit jacket is optional (although probably desirable if you’re a global superpower and want to make a strong and intimidating statement); most female delegates should opt for a skirt/pant suit or a dress.

While the above may throw certain delegates into suffocation and panic, they neither have to sacrifice their entire savings on a formal wardrobe, nor drown in the sea of neutral colors to succeed at the conference. The key each delegate must remember is that they

are a representative of a particular country; thus, they should be clean, presentable, and wear clothes which allow other states to take them seriously so that they may best fulfill their foreign policy aims. That said, if the Estonian delegate’s only piece of business casual wear is a green dress, and the representative of China has a bright pink tie, they can rest assured that these constitute perfectly acceptable conference clothing choices.

Another fashion choice welcomed among more emboldened and culturally sensitive delegates is traditional formal wear (and accents) from the states they represent. For example, turbans and multicolored robes are the established formal wear of many African and Middle Eastern foreign representatives, and thus serve as a more authentic attire choice for delegates from these states than a black suit. Cultural garb further often proclaims to others at the conference a state’s willingness to fight for prominence in the international arena. However, delegates who plan to wear their state’s traditional formal wear should ensure that it is common practice for state officials to likewise do this: Eastern European states, China, and Brazil, for example, all have colorful and elaborate national costumes, but their representatives are always seen wearing Western-style suits at the UN and other international conferences.

Finally, the banquet is an occasion for all delegates to take out their most frilly, colorful, and shiniest formal wear, and dance away the stresses of debating foreign policy. The dress code for Friday evening is formal, so once again, no jeans and sneakers – this isn’t a high school gym dance. Tail coats, voluminous dresses, and sequined cultural garb are all welcome along with more traditional evening gowns, skirts, and suits. Delegates should prepare for a long night of sumptuous eating and extensive dancing, so super tight bodices, and extremely high heels are not recommended. As dancing barefoot is absolutely forbidden, bring a pair of flats for when your feet hurt!

PIRACY PREVENTION IS KEY FOR SOMALIA AND WORLD

SARAH FLOWERS

When most people think of pirates, they conjure up images of gnarled men with peg legs, eye patches, and parrots on one shoulder. However, in these modern times, piracy in international waters – particularly off the coast of Somalia – is becoming a global issue. On November 30, 2009, the Security Council unanimously voted to renew Resolution 1897 for a period of twelve months. This renewal allows for the authorization of both regional and state organizations to enter Somali waters, provided the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) grants permission. Acting under clause VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council extended an invitation to all organizations providing aid in the fight against piracy to conclude any special arrangements with nations who have agreed to take charge of any captured pirates. Provisions stated in the text include the call for states to “assist Somalia in strengthening its capacity to bring to justice those using Somali territory to plan, facilitate or undertake criminal acts of piracy and armed robbery, consistent with applicable international human rights law” (United Nations Department of Public Information) while also realizing that the policies put in place by the Security Council are only applicable to providing aid to Somalia.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO)



offered revisions to the resolution in an attempt to further suppress acts of international piracy. The organization expressed concern regarding three specific areas in relation to the Somalia crisis: the protection of passengers and fishermen, the need to provide continuous humanitarian aid to the nation of Somalia via ships chartered by the World Food Programme, and the need to preserve the integrity of the Gulf of Aden. The IMO particularly stressed cooperation between states in combating the dual issues of piracy and armed robbery.

At press time, a Greek supertanker, the VLCC Maran Centaurus – hijacked on November 28, 2009 – was released after at least \$5 million ransom was paid to pirates. The payment liberated twenty-eight crewmembers and returned the ship to port, where it was receiving support from a foreign warship before setting sail once again.

HSMUN DATES!

Thursday, February 18

6:00 - 9:00 pm
ETLC, NREF (U of A)

Friday, February 19

9:00 am - 4:00 pm
ETLC, NREF (U of A)
6:00 pm - 12:00 am
Crowne Plaza Hotel

Saturday, February 20

9:30 am - 3:00 pm
ETLC, NREF (U of A)

KEYNOTE: JOANNA HARRINGTON



The Secretariat is pleased to announce the Keynote Speaker for 2010: Joanna Harrington! Dr. Harrington is a professor of Law at the University of Alberta, specializing in constitutional and international criminal law. In the past, she has been a member of Canada’s delegation to the United Nations General Assembly and the Assembly of States Parties (ASP) to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and served with the Legal Affairs Bureau of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Delegates will have the opportunity to hear from Dr. Harrington at the Friday banquet.

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FOREIGN JOURNALISTS: ARRESTS, ABDUCTIONS, MURDERS

ELZBIETA MYRLAK

According to Reporters Sans Frontières, seventy-six journalists were killed, thirty-three kidnapped, and 573 arrested in the past year. As these numbers continue to climb, many ask whether man's constant need for information and knowledge of facts justifies sending innocent journalists to the world's most dangerous countries and war zones. While most journalists involved in foreign broadcasting realize the dangers they may potentially face, with violent and contested elections, hostile dictatorships, daily terrorist attacks, volatile wars and even Somali pirates, their jobs are becoming increasingly perilous.

One of the most highly publicized recent cases of disproportionate punishment for foreign journalists was the arrest and imprisonment of two US journalists in North Korea on March 17, 2009. Euna Lee and Laura Ling were sentenced to twelve years hard labor for illegal entry into North Korea, and they were only released by a 'special pardon' of North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Il as a result of the high-profile visit of former President Bill Clinton on August 4th. While Clinton's rescue mission certainly proved effective, this case was rare in its consequences: most reporters imprisoned for their work in totalitarian dictatorships are not spectacularly released by high-ranking diplomats, but rather forced to carry out their sentence, as they lack the connections, and their countries

the resources and influence for such a release.

Meanwhile Somalia, which has practically been without a functioning government or any form of official law enforcement authorities since 1991, is one of the most dangerous countries to work in for both journalists and aid workers. Canadian reporter Amanda Lindhout and Australian photojournalist Nigel Brennan were released by ransom on 25 November 2009 after having been captured fifteen months earlier by Somali kidnappers; they were reportedly beaten and tortured by their captors. Likewise, in November 2008, British journalist Colin Freeman and Spanish photographer Jose Cendon were kidnapped and held for forty days for their work on Somali piracy. Kidnappings of foreign nationals are common in Somalia, since they often result in large ransom payments (as in the first case, where a ransom of one million US dollars was paid for the pair's release) and they are practically unstoppable due to the state's lack of law enforcement.

War zones, which require frequent reports of tactics, military and civilian deaths, and troop movements, are also the site of many accidental deaths of foreign journalists. Each country involved in a war usually sends several prominent reporters to give an account of the conflict's proceedings; however, with sudden attacks, suicide bombers, aggressive enemies, and roadside bombs, the lives of journalists reporting from these hotspots are often in peril. On

31 December 2009, Canadian journalist Michelle Lang was killed along with four Canadian troops by a roadside bomb in Kandahar, Afghanistan; earlier that week, two French journalists were kidnapped by the Taliban in Kapisa province. In situations of war, however, where at least two opposing sides exist, and journalists are seen as much a part of the Western forces as the soldiers themselves, it is difficult to prevent such tragedies.

The aforementioned instances highlight the difficulties that both foreign journalists and the governments who aim to protect them face when it comes to safety and security. It is nearly impossible for the international community to legislate the safety of foreign reporters in states with authoritative dictatorships, difficult wars, or lacking functional governments. Any international resolutions made would not be enforceable in the states where journalists are most vulnerable, as it is impractical and illogical to expect states like North Korea, China, and Iran to agree to freedom of the foreign press, and states such as Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan to be able to uphold and enforce any press protection laws. However, as safety precautions on the part of both journalists, their papers and their governments don't seem to be enough to ensure their safety, and as attacks and kidnappings on the press increase daily, new solutions are more desperately needed now than ever.

BLOGS AND WEBSITES REDUCE STRESS, ENRICH DELEGATE EXPERIENCE

REBECCA THOMAS

HSMUN 2010 is nearing, and it is assumed that many delegates are putting the final touches on their topic research by accessing Google and various news outlets. Unfortunately, the overwhelming amount of information in cyberspace makes it difficult to narrow down search topics and find specific examples for committee topics. In order to aid you, the stressing delegate, the University of Alberta HSMUN Staff has provided two online resources guaranteed to turn that frown upside down.

One such provision can be found at www.ualberta.ca/~hsmun, the official website for the University of Alberta's HSMUN 2010 Conference. This website was designed to be comprehensible, accessible and maneuverable by teachers and students. And while we had the choice of "decorating" our website with flash animation and flamboyant advertisements (not to mention eyebrow-raising pop-ups), we chose rather to incorporate content guaranteed to assist our delegates. Examples include the schedule and location of the conference, our contact address, background papers, and UN Committee topics. The HSMUN website is an excellent place to acquaint yourself with topics, access research help and gain general conference knowledge.

Another enlightening resource can be found

HSMUN2010 University of Alberta High School Model United Nations



About	Welcome to the official website for the University of Alberta's High School Model United Nations Conference 2010!	Links:
Schedule/Location		HSMUN Blogs
Contact Us		- General
Registration		- SC
Invitation		- WHO
Delegations		- WTO
Resources		- DISEC
For Teachers		- SOCHUM
For Delegates	We invite you to join us for the 7th annual edition of the popular three-day simulation, which will take place February 18-20, 2010 . At the conference students step into the roles of United Nations delegates from various countries and Non-Governmental Organizations in deliberating on a wide variety of pressing international issues.	- HRC
		- UNEP
		HSMUN Media

at www.hsmun.blogspot.com. HSMUN's central blog is where important current events are discussed, and where important reminders and relevant web research links are posted. Separate committee blogs can also be accessed from the central blog page. The committee blogs are updated regularly by our dais, who post various research links to help narrow your search and focus your research. Videos and news articles from international newspapers and political magazines serve as excellent evidence to strengthen your

arguments. Check the blogs regularly for interesting updates; I promise that it will not take too much time away from your "homework."

The HSMUN blog and website are resources provided to you by the HSMUN staff with the hope that these resources will alleviate some of the stress encountered when researching. HSMUN 2010 is right around the corner, and if you haven't visited our website or blogs, you are missing a major component of the HSMUN experience.

HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS PRESS CORPS 2010

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