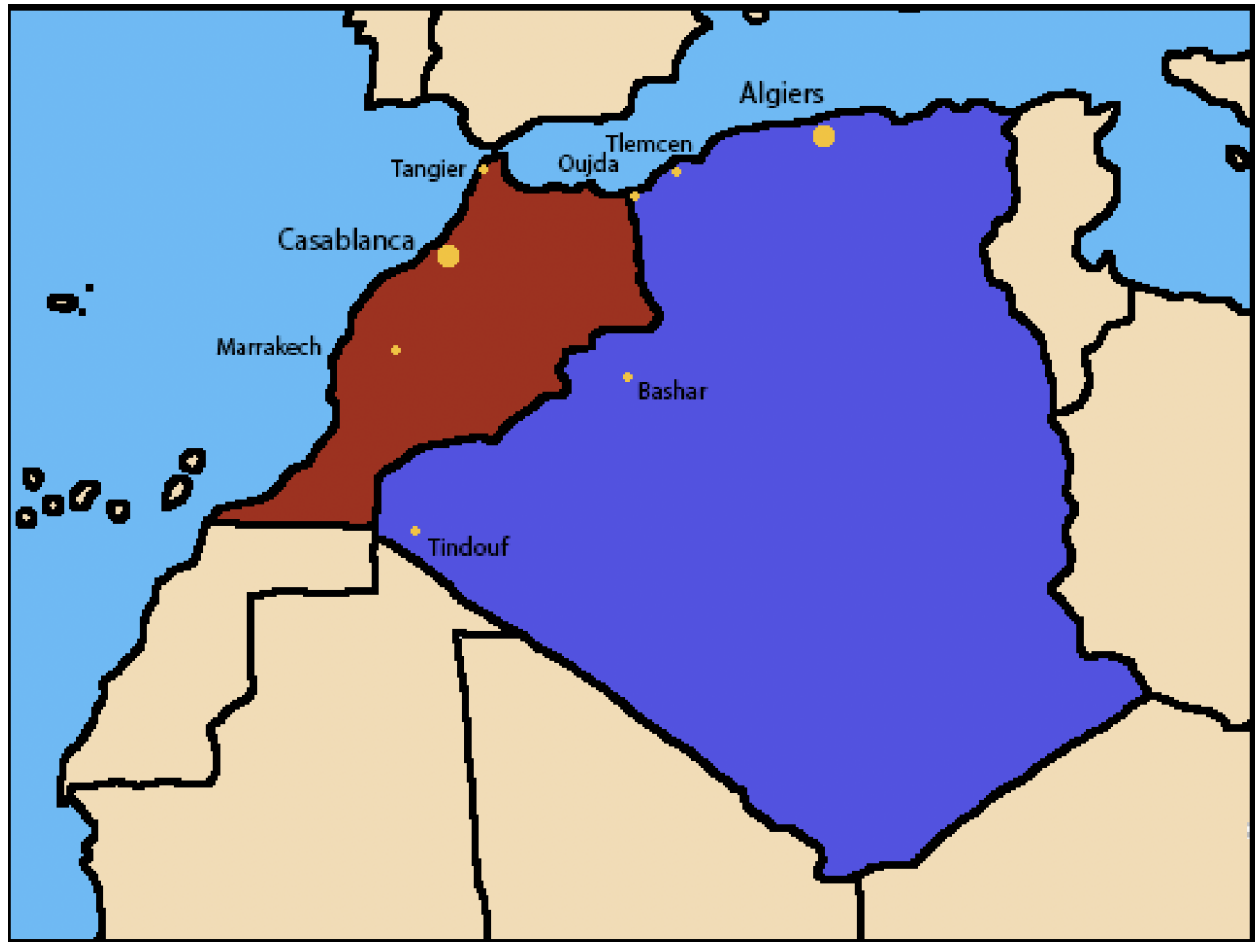# Joint Crisis Committee

NERMAL 2023

The Sand War

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Joint Crisis Committee at this year's Northeastern Regional Model Arab League Conference. While your fellow delegates will spend the weekend cooperating on forming strong policy in a specific cabinet, the JCC committees will find themselves in joint conflict with one another, with both attempting to navigate through the crisis at hand. Over the weekend, you will work with governments, militaries, ambassadors and more to solve this crisis.

The officials of the JCC committee will consist of your chair (frontroom) and the backroom. The chairs of the JCC are tasked with leading the proceedings of the committee, recognizing motions, monitoring speeches, and serving as a resource for all delegates. For this crisis, your chair will also act as an effective head of government, who will govern the committee as a neutral entity and as an intermediary for the crisis itself. The backroom, which consists of two crisis coordinators, will act as the primary intermediate for this crisis, and will craft new events and respond to your efforts to determine the proceedings.

As part of Model Arab League JCC, you will find yourself partaking in both front room and backroom motions. In the front room, delegates will give speeches and collaborate with other in-room delegates to navigate through the crisis, creating written directives to influence events. For the backroom, delegates may choose to write notes to the crisis directors to take private actions to affect the crisis. In Model Arab League, delegates are encouraged to cooperate and work with others to find solutions in service of your committee and country. In addition, you will also receive several crisis updates throughout the conference, which will include changes in the situation, either actively made by one of the committees or simply as an update. We look forward to working with all of you and seeing what solutions you come up with!

Aayush Joshipura and Mark Smith - Crisis Directors

Date: September 19th, 1963

Historical Context

When observing the conflict between Morocco and Algeria, it is important to analyze the historical background of the ongoing dispute, especially in relation to colonial borders in the 19th and 20th centuries. France colonized Algeria in the 1800s, bringing the nation and colony in direct dispute with Morocco, who staked claim to parts of western and southern Algeria. Recognizing the potential for conflict, the two nations created numerous diplomatic agreements throughout the 19th century to prevent outright war. The most notable of these was the 1845 Treaty of Lalla Maghnia, which determined the official boundaries and border between French Algeria and Morocco. Incursions into territory and conflicts between French Algeria and Morocco were common despite these agreements, however, the most notable being France's annexation of the Tuat region in the 1890s. The Tuat region paid tribute to Morocco and maintained its autonomy until the French annexation, which angered its inhabitants as well as the Moroccan government. When Morocco became a French protectorate in 1912, borders would be muddied again as the delineations from existing treaties were ignored by the French, who sought to redefine the agreed upon borders. This fed largely into the critical issues that would cause conflict in the decades to follow. The absence of an internationally recognized border complicated the situation, but there were other key factors in the rising tensions. Notably, the discovery of important minerals such as oil, iron, and precious metals on the border of Morocco and French Algeria in the 1940s played a role in increasing French interests in controlling the region. After Morocco gained independence from French control, they demanded the land back but had their requests denied, creating further tension on the border. An additional component was the popularity of the Greater Morocco ideology which pushed Morocco to look towards expansion across their border. The Greater Morocco approach rejected the colonial rule and

influence of the French, Spanish, Portuguese, while also seeking to reclaim historical territories in Mauritania and the newly-independent Algeria. This goal inspired King Hassan II of Morocco to push harder on the Algerian border front and set the stage for the events that eventually transpired in the Sand War. All three factors had a key role in the ensuing conflict and it is imperative that the actions of both JCC committees work in service of addressing these causes.

Current Situation

The date is September 19, 1963. Border skirmishes between Morocco and the newly formed Algeria have been escalating for several weeks as both sides prepare for whatever might come. Although neither state has officially mobilized their armies, both are ready to do so should either strike first. Both have also begun seeking assistance from allies, as both sides attempt to stake their claim to the land in this border conflict. Although negotiations have been brought up in the past by Moroccan King Hassan II, the Algerian government stalled these negotiations in an effort to prepare their new state for another conflict (following the War for Algerian Independence against France). Domestic revolts in Algeria have only complicated the administration of the country as rumors of an insurgency threaten President Ben Bella's rule. With King Hassan II's attitude toward Algeria growing increasingly hostile, diplomatic efforts have stopped for the time being, with armed conflict imminent unless a deal can be struck.

International eyes are turning at these new developments, as the ongoing proxy conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union provides both with opportunities for influence in the African region. France, still fresh from their own conflict with Algeria, watches eagerly across the Mediterranean. Other key parties such as Egypt and Cuba have turned their support to Algeria, recognizing a potential new ally. Conflict in the region has the potential to become

destructive and both the Moroccan and Algerian factions are tasked with ensuring the best outcome for their state and people, whether that be peace or war.

Character Dossiers

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Ahmed Ben Bella - President of Algeria

A leader in the Algerian War for Independence against France, Ben Bella seized power and became Algeria's first Prime Minister. Although establishing the first Algerian Constitution, many of his recent actions have driven away his political and international allies.

Houari Boumediene - Vice President of Algeria and Defense Minister

Gaining power before and during Ben Bella's presidency, Boumediene holds sway over several military factions in the government. Boumediene has assisted in founding the new state's military and governmental institutions, filling the military with his supporters and ensuring that Algeria can protect itself should the need ever arise.

Efigenio Ameijeiras - Cuban Representative to Algeria

Leading a contingent of Cuban troops to support Algeria, Ameijeiras acts within Fidel Castro's inner circle as a Brigadier general, now leader of the Cuban troops in Algeria. Ameijeiras has acted in many roles during his time in the Castro regime and is a skilled military and police commander.

Benyoucef Benkhedda - Former President of the De Facto Algerian government

Having led the negotiations with France, Benkhedda was raised to the presidency of the provisional Algerian Government at the time, eventually being overthrown by Ben Bella. Today Benkhedda still holds on to what power he has left, maintaining his wavering political connections and waiting for the right moment.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika - Minister of Foreign Affairs

A core military leader during the Algerian War for Independence, Bouteflika now holds control over the foreign affairs of Algeria. Although delegated to a diplomatic role, Bouteflika's role in the War for Independence has led to having many friends within the current Algerian Military.

Gamal Abdel Nasser - President of Egypt

Seen by many as the key political leader in the Arab World, Nasser's position in Egypt has allowed him to gain influence all over the region. From Iraq to Algeria, Nasser has aided many new states to break away from international influence and is at the peak of his political career thus far.

Idris of Libya - King of Libya

Ever the political figure in North Africa, Idris has joined leaders from Tunisia and Ethiopia in pushing for mediated negotiations between Morocco and Algeria, acting in this case as the Algerian government's chief conflict negotiator with Morocco.

Kingdom of Morocco

Hassan II - King of Morocco

Having taken the throne of Morocco in 1961, Hassan II has thus far overseen the creation of a Moroccan Constitution as a Constitutional Monarchy and gained many allies in the West as his counterparts in North Africa face rising tensions from internal division and independence wars.

Lieutenant General Ben Omar El Alami - Head of the Royal Gendarmerie

Tasked with defending public security in the Kingdom of Morocco, General Alami has been a key political figure in maintaining stability. Though not an active commander of the Moroccan Military, the Royal Gendarmerie maintains influence and power all across Morocco should any threats arise within.

Colonel Ben Hammu - Commander and Military Hero of the Royal Moroccan Army

A hero of the Ifni War in 1957, Colonel Hammu has continued his service since his battles against the Spanish. Once again facing a possible war, Hammu has joined the military in preparing for any possible outcome that might come out of negotiations.

Colonel Habibi - Commander of the Royal Moroccan Army

As the highest ranking officer currently stationed on the Algerian border, Habibi has been in charge of maintaining the skirmishes that have occurred across the border. Though yet unknown in the grand scheme of history, Habibi has the potential to play a large role should negotiations turn awry.

Mehdi Ben Barka - Head of Moroccan UNFP Socialist Party

A historical political opponent to King Hassan II, Barka has significant sway over the minority parties that disagree with the king's political choices. Though Barka may well lose his head at any moment, the opposition has the potential to play no small part in the upcoming conflict.

Maurice Couve de Murville - French Minister of Foreign Affairs

The current head of French foreign policy under President De Gaulle, Murville has been dispatched to maintain French interest in the region as tension is still fresh from the recent Algerian Independence war against France. Should Murville decide to support Morocco in earnest, Africa may once again find itself under European influence as the fires of imperialism still blaze softly.

Habib Bourguiba - Prime Minister of Tunisia

Entering his 5th year as Prime Minister of Tunisia, Bourguiba has offered himself in addition to the King of Libya as political mediators in this conflict in an attempt to prevent war from happening once more. Bourguiba has promised to act chiefly as a man of peace alongside Libya and Ethiopia, visiting Morocco in an attempt to stop any conflict before war might break out.

Hocine Ait Ahmed: Leader of the FFS

Ever the thorn in the side of Algerian President Ben Bella, Ahmed has turned to the Moroccan government to aid in his opposition to Ben Bella as tension rises against the Algerian government. Despite the fact that Ahmed has not yet taken action, many suspect that he may take up arms against Ben Bella's regime as tensions between the two further increase.

Sources and Additional Reading

[War in the Sahara: 1963](#) - Middle East Research and Information Project

[US Diplomacy and the North African War of the Sands](#) - Universidad de Sevilla

[Colonial Origins of the Algerian-Moroccan Border Conflict of October 1963](#) - African Studies Review

[The Organization of African Unity and the Algerian-Moroccan Border Conflict: A Study of New Machinery for Peacekeeping and for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes among African States](#) - International Organization Foundation, Patricia Berko Wild