UN Security Council: “We Cannot Afford to Fail”
Learning in Retirement, Carleton University
Dr. Marcel Jesenský, Spring 2019 – Session II
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Int’l Relations, Diplomacy, Europe

Permanent Mission to the UN (NY)

History of the United Nations
Class etiquette

Marginalized by the Cold War (1946-1956)

the United Nations
the Cold War
the Korean War (1950-1953)
the Suez Crisis (1956)
History

Dumbarton Oaks

Yalta

San Francisco

http://www.un.org/securitycouncil/

S/PV.7853   S/RES/2334 (2016)
The Security Council

‘primary responsibility’ (A 24)

the most powerful (mediagenic) forum

binding on all (Chapter VII)

P-5 and the ten elected

the Cold War
Permanent members (P-5), the veto
USA, Britain, France, China and Russia (USSR)

Non-Permanent members (6, now 10), 2 years
Africa - Asia: 5, Latin America: 2,
Western Europe: 2, Eastern Europe: 1
- all the great powers members included (1945 and 2019?)
Canada

- the Middle Power

- Andrew George Latta McNaughton

- George Ignatieff

- The Security Council (1948-49)
General Order No. 1 (11 August 1945)

- the 38th parallel
- the trusteeship (Moscow, 1945)
- the Korean question (UN, 1947)
- UN Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK) A/RES/112 (II)
The elections

- 9 May 1948 (SK) / 25 August 1948 (NK)

- “in those parts accessible” (A/RES/112 (III))

- the Nat’l Government of all Korea (Syngman Rhee, Kim Il Sung)

- ROK/DPRK, hostile régimes, unification by force

- Soviet-US withdrawal (1948-1949)
The Korean war

- UN SC in January 1950 (China)
- Acheson’s perimeter speech (Jan 1950)
- NSC 68
- 25 June 1950, NKPA

- “Who started? This question should not be asked.”
- zero sum game, regional balance
The Korean War (1950 – 1953)

- Lie: NK violated the UN Charter

- S/RES/82; S/RES/83 (1950)

- the Soviet/Communist aggression

- civil war (for unification)

- collective security

- UN forces/flag, unified command (7 July 1950)
Reunification

- on North Korean terms

- Inchon landing (15 Sept 1950)

- on U.S./U.N. terms

- China (19 October 1950), the Yalu River

- MacArthur’s fall

- stalemate (1951)
An armistice

- stalemate (s. June 1951)

- armistice talks (1951, 1953)

- new leaderships (Truman, Stalin)

- 27 July 1953, an armistice (not peace!), DMZ

- futility of a conflict

- painful legacy
We would like to build moderate socialism. …It is socialism without capitalists, without imperialists, and without Communists.

Gamal Abdul Nasser
“Uniting for Peace”

UNGA resolution 377 A, (3 Nov 1950):

"Resolves that if the Security Council, because of lack of unanimity of the permanent members, fails to exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in any case where there appears to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately with a view to making appropriate recommendations to Members for collective measures, including in the case of a breach of the peace or act of aggression the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain or restore international peace and security."

Out of the SC agenda (S/PV.531)
Egypt and the Middle East

- the Tripartite Decl. (May 1950) (US, UK, Fra) *status quo*

- the Suez Canal (Britain)

- Nasser and “free officers” (July 1952)

- pan-Arabic movement (anti-imperialist)

- Soviet and British imperialisms

- declining UK (the Suez Canal zone withdrawal, 1954)
The Suez Crisis (1956)

- the Aswan Dam, the Suez Canal Company (26 July 1956)

- collusion: F (Algeria), Israel-UK (Nasser/Egypt)

- Israel (29 Oct)
- UK-F ultimatum and attack (30/31 Oct)

- Louis de Guiringaud (France), President of the SC

- L. B. Pearson (Canada), the Commonwealth

- 31 Oct, SC calls Emergency Session (ES-I) on Egypt (S/PV.751)
GA First Emergency Special Session (1 - 10 November 1956)

- The UN Emergency Force (UNEF) Res. 998 (ES-I) of 4 Nov 1956 ("Canadian")

- precedent and model

- Major General E.L.M. Burns, Commander

- UNEF withdrawn in 1967
Why Canada should care – a lot – about that UN Security Council seat

ROLAND PARIS
SPECIAL TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL
PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 30, 2018

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There is no guarantee of victory for Canada, but it is still worth the effort. As international tensions mount and the United States retreats from global leadership, Canada and like-minded countries must do what they can to sustain co-operation and the wobbling structures of a rules-based international system. This task extends far beyond the United Nations, but the world body remains the flagship of the multilateral system.