

LIMUN

LICEO'S MODEL UNITED NATIONS

NATO



Topic A: "China high on the Agenda".

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I. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND

What is NATO?

NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is the alliance of 30 European and North American countries. This alliance was formed in 1949, signed in the Washington Treaty. One of the key articles states that if one of the countries in NATO is attacked, it's considered a direct attack against all members of the organization, thus all members of this organization will respond with armed forces, if it's necessary.

What does being part of NATO imply?

Although these countries are willing to defend themselves as a whole with armed forces, if necessary, one of their main aims is to maintain peace in all countries. Evidently peace comes along with a few requirements, which are the following: each country having their own territorial integrity followed, political independence, and security to all 30 members. For these reasons, the countries that set up NATO are looking forward to having more countries on their side and evicting enemies, having already countries from several parts of the world, such as countries in the Euro-Atlantic area, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf region.

Why was it created?

NATO was created with the purpose of defending Western Europe from a possible Soviet invasion after World War II. On the other hand, there was another alliance formed against NATO, which was the Warsaw Treaty Organization, or the Warsaw Pact. The Warsaw Pact was stronger than NATO, so the allies had to use nuclear weapons to defend themselves, however they pulled back when the Cold War was over.

II. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC

Many European countries were economically and militarily unstable, which was one of the greatest consequences left by the Second World War. Reviewing the Soviet's perspective, they emerged rapidly from the war, having a great advantage against most countries forming NATO. Furthermore, NATO was not initially composed of the 30 countries it is composed of nowadays, countries have been, gradually, becoming part of it. Initially, it was composed and founded by its 12 leading members, which are the following: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

A. Introduction to the Topic

Considering Russia and Ukraine's conflict, and the secondary effects it has brought to many countries, specially near these two; the fear that has caused, and considering that China is one of Russia's greatest allies, being not just allies, but "something more than allies", NATO considers China not only a great threat, but a very complex challenge against the countries forming the alliance. Contemplate as well the fact that China has been one of Washington's greatest rivals, and the United States is a member of NATO. Despite the tension that China may have with the United States, it has remained as a booming market for European countries.

Lately, since before Russia's invasion against Ukraine, there has been even more stress and tightness between China and NATO, making direct accusations (mentioned more specifically later in the document) and making a possible attack more and more possible as time goes by. Russia's invasion, instead of distracting these countries towards this issue, has made things worse, given that now there is the possibility of China meddling in the conflict, making things harder for Ukraine. Also, China and Russia's military together is extremely dangerous and powerful, making the threats even more fearful. For these reasons, NATO believed that the affair was getting more serious and the Summit decided to include the leaders of four Asian countries: Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand in a more direct way than before.

B. Evolution of the Topic

As mentioned previously in the background information, one of NATO's main purposes is to maintain peace, however to achieve this global security purpose, there are several requirements also mentioned above. Taking this into consideration, we now know that NATO is not looking to fight China, nevertheless there is tension and disagreements between, not only the United States, but NATO generally. Also, some of the main reasons that an attack may not be a short-term possibility is the Russia and Ukraine conflict and how it has affected other countries as well, and the fact that many countries are not doing great economically lately given the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic consequences. Although there is currently almost no probability of this issue causing an armed attack, it may cause it, in a long-term period of time, the pressure between this alliance and country is shocking.

This worry has been notorious, given that China (more specifically Beijing) mentions considering NATO as a "systemic challenge", making reference to its values, interests, and security. China and NATO's relationship, not being great, is not shocking news, given that it was

practically non-existent in the early 2000's. Take into consideration that China's and Russia's reaction to NATO's expansion was not the best, and NATO expresses openly that China is a "strategic priority" given China's ambitions and its "coercive policies". It's not "the greatest threat" since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but it was before that event.

Something that makes this a greater stress is the fact that China is focusing on making its military to make it stronger and more powerful than it already is. This action includes focusing on nuclear weapons, threatening Taiwan, checking and controlling its own citizens through advanced technology, laying out lies and false information through corruption, keeping important information from its citizens and the world generally... Anyway, China considered NATO's accusations as "completely futile". NATO being tensioned with China is a great concern given that China's economy is the world's second largest, and as mentioned previously its military is growing extremely quickly. Anyhow, NATO doesn't seem pressured or in fear of these, given that the alliance expresses that "if China's challenging it in one way or another, they will stand up to that."

C. Relevant Events

- China considers Taiwan as part of its territory since the end of World War II.
- NATO published a strategic concept in 2010, however currently the dynasty has dramatically changed.
- NATO members consider China as a "systemic challenge" in the Euro-Atlantic security
- NATO is concerned with China's ambitions and "coercive policies".
- China's economy is the second largest globally, and its military is growing significantly lately.
- The allies consider Russia and China's relationship as a "burgeoning relationship".

- Russia's invasion towards Ukraine has made the situation even worse, given that China and Russia are allies and China has the possibility of interfering in the conflict for Russia's benefit, making the situation harder in Ukraine and the alliance.
- China accused the alliance of using Cold War strategies to contain their countries. China also accused the alliance of "provoking confrontation", and of "creating problems around the world", making the tension much worse.
- Four Asian countries have become more involved because of the situation, these countries are the following: South Korea, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.
- European attitudes towards Beijing have dramatically changed since the issue, evidently.

III. CURRENT ISSUES

A. Panorama

The issues meant to be solved are the following: improve security in NATO countries, specially the ones near the conflict; China's challenge is threatening security in many NATO members which is part of the problem, also taking into consideration that Russia and Ukraine conflict is also threatening security of countries and security must improve notably; preventing China's possible attack, although an attack is not a short-term issue, it may be a long-term one, and if things continue this way the process of that attack may accelerate considerably; and lastly China is claiming Taiwan as part of its country since the end of World War II.

A. Points of View

Taiwan:

Taiwan is currently directly affected by China, since China claims (since the end of World War II, exactly 1949) that country as theirs. Although China is not currently controlling this country, Beijing expressed that eventually China plans to unify these two countries, using the force

necessary to do so. Lately, NATO has paid closer attention to Taiwan, although this country is not part of NATO. Considering China's military and Taiwan's, if there is an armed conflict, evidently China would win because of their strength and power compared to Taiwan's military, unless the United States and/or NATO aids Taiwan in their situation. Although China's economy and military might be great, take into account that Taiwan's coordination is deep, their economy is strong, and their security situation is currently evolving. To deal with a great power, and developed country such as China, Taiwan has acquired a lopsided warfare method known as the "porcupine strategy," which focuses on making the invasion very difficult and costly for China. The porcupine strategy consists (and is used when a small military aims to defeat a greater military such as this case) in using small weapons principally.

China:

Firstly consider China is one of Russia's greatest allies. China is currently trying to prevent NATO from meddling in Russia and Ukraine's conflict in the Indo-Pacific. Going back to NATO's issue, China claims that NATO is "provoking confrontation", and also "creating problems around the world". Also China claims Taiwan as part of their territory not taking into consideration what occurred in the civil war. For these reasons, NATO considers China as a threat to their countries, and knows that if there is a possible attack, they will respond without any doubt. Regarding the allies declaration against China, this country responded calling this declaration as "completely futile".

The United States:

Talking about China and the United States relationship, there has been tension between both countries since 1949. Some of the topics in which they have had the most disagreements are climate change, the Taiwan situation, trade... Also considering the United States relation with Russia is not great, and worsened with the invasion of Ukraine, and China

is more likely to support Russia rather than Ukraine. As mentioned above, NATO has had issues with China, and evidently, the United States (being part of the allies) has even more issues with China. Going into the economic situation of this country, the Covid-19 pandemic affected all countries (considering this was a strong economic country). Currently this country is still suffering the effects of the pandemic, however it is little by little growing after this pandemic crisis.

I. UN & EXTERNAL ACTIONS

A. UN actions

The United Nations consider Taiwan as a separate country, independent from China. The United Nations knows and shares the goal, along with NATO, to maintain peace security, and since they have been cooperating since the early 1990's, the United Nations supports NATO against China. So far, the United Nations hasn't apported with economic aid, just support.

B. External actions

Leaders of the group of 7 countries gathered to create a plan with the purpose of raising an amount of \$600 billion with the goal of expanding global infrastructure investment in developing countries. The United States and Britain will aid Australia in order to create nuclear-power submarines. France and Germany decided to adapt Washington's posture against China's threats. Western allies have been raising awareness of the situation to seek to bolster links with the United States, Europe, and NATO. Furthermore, Japan sent 5 missiles around some islands of Taiwan that China claims as theirs since the end of World War II, although it doesn't control Taiwan directly.

II. CONCLUSION

To conclude all the information mentioned above, China is currently (and even before Russia's invasion towards Ukraine) presenting a great threat against the allies, given that China has made accusations against NATO, considering that China has insulted and accused the allies in several ways. Furthermore, China considers Taiwan as part of their territory. Russia and Ukraine's conflict has worsened the situation, given that it threatens security, and there is the possibility of China aiding Russia, since it is one of China's great allies.

III. IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

- How do China's actions affect or threaten your country?
- Has your country done something to stop or prevent a China's possible attack? If so, what has your country done?
- What can your country do to improve security? Does it have the necessary resources?
- Does your country consider Taiwan as part of China or as an independent country?

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