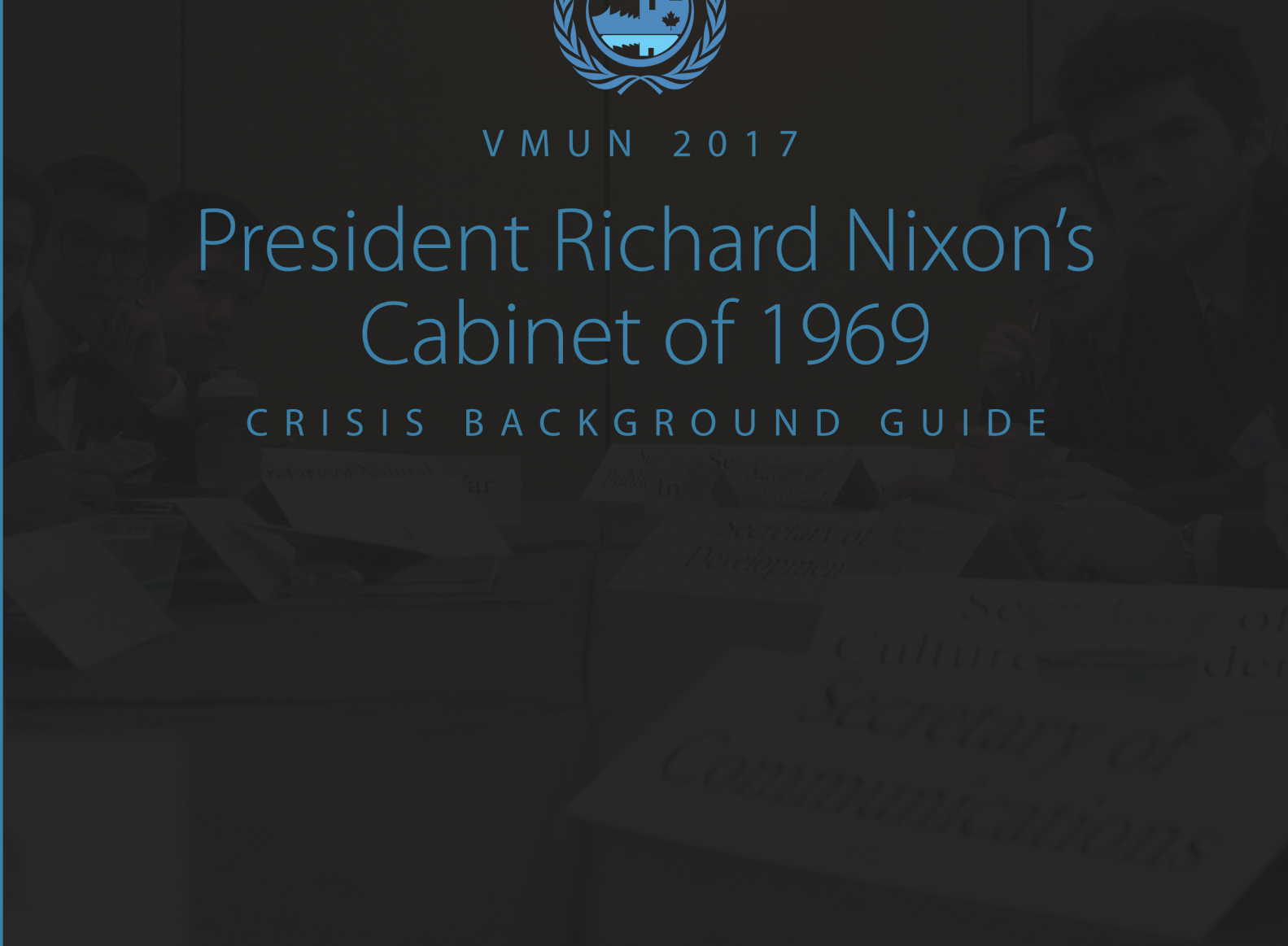




VMUN 2017

President Richard Nixon's Cabinet of 1969

CRISIS BACKGROUND GUIDE





VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

the sixteenth annual conference | January 20-22, 2017

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To my loyal colleagues and allies of the United States,

It is my honor and distinct pleasure to welcome you all to this introductory meeting in Washington, DC. I assure all of you that the new administration will not fall short on the political and military fronts our predecessors have. Our goal, as always, is to ensure

As a firm believer in taking actions that electrify the people, I encourage every member of this committee to look into large-scale initiatives to address the problems we'll be discussing at the meeting. We have been diddled to death in Vietnam, outmaneuvered in the Middle East, and nearly beaten in the Space Race: we can no longer do things halfway or wait around for someone else to take the lead. The people want change, and to achieve it, we will need to be firm and aggressive in our approach.

The United States will, as it always has, stand strong in the face of adversity and uncertainty. Being the world's most powerful democracy is both a badge and a burden: one that this committee is expected to shoulder through the shared challenges we face.

Good luck, and God Bless America.

Richard M. Nixon
President of the United States of America

Position Paper Policy

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of your positions your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support.

At Vancouver Model United Nations, delegates should write a position paper for each of the committee's topics. Each position paper should not exceed one page, and should all be combined into a single document per delegate.

Formatting

Position papers should:

- Include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee
- Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins
- Not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Include citations and a bibliography, in any format, giving due credit to the sources used in research (not included in the 1-page limit)

Due Dates and Submission Procedure

Position papers for this committee must be submitted by midnight on January 8th, 2017.

Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your last name, your first name and send it as an attachment in an email, to your committee's email address, with the subject heading as your last name, your first name — Position Paper. Please do not add any other attachments to the email or write anything else in the body.

Both your position papers should be combined into a single PDF or Word document file; position papers submitted in another format will not be accepted.

Each position paper will be manually reviewed and considered for the Best Position Paper award.

The email address for this committee is nixon@vmun.com.

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President Richard Nixon's Cabinet of 1969

Committee Overview

Delegates, welcome to the Cold War Era. As the advisors, allies, and colleagues of a President who led the United States with a 'go for broke' philosophy, you will be tasked with navigating a rapidly-changing political landscape while defending the interests of the administration, your country, and/or yourself.

The official start date of the committee is January 30th, 1969 - ten days after Nixon's first inauguration - and the official end date is the 47th Presidential Election on November 7th, 1972. When making potentially controversial decisions and statements, keep the election in mind; political rivals and the media will take any opportunity to attack your actions, pull public support, or turn cabinet members against each other. That being said, not every member in this committee is obliged to act in the President's best interest. Ambassadors are obviously expected to defend their state's national security and interests, and certain members of the cabinet may put their own well-being ahead of that of the administration.

The committee will follow VMUN 2017's Official Rules of Procedure for Crisis Committees, and will run as a perpetual moderated caucus with frequent opportunities to voice points or make motions. Topic-specific moderated caucuses will be entertained at the discretion of the dais, as they may leave the cabinet unadaptable given the fluid and quick-paced nature of the committee. Like most crisis committees, actions passed by individuals or the cabinet will be implemented through either private or public directives.

When conducting your research, focus on the actions of previous administrations and the political climate immediately prior to Nixon's inauguration. Although this is a historical cabinet, don't expect events to play out exactly like they did in real life; come equipped with an abundance of knowledge, but be prepared to adapt.

Timeline

May 19, 1941: Ho Chi Minh founds the Viet Minh in Vietnam: a communist group opposed to the French rule

August 6 and 9, 1945: The United States bombs the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki using nuclear weapons

August 18, 1945: The Viet Minh seize control of Vietnam from Emperor Bao Dai, but are forced to retreat north from territory below the seventeenth parallel

August 30, 1945: The Viet Minh declares independence from French Vietnam, establishing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam)

September 2, 1945: The Allied Forces win World War II

October 24, 1945: The United Nations (UN) is officially ratified; the United States and Soviet Union are both given a permanent seat in the UN Security Council

December 19, 1946: The First Indochina War occurs between France and the Viet Minh; the United States supports France while the Soviet Union supports its communist ally

May 14, 1948: Israel is created; it is officially recognized by the Soviet Union on May 14th

January 31, 1949: The United States officially recognizes Israel as a country

October 1, 1949: The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) wins the Chinese Civil War; China officially becomes a communist state

April 4, 1949: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is created as part of the North Atlantic Treaty

August 29, 1949: The Soviet Union successfully tests its first nuclear weapon

June 25, 1950: The Korean War begins as the North attacks across the 38th parallel; President Truman orders American military forces to intervene shortly afterwards

October 18, 1950: China intervenes in the Korean War, frequently clashing with American forces

July 27, 1953: The Korean War ends in a stalemate

May 14, 1955: The Warsaw Pact is established between the Soviet Union and its eastern allies

November 1, 1955: The first Americans are killed in Vietnam, marking the beginning of the United States' involvement in the conflict

September 14, 1960: The Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is founded

October 14-28, 1962: The Soviet Union and United States almost go to war over the Cuban Missile Crisis

October 16, 1964: China successfully tests its first nuclear weapon

March 2, 1965: The United States begins Operation Rolling Thunder in Vietnam

June 5, 1967: Israel engages in the Six-Day War with Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria

March 31, 1968: President Lyndon B. Johnson announces he will not run for reelection largely due to high disapproval ratings regarding his actions in Vietnam

June 20-27, 1968: The Soviet Union amasses an army along its shared border with China

November 1, 1968: President Johnson terminates Operation Rolling Thunder: the controversial bombing campaign that resulted in thousands of Vietnamese civilian casualties

January 20, 1969: Richard Milhous Nixon is sworn in as the 37th President of the United States

January 27, 1969: 15 Jews are executed in Iraq; Baghdad claims the 15 individuals were Israeli spies

January 30, 1969: Introductory cabinet meeting is held in Washington, DC

Historical Analysis

Following the defeat of the Axis Powers and subsequent conclusion of World War II, Europe was largely left in ruins. Two states emerged from the chaos to take the hegemonic positions Germany, France, and Britain had previously held: the United States and the Soviet Union. Wanting to avoid another world war, the international

community began a collaborative effort to establish combat-preventative measures and initiatives, effectively resulting in the founding of the United Nations in 1945.¹ This cooperative spirit, however, was relatively short-lived. As the United States began democracy-building missions across the world under the Truman Doctrine, it increasingly found itself competing with the Soviet Union's efforts to expand communism throughout Europe and Southeast Asia.² What began as two separate missions to spread influence throughout the world became a battle of ideologies: democracy against communism. The Northern Hemisphere itself became divided between the West, where the United States invested nearly \$13 billion in rebuilding efforts through the Marshall Plan, and the East, where the Soviet Union had steadily built economic and political ties with neighbouring states.³

President Truman's administration faced a period of serious threat in 1949 when the Chinese Civil War resulted in a communist victory and the Soviet Union successfully tested its first nuclear weapon.⁴ Now allied with a powerful state in Southeast Asia and able to match the threat of nuclear warfare, the Soviets began to challenge the United States' authority and spread communism more aggressively, resulting in the Korean War in 1950, the Warsaw Pact in 1955, the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, and the ongoing Space Race.

The Vietnam War began as a result of tensions between the communist Viet Minh and what used to be French colonial Vietnam, but was quickly absorbed into the larger Cold War, effectively becoming a proxy war between the United States and the Sino-Soviet alliance. When the United States committed itself militarily to the conflict, it spared little expense or resource. Four years after the initial buildup in Vietnam, defense spending increased more than 50 percent and rose to be 9.5 percent of the country's GDP. The human costs, however, were even more severe than the economic and resource investments: 1,369 soldiers were killed in the nine initial months of combat – ten times the amount of the year before – and rose to 14,589 by the end of Operation Rolling Thunder three years later.⁵

Southeast Asia was not the only region that fell into conflict following the conclusion of World War II. The creation of Israel in 1948 sparked controversy and outrage throughout the Middle East, marking the beginning of decades of tension between the Jewish state and its Arab neighbours.⁶ The United States was quick to support the new Middle Eastern democracy, but isolated itself from the rest of the region in doing so.⁷ Israeli-Arab tensions finally resulted in military conflict in 1967; the Six-Day War established an unbreakable alliance between the United States and Israel, but also opened up the rest of the Middle East to Soviet influence. Reeling from its loss in the conflict, Egypt received heavy military and economic investment from the Soviet Union, giving the Soviets a valuable ally and gateway into the region.⁸

In 1969, the present day, the United States and its allies are fighting the Soviet Union on economic, political, and military fronts. Both sides of the Cold War have taken measures to ensure nuclear warfare (and, by extension, mutual destruction) does not occur, yet the tensions between Washington and Moscow have fueled technological advancements and wars, established vast networks of alliances, and, generally speaking, been at the epicenter of international politics since the end of World War II.

¹ "History of the United Nations." UN News Center. UN, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2016.

² "The Truman Doctrine, 1947." *Office of the Historian*. United States Government, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2016.

³ "Marshall Plan, 1948." *Office of the Historian*. United States Government, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2016.

⁴ "China Joins A-bomb Club." *History.com*. A&E Television Networks, n.d. Web. 16 Aug. 2016.

⁵ Sestanovich, Stephen. "Johnson at War." *Maximalist: America in the World from Truman to Obama*. N.p.: Vintage, n.d. 147. Print.

⁶ "History of Israel: Key Events." BBC News. BBC, 06 May 2008. Web. 11 Aug. 2016.

⁷ "U.S. Relations With Israel." *U.S. Department of State*. U.S. Department of State, 10 Mar. 2014. Web. 10 Aug. 2016.

⁸ "The Soviet Union And The Six-Day War: Revelations From The Polish Archives." *Wilson Center*. Wilson Center, 07 July 2011. Web. 13 Aug. 2016.

Current Situation

Vietnam



Figure 1: The current map of enemy and allied forces in Southeast Asia⁹

Although the Johnson Administration was able to negotiate peace talks with Hanoi following the termination of Operation Rolling Thunder, the United States is still militarily committed to the conflict with over 530,000 active soldiers and 1,350 prisoners of war in Vietnam. US and South Vietnamese outposts along the border and coastline are, as always, in danger of guerilla warfare.¹⁰ The committee should not concern itself with planning small-scale attacks or organizing minor details (this will be taken care of by other military personnel), but broad, major military initiatives do fall under its responsibility.

No item on this committee's agenda is more salient than the Vietnam War, and as President Johnson came to learn, the actions it takes towards solving the conflict will also have severe implications on the home front.

⁹ *The President's Daily Brief: January 30, 1969*. Issue brief. Washington, DC: United States Government, 1969. Print.

¹⁰ "Statistical Information about Casualties of the Vietnam War." *National Archives and Records Administration*. National Archives and Records Administration, 28 Apr. 2009. Web. 16 Aug. 2016.

The nation has become strongly divided on whether or not it should continue to support the Saigon Government militarily; Gallup's most recent polling shows that an estimated 53% of citizens believe sending soldiers into Vietnam was a mistake, but there is still a large portion of the population that suggests we pursue a total military victory.¹¹ The Republican Party frequently attacked the Johnson Administration and the Democratic Party for its lack of transparency and military inefficiency, winning the Oval Office on a platform that advocated for the gradual decrease of US involvement and the transfer of responsibilities to the South Vietnamese.¹²

More recently, concerns have arisen from both South Vietnamese officials and American commanders regarding North Vietnamese outposts stationed in Cambodia. The outposts allow for a flow of supplies and soldiers to move along the Cambodian border, reaching near Saigon and other key areas. The bases and supply routes undoubtedly harm the war effort, but Cambodia's neutrality in the conflict protects them from US air strikes and other forms of military intervention.¹³

The Middle East

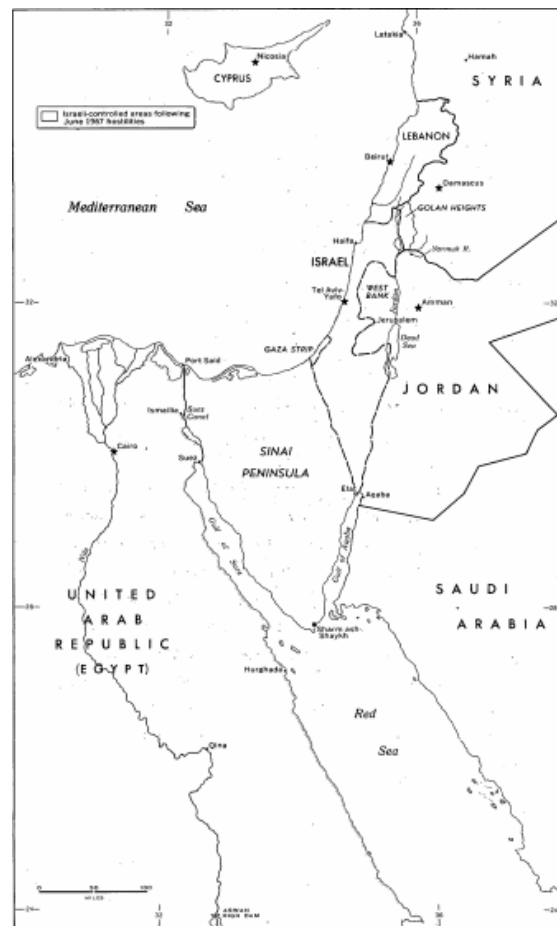


Figure 2: The Middle East¹⁴

¹¹ Gallup, Alec (2006). *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion 2005*. Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 315–318. ISBN 0742552586.

¹² Peters, Gerhard. "Republican Party Platform of 1968." *The American Presidency Project*. The American Presidency Project, n.d. Web. 27 Aug. 2016.

¹³ Sestanovich, Stephen. "Retrenchment and Vietnam." *Maximalist: America in the World from Truman to Obama*. N.p.: Vintage, n.d. 172-173. Print.

¹⁴ *The President's Daily Brief: January 30, 1969*. Issue brief. Washington, DC: United States Government, 1969. Print.

Similarly to how the United States has chosen Israel as its champion in the Middle East, the Soviet Union has chosen to spread its influence throughout the region by adopting close ties with Egypt. A new \$360 million annual trade agreement (a 17 percent increase from the 1968 agreement) between the two countries indicates that the Soviets are willing to make significant economic investments in addition to their military support to secure a strong foothold in the Middle East.¹⁵

Although Egypt is currently the only Arab state with close ties to the Soviet Union, the vast majority of the Middle East is anti-Israel and, by extension, anti-America. Iraq has taken the lead in the Arab opposition to Israel, which raises concerns for the estimated 5,000 Jews in the country; recent CIA intelligence indicates that the number of executions of Jews within Iraq have surged as Baghdad cleanses the country of supposed Israeli spies. Tel Aviv has shied away from taking drastic action in response to the Arab aggression, but it has also requested additional military funding from Washington in order to match Moscow's Egyptian investments. Such funding is achievable, but it would require a significant withdrawal of resources from the Vietnam War effort.¹⁶

Certain states associated with OPEC have also expressed their disdain for the United States' support for Israel. In particular, Saudi Arabia and Iran have hinted that America's alliance with the Jewish state could have adverse consequences on trade between OPEC states and the West. In response, the British, French, and other European powers have begun a remodelling of their Middle Eastern policies that will maintain an even balance when dealing with Arab states and Israel. Unlike the United States, which can rely on Canada, Mexico, and itself for oil, the vast majority of Western Europe is extremely reliant on Arabian oil; if the U.S takes a strong stance in supporting Israel and opposing OPEC, it will likely have to do so without its European allies.¹⁷

Initiating Crises/Potential Solutions

Issues will arise and develop throughout the conference, but the two most pressing issues at this time are:

- The North Vietnamese outposts across the Cambodian border
- The spread of Soviet influence within the Middle East

Solutions to these issues include:

- The North Vietnamese outposts across the Cambodian border
- Convince the Cambodian Government to attack the outposts with its own forces.
- Consolidate military forces and increase defensive outposts along the Cambodian border, but don't take direct military action against the North Korean outposts.
- Initiate bombing missions on the outposts without consent from the Cambodian Government.
- The spread of Soviet influence in the Middle East
- Cut back on the Vietnam War effort in order to fully support Israel and secure a strong position in the Middle East.
- Partially match the Soviet Union's investment into the Middle East.
- Seek out new allies within the Middle East at the risk of isolating/angering Israel.

Additionally, although they will not be a part of the initiating crises, delegates are advised to get a basic understanding of the following issues:

¹⁵ *The President's Daily Brief: January 25, 1969*. Issue brief. Washington, DC: United States Government, 1969. Print.

¹⁶ *The President's Daily Brief: January 30, 1969*. Issue brief. Washington, DC: United States Government, 1969. Print.

¹⁷ Yergin, Daniel. *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991. 628-29. Print.

- The chilling of Sino-Soviet relations
- The Space Race
- Detente with the Soviet Union
- Communist influence in South America and the Western Hemisphere
- Democracy-building efforts in the 1960s

Portfolio Overviews

President Richard Nixon (Position held by committee director.)

Description: The President of the United States; has authority over every domestic member of the cabinet and is tasked with chairing the committee.

Special Powers: Can veto any directive put forth by the committee and direct members of the cabinet to take portfolio-specific actions.

Vice President Spiro Agnew

Description: The second-highest authority in the United States Government; responsible for advising the President.

Special Powers: Can direct members of the cabinet to take portfolio-specific actions.

Director of the FBI: Louis Patrick Gray

Description: Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; responsible for domestic surveillance/investigations, and serves as the highest authority for federal law enforcement.

Special Powers: Can open investigations into members of the cabinet without approval from the President.

Director of the CIA: Richard Helms

Description: The head of the Central Intelligence Agency; responsible for gathering foreign intelligence and carrying out covert operations abroad.

Special Powers: Can carry out foreign intelligence/surveillance operations without approval from the President; he may also initiate covert missions with the President's approval.

Secretary of State: William P. Rogers

Description: Head of the State Department; responsible for advising the President on foreign policy matters and participating in high-level negotiations with other countries.

Special Powers: Can arrange and attend diplomatic meetings with only the President's approval.

Secretary of the Treasury: David M. Kennedy

Description: Head of the Department of the Treasury; responsible for advising the President on economic matters and overseeing the operations of the U.S Customs Service and U.S Secret Service.

Special Powers: Can redirect funds without notifying the committee and control the level of security around members of the cabinet.

Secretary of Defense: Melvin R. Laird

Description: Head of the Department of Defense; responsible for advising the President on national/international security matters and controlling the U.S Military.

Special Powers: Can exercise military authority and control the U.S military without approval from the committee.

House Majority Leader: Carl Albert

Description: The Democratic leader in the U.S House of Representatives; for the purposes of this committee he will be the chief representative for the Democratic Party.

Special Powers: Can publish press releases and take actions on behalf of the entire Democratic Party.

House Minority Leader: Gerald Ford

Description: The Republican leader in the U.S House of Representatives; for the purposes of this committee he will represent all congressional Republicans.

Special Powers: None

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: General Earle Wheeler

Description: The highest-ranking official in the United States Military.

Special Powers: None

Attorney General: John N. Mitchell

Description: Head of the Justice Department; responsible for prosecuting cases involving government officials.

Special Powers: Can call for the impeachment of cabinet members.

White House Chief of Staff: H.R Halderman

Description: Chief assistant to the President; responsible for protecting the interests of the President and aiding him in implementing his agenda.

Special Powers: Can release press releases on behalf of the President.

Assistant to the President for Domestic Affairs: John Ehrlichman

Description: The President's chief advisor for domestic affairs.

Special Powers: None

Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs: Henry Kissinger

Description: The President's chief advisor for national security.

Special Powers: None

Ambassador of France

Description: France's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.

Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

Ambassador of the United Kingdom

Description: The United Kingdom's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.

Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

Ambassador of Vietnam

Description: South Vietnam's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.

Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

Ambassador of South Korea

Description: South Korea's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.

Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

Ambassador of Nationalist China

Description: The Nationalist China's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.

Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

Ambassador of Japan

Description: Japan's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.
Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

Ambassador of Israel

Description: Israel's ambassador to the United States. Responsible for defending his/her country's interests.
Special Powers: Can request his/her country to take specific actions.

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