ATOMIC COUNCIL

SAMUN XV

Index

Committee: Atomic Council

Topic: The Nuclear Board — The Atomic Arms Race

Language: English

Timeline: February 3, 1939 – July 1945

Dress Code: Delegates shall wear a LAB COAT instead of a blazer. Representative accessories from the time period are also encouraged.

Central Idea

The Atomic Council simulates the global race to develop the first nuclear weapon between 1939 and 1945. Delegates will take on the roles of key historical figures — scientists, generals, and politicians — who shaped the course of nuclear history. Each decision you make will have real consequences inside the committee. Your goal is not just to win: it is to think, debate, and decide under pressure.

I. General Structure of the Committee

This Crisis Committee is a hybrid simulation that combines formal debate with real strategic decision-making. Delegates do not only give speeches — they also take actions, manage resources, and respond to unexpected events introduced by the crisis staff.

The committee moves through three main stages, each representing a key phase of the nuclear race: from early ethical debate, to strategic competition, and finally to irreversible decisions. At all times, the committee operates under uncertainty: resources are limited, information is incomplete, and every decision is binding once made.

II. Time and Cycles

The committee operates in cycles, each lasting approximately 25 to 30 minutes (at the chairs discretion based on debate activity).

Each cycle represents a step forward in historical time, moving the committee from 1939 toward July 1945. As the cycles advance, the situation changes: early scientific uncertainty gives way to full wartime mobilization and, eventually, nuclear realization.

Each cycle includes:

- Internal debate within blocs
- A possible crisis moment introduced by the chairs
- Submission of a maximum of two directives per bloc

Important: Directives do not resolve immediately. They unfold over time, creating uncertainty and forcing delegates to think ahead.

III. Types of Sessions

There are two types of sessions in this committee:

A. Atomic Board (Joint Session)

Both blocs meet in the same room and can debate each other. In this session:

- Only moderated caucuses are allowed
- No directives can be submitted
- Delegates may request private meetings with members of the Nazi Bloc
- Potential spies can be identified
- Delegates may attempt persuasion for personal or collective objectives

B. Closed Chamber (Separate Session)

Each bloc meets privately without the other side present. This is where the most important strategic decisions are made, including directives, resource allocation, and internal coordination.

IV. Delegate Preparation: The Operational Profile (Hoja de Vida)

In this committee, traditional "Position Papers" are obsolete. You are not writing an academic essay; you are submitting an **Operational Profile** (Hoja de Vida). This document serves as your intelligence dossier and strategic blueprint for the simulation. Your Operational Profile must be strictly divided into the following three sections:

Part 1: Historical Background (Strictly up to February 3, 1939)

- **What did your actor do in that period of time?** Provide a concise summary of your actor's career, achievements, and political or scientific trajectory leading up to the divergence point (February 1939).
- *Warning:* Do not include any historical events, discoveries, or titles that occurred *after* February 1939. You are stepping into this date; the rest is unwritten.

Part 2: Your Role in the Atomic Race

- **What is your specific function?** Define exactly what you bring to the table in this committee. Are you a Scientist pushing the boundaries of physics? A Politician managing public stability and diplomacy? Or a General enforcing security and logistics?
- Explain how your specific skills will ensure your bloc reaches nuclear capability before the enemy.

Part 3: Strategic Interrogation (QARMAS)

You must answer the following questions from the first-person perspective of your assigned actor. Be direct, strategic, and honest about your limitations and ambitions:

- *Operational Assets:* What is your core competency? What is the single most valuable asset or skill you bring to your bloc?
- *Track Record:* What is your greatest execution or achievement before 1939 that justifies your seat at this Atomic Council?
- *Chain of Command & Frictions:* Who do you report to, and who reports to you? Which other actors (even within your own bloc) do you have historical rivalries, ego clashes, or opposing methodologies with?
- *The Weaponization of Science:* Following the discovery of fission, do you believe science must remain open and international, or must it become classified state secret?

- *Ethical Boundaries:* When faced with a weapon capable of erasing entire cities, where is your absolute red line? Does the end justify any means?
- *The Covert Endgame:* Beyond simply "winning the war" for your bloc, what is your personal objective for your career, your nation, or the world once the atomic age truly begins?

V. Specialized Roles within the Bloc

To ensure maximum efficiency and strategic coordination during the Closed Chamber sessions, delegates must divide their labor. While all members can debate and strategize, the execution of actions is divided into three distinct spheres of influence:

1. The "Q" Director (Chief Scientist) Elected democratically by the bloc. The Director holds the monopoly over the scientific progression of the weapon. They are the only delegate authorized to touch the Chalkboard, submit directives regarding the four Nuclear Components, and officially request budget allocations from the government.

2. The Politicians (Diplomats & Social Manipulators) Representing the state leadership and highly influential figures (e.g., Harry Truman, Lewis Strauss). Their power does not lie in passing laws, but in navigating social dynamics, internal rivalries, and public perception.

- **Responsibilities:** They are in charge of drafting **Propaganda** directives to manage Social Stability and handle internal or external smear campaigns.
- **Joint Session Leaders:** During the Atomic Board, Politicians act as the primary face of the bloc. They lead negotiations with the rival side, orchestrate treaties, and drive the debate surrounding the ethical dilemmas and global consequences of the atomic bomb.

3. The Generals (Logistics & Security) The armed and industrial wing of the committee. They ensure that the scientists have the materials they need and protect the project from external threats.

- **Responsibilities:** Generals are the only delegates authorized to draft directives for **Sabotage**, **Espionage**, deploying security to protect laboratories, and constructing industrial infrastructure (**Factories and Uranium Mines**).

VI. Forms of Participation and Procedural Points

Delegates may use standard parliamentary points during sessions:

- Point of Personal Privilege — to raise a personal concern (e.g., unable to hear)
- Point of Order — to flag a procedural error

- Point of Parliamentary Inquiry — to ask a question about procedure
- Point of Information — to directly question another delegate during debate

This committee also introduces one special operational point:

Point of Technical Access: Allows a delegate to briefly use the computer and printer to produce written materials (directives, plans, agreements). Only one computer and one printer are available per side. This point requires chair approval.

VII. Resource System

Each bloc manages three types of resources throughout the committee:

1. Economic Capacity (Money)

Money is required to take any action. If your bloc does not have enough funds, a directive will automatically fail. Delegates can invest in factories and industries to generate income over time.

2. Uranium (Three-Stage Process)

Uranium is the key material for building a nuclear weapon. It moves through three stages:

- Raw Uranium — extracted from mines each cycle (output varies)
- Processed Uranium — raw uranium must be refined; 30–50% is lost during processing
- Refined Uranium — the only form usable for nuclear development

3. Stability System

Stability is divided into two categories:

- Political Stability — represents government control and efficiency
- Social Stability — represents public opinion and internal unrest

Effects of low stability:

- Below 50: penalties begin to apply
- Below 40: increased costs and reduced efficiency

Blocs must balance their external competition with internal stability. A technologically advanced bloc can still fail if its society collapses from within.

Starting Conditions

Allied Bloc: 80 money | 40 raw uranium | 60 political stability | 55 social stability

Nazi Bloc: 65 money | 50 raw uranium | 70 political stability | 60 social stability

VIII. Early Development Options

Before nuclear construction begins, blocs may invest in building their capacity:

- Factories — generate income over time
- Advanced Industry — higher income, but reduces stability
- Uranium Mines — produce raw uranium each cycle (variable output)
- Propaganda — improves social stability (50% success rate)
- Project Site - where the project's investigation is conducted
    - Blocs have the 2 options to choose to build their project site.

This phase requires a strategic choice: focus on short-term preparation or long-term capacity.

There is no single correct path.

IX. Preparation Phase

Before a bloc can begin building the bomb, it must complete three preparatory foundations:

1. Scientific Infrastructure
2. Uranium Processing Capability
3. Scientific Coordination

Select a member of the bloc to be the Director of the Atomic Project and receive the Q Security Clearance through an anonymous democratic vote. The Q Clearance is not just a title; it grants exclusive rights but demands absolute accountability.

Exclusive Rights

- **The Chalkboard Monopoly:** The Q Director is the ONLY individual authorized to manipulate the Chalkboard. (Touching the board without a Q clearance will result in inhibiting the infractor bloc's directives for one cycle, as well as reducing their social stability by 5 points).
    - *Purpose of the Board:* To map the bomb's design and publicly present the bloc's resource management.
- **Budget Requisition:** Q is the sole actor authorized to send direct messages to their government requesting budget allocations (Money).

- **Technical Veto:** No directive concerning the *Nuclear Development System* (Components 4-7) can be submitted to the Crisis Staff without the explicit signature/approval of the Q Director.
- **Counter-Espionage Audits:** Q has the right to formally request a discreet audit on one member of their own bloc per cycle if internal sabotage or espionage is suspected.

Responsibilities & Liabilities

- **Budget Defense:** Q must justify previous spending before the Chair approves new budget requests.
- **Absolute Accountability:** The Q Director assumes blame for scientific failures, facing potential sanctions or loss of privileges.
- **Motion of No Confidence:**
    - Any delegate may raise this motion during a Closed Chamber session if the Director is deemed inefficient.
    - Requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass.
    - If passed, the Q clearance is immediately revoked and a replacement must be elected.

These are mandatory, but blocs may choose the order and timing. Skipping them is not possible.

X. Nuclear Development System

Once preparation is complete, blocs may begin constructing the atomic bomb. The bomb is made up of four components, and all four must be completed to achieve nuclear capability. If any single component fails or is missing, the weapon is inoperable.

The four components are:

4. Fissile Material — obtaining and enriching the nuclear fuel
5. Chain Reaction — stabilizing a controlled nuclear chain reaction
6. Weapon Design — designing the detonation mechanism
7. Delivery System — developing a method to deploy the weapon

Each component requires three successful advancements. Partial progress is possible — one successful directive may advance a component partway, but it may take multiple successful actions to complete it fully.

Special Requirement: To complete the final stage of nuclear development, a bloc must obtain a scientist from the Nazi's bloc. This introduces an element of diplomacy, negotiation, or covert interaction into the process.

Strategic note: Some components are faster but riskier; others are slower but more stable. Blocs must decide how to allocate their resources and risk tolerance.

XI. Directive System

Directives are the main tool through which delegates take action. A directive is not a suggestion — it is a structured plan submitted to the crisis staff for evaluation and implementation. Each bloc may submit a maximum of two directives per cycle.

All directives must be clearly written and follow this mandatory structure when using the Point of Technical Access:

- **OPERATION TITLE:** (e.g., Operation Manhattan)
- **TYPE OF DIRECTIVE:** (Military / Scientific / Political)
- **1. ULTIMATE PURPOSE:** What is the strategic, long-term goal of this action? (e.g., "To paralyze the enemy's uranium production and gain a two-cycle advantage.")

- **2. EXECUTION STEPS (The "How"):**

  Step A: ...

  Step B: ...

- **3. RESOURCES INVESTED:**

  Money allocated:

  Uranium used (Specify Raw or Refined):

- **4. ACTORS INVOLVED:** Which specific delegate/role is executing this?
- **[ ] SIGNATURE OF THE Q DIRECTOR:** *(Mandatory ONLY for Scientific Directives)*

All directives are subject to review by the crisis staff. The chair retains full authority to evaluate each directive and determine its outcome based on the bloc's current resources.

XII. Outcome Determination

To prioritize strategic preparation over random chance, directive outcomes are not determined by dice. Instead, the Crisis Staff evaluates the success, partial success, or failure of every directive based on the bloc's current "Resource Spectrum" at the exact moment of submission. The Chair categorizes the bloc's standing into three levels (Critical, Stable, Optimal) across four variables:

A. Political Stability (Government Efficiency)

- **Critical (0 - 39):** Fractured leadership. Directives cost 50% more Money due to bureaucratic inefficiency.
- **Stable (40 - 74):** Normal functioning. Directives execute at base cost and time.
- **Optimal (75 - 100):** Absolute leadership. Complex directives are approved faster, and the bloc gains resistance against basic political espionage.

B. Social Stability (Public Support)

- **Critical (0 - 39):** Strikes and panic. Raw Uranium extraction and Factory income are reduced by half. High risk of civilian rebellion.
- **Stable (40 - 74):** Compliant population. Normal production rates.
- **Optimal (75 - 100):** Fierce loyalty. Enemy propaganda directives fail automatically.

C. Economic Capacity (Money)

- **Critical (0 - 29):** Near bankruptcy. Industrial and scientific directives fail. The bloc can only execute diplomatic actions or request emergency funds.
- **Stable (30 - 79):** Sustainable war economy. Allows the bloc to fund both research and uranium processing simultaneously.
- **Optimal (80+):** Economic superpower. Can fund massive multi-step projects and expensive espionage networks.

D. Uranium Supply (The Bottleneck)

- **Critical (0 - 19):** Severe shortage. Scientific directives to advance bomb components are completely halted.
- **Stable (20 - 49):** Steady supply. Components advance at a standard speed.
- **Optimal (50+):** Abundance. Allows the bloc to take higher scientific risks (e.g., faster refining without fear of losing critical material).

**Example of Resolution:* If the Generals submit a highly ambitious Sabotage directive, but their bloc's Political Stability is in the "Critical" spectrum, the Chair will automatically dictate a Failure due to poor internal coordination, regardless of how well-written the directive is.*

XIII. Espionage System

Espionage occurs through infiltrated delegates (spies). Spies are recruited during coffee breaks through discreet interaction with members of the opposing bloc.

A spy may:

- Observe the other bloc's strategy and resources
- Influence the other bloc's decisions
- Report information back to their original bloc

If a spy is discovered, their bloc faces penalties and public exposure. Espionage is a high-risk, high-reward strategy that must be used carefully.

XIV. Sabotage System

Each bloc has a maximum of two sabotage actions available throughout the committee. Sabotage can be used to:

- Cancel the other Bloc's progress on a component

- Remove or destroy the other Bloc's resources
- Trigger a crisis within the other Bloc

Alternatively, instead of sabotaging, a bloc may choose to use its sabotage action to gain additional resources for itself.

Important: Sabotage is a high-risk strategy. A failed attempt may expose your bloc, allow the opposing side to implement countermeasures, or even trigger retaliation. Use it wisely.

XV. Consequences System (Crisis Wheel)

When a directive fails, the consequences are real and lasting. The severity depends on what failed and at what stage of development.

Possible consequences of failure include:

- Loss of invested resources
- Reduced scientific efficiency (lower success probability on future attempts)

- Drop in public stability
- Major incidents: laboratory destruction, loss of key personnel, or multi-cycle setbacks
- Intelligence exposure: rival blocs may learn about your weaknesses and exploit them

Failure is never isolated — it reshapes the competitive environment. A weakened bloc gives the opponent an opening.

XVI. Crisis System

Throughout the committee, the chair will introduce crises — unexpected events that all delegates must respond to. Crises may be:

- Public or Private (visible to all or only one bloc)
- Open or Closed (debated openly or resolved confidentially)

Crises are often consequences of previous actions taken by delegates. They may affect resources, stability, or information available to one or both blocs.

XVII. Delegate Mission System

Each delegate receives a personal mission at the start of the committee. Missions add an individual layer of strategy — you are not only acting on behalf of your bloc, but also pursuing your own objectives.

Missions may involve:

- Achieving a leadership role or influencing key bloc decisions
- Gathering intelligence or manipulating the committee direction
- Covert interference with the opposing Bloc

Some missions align with your bloc goals. Others may create tension. You will need to balance your personal objectives with your collective responsibilities.

Performance evaluation is not based solely on whether you complete your mission. Delegates are assessed on: proximity to their objective, consistency of actions, and ability to adapt to a changing crisis environment. Partial progress counts.

XVIII. Final Phase — July 1945

The committee concludes with a closed cycle. At this point, no further development or construction is possible. Delegates must make one final, irreversible decision:

- Use the atomic bomb
- Demonstrate it without deploying it
- Refrain from using it entirely
- Other alternative proposed by delegated

This decision will be evaluated based on ethical, political, and strategic considerations.

There is no objectively correct answer — only the reasoning behind your choice.

XIX. Chair Authority and Final Provisions

The Chair holds full authority over all aspects of the committee: interpretation of rules, evaluation of directives, determination of outcomes, and application of consequences. The Chair may introduce modifications or clarifications at any time to preserve coherence and balance.

All Chair decisions are final and binding.

Delegates are expected to:

- Debate actively and challenge decisions
- Represent conflicting perspectives honestly
- Operate within the framework of this handbook
- Demonstrate strategic awareness, adaptability, and responsibility

Consensus is not the goal. Conflict is essential. You are not here to win efficiently — you are here to decide under pressure, disagreement, and uncertainty.

Every decision will define what your bloc becomes.

Can you hear the music?

COLEGIO BILINGUE SANTA MARTA MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS

SAMUN XV