



ATOMIC COUNCIL

SAMUN XV



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Committee: Atomic Council

Topic: The Nuclear Board — The Atomic Arms Race

Language: English

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1.

Important Disclaimer

To fully understand the dynamics of this background guide, it is strictly mandatory to read the Committee Handbook first. The handbook contains the rules, resource management mechanics, “Closed Chamber” dynamics, and the directive system under which this simulation will operate.

2.

Letters from the Presidents

Letter from President Díaz Granados

Honorary actors, a warm welcome.

“Our challenges don’t define us, our actions do.” — Michael J. Fox



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I am Juan Manuel Díaz Granados, your SAMUN XV president, and alongside my colleagues Jorge Pérez and José Eduardo Barreneche, we are honored to guide this committee of young leaders.

My journey in Model United Nations (MUN) has been a journey of valuable lessons. As a delegate, you empower your voice in problem-solving and communicate ideas for solutions within the committee. In the early stages of my MUN journey, I questioned how my ideas could contribute to ongoing discussions. And I discovered a way.

The United Nations model is designed for collective problem-solving with delegates worldwide. Spread your ideas, mold them through collaboration, and find solutions for those who need our help. Our collective solutions can have a profound impact on the world.

We invite you to let your ideas flow, debate them passionately, mold them collaboratively, and most importantly, refine them. Use your communication and debating skills inside and outside the committee to create lasting memories of SAMUN XV.

Understanding that the Atomic Council is an innovative and new committee, we invite you to familiarize yourselves with the provided guide and handbook. These manuals contain the complete guide for you to understand the structure, function, and dynamic we are going to delve



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into the Atomic Council. It is crucial that you investigate and understand the role of your actor and the actors around the committee in order to actively engage, ensuring the optimization of your participation and overall experience within the committee.

Feel free to reach out to us at juan.diazgranados-mattos@cbsm.edu.co, jorge.perez-lopez@cbsm.edu.co, and jose.barreneche-ovalle@cbsm.edu.co for any additional assistance or queries. We are open and pleased to guide all of you.

We extend our best wishes for an exceptional experience throughout SAMUN XV and look forward to the innovative solutions and ideas that will undoubtedly emerge.

Sincerely,

Juan Manuel Díaz Granados Mattos

Letter from President Pérez

Dear Delegates,



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With nothing but enthusiasm and respect, Presidents Díaz Granados, Barreneche and I extend a warm welcome to you on behalf of SAMUN. We are grateful for the privilege of presiding over the Atomic Council committee, where delegates will not only learn about humanity's history, but develop their critical thinking and decision-making abilities.

There is no doubt about the importance of knowing our past in order to enhance our future. Knowing how problems were solved in the past is the best way to learn how to properly manage present challenges while involving diplomacy, resilience, and dialogue. Not because I say so, but because history speaks from experience — a wealth of lessons that is unbelievably valuable today.

Surprisingly, there is a way to reach that learning peak. Being able to embody past conflicts is the only way to make people fully connect with them, and that is what the Atomic Council is about. We encourage you to truly inhabit the perspective of your character. We expect your commitment to excel your risk-taking capabilities when making decisions within the committee. We are confident that all of you will demonstrate leadership and, most importantly, enthusiasm.

Without making this any longer, I wish you the best of experiences in SAMUN XV. We will work exhaustively to ensure all of you enjoy your time as delegates.



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If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact me at jorge.perez-lopez@cbsm.edu.co.

Best regards,

Jorge Antonio Pérez López

Letter from President Barreneche

Honorable delegates,

Welcome to the committee.

Talking about nuclear weapons is uncomfortable. Not because it's unfamiliar, but because it isn't. We know what they mean, what they can do, and how fast things can get out of control when decisions are made under pressure.



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My name is José Eduardo Barreneche, and it is honestly a privilege to be your President for this committee. I've spent enough time in MUN to know that the committees you remember are not the easiest ones, but the ones that force you to think, to doubt, and to make decisions even when you're not completely sure.

That is the kind of space this is.

Here, things won't always be clear. Information won't always be complete. People won't always act the way you expect them to. And at some point, you will have to decide anyway.

That is where it stops being just a simulation.

More than perfect speeches or prepared ideas, what matters here is how you react. How you handle pressure, how you deal with uncertainty, and how willing you are to take responsibility for what you decide.

I'm not looking for perfection. Just that you take this seriously, that you get involved, and that you actually think about what you're doing and why.

In the end, this is less about being right and more about what you choose to do when things get complicated.

I'm looking forward to seeing how each of you approaches that.



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Sincerely,

José Eduardo Barreneche

Committee President

3.

Introduction to the Crisis: The Point of Divergence

Date of Convergence: February 3, 1939

In late 1938, the scientific world was shattered by a discovery in Berlin: nuclear fission. Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann successfully split a uranium atom, releasing an unprecedented amount of energy. Suddenly, theoretical physics was no longer just an academic pursuit; it held the blueprint for the most destructive weapon in human history.

Understanding the catastrophic geopolitical implications of this discovery, an emergency, unprecedented summit was convened: The Atomic Council. On February 3, 1939, scientists,

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generals, and politicians from the Allied and Nazi blocs met to debate the ethical boundaries of nuclear science, the necessity of secrecy, and the inevitable arms race that looms over Europe.

CRITICAL DIRECTIVE: The historical events that occurred in the real world after February 3, 1939 — such as the actual Manhattan Project, the Trinity Test, or the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — have not happened in this committee. History is not a script you must follow. From the moment the first session begins, the timeline is erased. You are not here to recreate history; you are here to rewrite it through your decisions, resource management, and strategic risks.

4.

Historical Baseline

While you will write about the future, you must understand the reality of the era you are standing in. The following points represent the historical gravity of the atomic bomb, serving as a baseline for your roleplay:

The Scale of Destruction



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A nuclear weapon does not simply destroy military targets; it erases entire cities in a fraction of a second, leaving long-term radioactive devastation. It erases the line between soldier and civilian.

The Intelligence Paranoia

In the real timeline, the arms race was driven by worst-case scenario logic. The Allies built their bomb entirely out of the terrifying — though unverified — fear that the Nazis were close to building one first. Uncertainty is the ultimate driver of escalation.

The Weaponization of Science

Prior to 1939, science was an open, international collaboration. Fission forced science into the shadows. Knowledge became classified, and scientists became assets of the state, answering to military generals rather than university deans.

5.

The Actors

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Delegates will embody key historical figures from the nuclear age. Each actor belongs to a bloc and carries a distinct role, set of competencies, and strategic function within the committee.

A. The Scientists — The Majority (The Creators)

- Werner Heisenberg (Nazi Bloc): The intellectual heavyweight of the German scientific machine; his presence under the Nazi regime generates global paranoia.
- J. Robert Oppenheimer (Allied Bloc): The great synthesizer and administrator, capable of taking dispersed theoretical physics and transforming it into a weaponized national enterprise.
- Enrico Fermi (Allied Bloc): The master of the experimental chain reaction, essential for turning raw uranium into a functioning reactor.
- Leo Szilard (Allied Bloc): The visionary who first understood the urgency of building the bomb before the enemy.
- Igor Kurchatov (Soviet/Allied Bloc): The director of the Soviet nuclear effort, tasked with accelerating Russian science to match the West.

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- Edward Teller (Allied Bloc): The forward-looking extremist, always pushing the boundaries of escalation toward the hydrogen bomb.
- Niels Bohr (Neutral): The international mediator fighting to keep science free from state secrets and wartime paranoia.
- Lise Meitner (Neutral): Theoretical discoverer of fission, exiled from Germany; represents the unbreakable ethical boundary against weaponization.
- Otto Hahn (Neutral): The chemist who split the atom; carries the immense weight of having opened Pandora's box.
- Albert Einstein (Allied Bloc): The ultimate moral and scientific authority, whose influence can mobilize entire nations and budgets.
- Eugene Wigner (Allied Bloc): The perfect bridge between intellectual realization and institutional organization.
- Klaus Fuchs (Soviet/Allied Bloc): Brilliant physicist with a natural talent for infiltrating and transferring classified information.
- Otto Frisch (Allied Bloc): Co-discoverer of the fission mechanism, key to the practical design of the detonation process.
- John von Neumann (Allied Bloc): Genius of applied mathematics, vital for calculating the complex implosion of the weapon.

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- Richard Feynman (Allied Bloc): Young prodigy in computational calculations and rapid resolution of technical bottlenecks.
- Carl F. von Weizsäcker (Nazi Bloc): Theoretical physicist and diplomat, tasked with justifying and advancing the German nuclear program.
- Walther Bothe (Nazi Bloc): The lead German experimentalist, key in the moderation of nuclear chain reactions.
- Paul Harteck (Nazi Bloc): Pragmatic physical chemist, focused on solving the complex problem of uranium enrichment.
- Yuli Khariton (Soviet/Allied Bloc): The shadow architect of Soviet weapons design.

B. The Politicians — The Diplomats & Manipulators

- Franklin D. Roosevelt (Allied Bloc): The ultimate US executive authority; controls massive funding and industrial mobilization.

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- Harry S. Truman (Allied Bloc): Pragmatic and direct, focused on concrete war results over theoretical ethical dilemmas.
- Joseph Stalin (Soviet/Allied Bloc): Driven by suspicion; his sole objective is to ensure Russian strategic parity and post-war dominance.
- Winston Churchill (Allied Bloc): Geopolitical strategist who sees the bomb as the ultimate lever to manage the post-war world order.
- Lewis Strauss (Allied Bloc): Master of bureaucracy and social manipulation, expert in smear campaigns and internal security control.
- Albert Speer (Nazi Bloc): Minister of Armaments, the only official capable of granting or denying critical industrial resources to his scientists.
- Vyacheslav Molotov (Soviet/Allied Bloc): The iron Soviet diplomat; negotiates treaties while preparing for inevitable betrayal.

C. The Generals — Logistics, Security & Sabotage

- General Leslie Groves (Allied Bloc): The embodiment of industrial brute force; demands speed, results, and extreme security in the laboratories.

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- Kurt Diebner (Nazi Bloc): The military-administrative core of the German effort; seeks martial efficiency over academic debates.
- Lavrentiy Beria (Soviet/Allied Bloc): Master of coercion, surveillance, and extracting scientific secrets at any cost.
- Wilhelm Keitel (Nazi Bloc): Supreme German military commander, in charge of securing facilities and coordinating sabotage operations against the enemy.

6.

Delegate Preparation: Operational Profile & QARMAS

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.



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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 of 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.



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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:

1. **Operational Assets:** What is your core competency? What is the single most valuable asset or skill you bring to your bloc?
2. **Track Record:** What is your greatest execution or achievement before 1939 that justifies your seat at this Atomic Council?
3. **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?
4. **The Weaponization of Science:** Following the discovery of fission, do you believe science must remain open and international, or must it become a classified state secret?
5. **Ethical Boundaries:** When faced with a weapon capable of erasing entire cities, where is your absolute red line? Does the end justify any means?



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6. **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?**
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History is not a script. From this moment, you rewrite it.

COLEGIO BILINGUE SANTA MARTA MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS



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