



# THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates and Moderators,

Welcome to NAIMUN LVI and more specifically welcome to United States Senate. The staff of NAIMUN LVI has been working day and night to make this the most rewarding and educational experience yet, and we are excited to welcome you all to DC in February!

This document is the topic abstract for United States Senate. It contains three key elements to allow you all to prepare well in advance for the committee: topics, structure, and research avenues. The goal of this abstract is to give you a better understanding of the content in the committee. As well, it is meant to be a launch point for further research about the content of this committee. By reading and understanding the topic abstract, you will more fully get a sense of how this committee will be run at NAIMUN and what specific issues the NAIMUN staff want you to focus on.

We hope to be of assistance to you in your preparation for NAIMUN LVI. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Secretary-General or Director-General. We look forward to welcoming you to the NAIMUN family!

Best,  
Chase and Charlotte

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## Topic Abstract: United States Senate

### Introduction

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As “the world’s most deliberative body,” the United States Senate remains one of the most prestigious lawmaking bodies in the world. The Senate was established as an equal partner to the House of Representatives within the United States Congress. The form of representation, however, varies from the House of Representatives, as senators represent entire states, rather than congressional districts.

As crucial actors in the US political process during the height of the Cold War, senators at NAIMUN LVI will be tasked with articulating their opinions on a wide variety of hot-button issues, drafting / amending legislation, and debating the most pressing national security concerns of the day. The diverse perspectives that each of the senators bring are imperative to consider, because they will shape United States policy during this crucial historical period.

Events in recent years have forced the U.S. public to reckon with the image of the United States as a mono-cultured and united country. These events can be categorized in three spheres: those relating to race, communism, and crime. Lawmakers at this time are beginning to see that lines between domestic politics and international relations are beginning to blur, and it is up to the Senate to determine how the United States will best work to win the Cold War.



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## Topic A: Chinese, Soviet, and American Relations

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### **Sino-Soviet Relations**

Recent years have brought a dramatic change to Sino-Soviet Relations. In 1956, China and the Soviet Union entered into open conflict over interpretations of implementation of ideology. This rift could pose an opportunity for the United States to change the balance of power in the Cold War. Invested with the power to ratify treaties, the United States Senate has the power to reinvent U.S.-Sino relations, an area which is of particular import the United States' efforts to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. They also have the power to alter the President's authority with respect to Soviet and Chinese engagement.

### **US-Sino Relations**

The conflict between the US- aligned Republic of China, and the communist People's Republic of China exposed the United States to conflict, as the People's Republic of China had come to dominate mainland China and its resources.

The Taiwan Strait Crisis forced the United States, however, to come to the defense of Taiwan (where the Republic of China had sheltered) once the two opposing parties attacked each other after the US attempted to vacate the conflict. Thus, the United States stood in defense of the Republic of China, who were weakening in their power, against the communist People's Republic of China.

Congress exercised its powers in the aftermath of the conflict to pass the 1955 Formosa Resolution, which empowered the President to defend the islands off mainland China that hosted the remnants of the Republic of China.

Anti-communist fears began to swell globally, but particularly in the United States, as the USSR and the People's Republic of China swiftly achieved geopolitical power. Yet, the divisions between these two nations provided an opening for US foreign policy to exploit these divisions and play these two powers off of each other. The Senate must



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discern how best to alter current policies and treaties, while crafting new legislation to empower relevant authorities to fight back against this great communist threat.

### **US-Soviet Relations**

US foreign policy toward the Soviet Union had drastically changed since the Second World War, as the Soviet Union had become the primary geopolitical adversary that the US faced. The Cold War consisted of constant stand offs between these two world powers. The 1949 nuclear weapon detonation by the Soviet Union had ended the American dominance in this sphere, and as the decades progressed, it seemed both nations were marching toward armed nuclear conflict.

Specifically, US-Soviet relations in 1957 were dominated by a policy of containment. The Truman Doctrine, as articulated by President Truman during an address to Congress, demonstrated the fierce opposition to Soviet expansion, with the United States committing to leaving the communist ideology where it was and preventing its spread across the globe. The Eisenhower doctrine, articulated on January 3rd, 1957 as a special message to Congress, expanded this concept of containment to a more global scale, with a specific focus on the Middle East. Thus, the idea of containment become much more globalized, and this moved US foreign policy toward a path of opposing the Soviet Union wherever they threatened expansion, even if the threatened nation was not in direct US interest.

The United States faces many geopolitical, economic, and military challenges from the Soviet Union, and it remains to be seen as to whether how the Senate will empower the United States to overcome these challenges.

### **Topic B: Intelligence Sharing**

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For most of the United States' existence, its foreign policy has been defined by a doctrine of isolationism. The two world wars the United States has fought in the past half century signaled a shift in that policy, a change crystalized in the involvement of the United States in the United Nations-backed conflict on the Korean Peninsula. As



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new technologies facilitate global communication, the U.S. ought to seriously consider any potential benefits or risks attached to communicating sensitive information with allies.

The intelligence apparatus within the United States was becoming more formalized so as to meet these needs, with the founding of the Central Intelligence Agency (charged with intelligence gathering), the National Security Council (charged with coordination of national security policy), and the National Security Agency (charged with signals intelligence). This Cold War context also illustrated the need for an information sharing system between close allies committed to democracy, freedom, and capitalism. The 1946 UKUSA Agreement served as the foundation for the Five Eyes alliance, which would come to include the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand by the beginning of 1957. Secrecy and discretion are the hallmarks of this agreement, as the information shared between these allies remained sensitive and would not bode well should they end up in enemy combatant hands.

The prosecution of Soviet spies during this time, including the Rosenbergs, has made clear that spies exist at the highest levels of the U.S. government, and likely hold positions in allied governments as well. This highlighted the need for an increased counter-intelligence apparatus within the United States, and the bodies established by the National Security Act of 1947 began to expand in their roles as Cold War operatives. This infiltration of western democracies raised concerns about the security risks attached to sharing information between large numbers of parties.

Increased information sharing would also require clarification of priorities in intelligence gathering and other realms of information. The Senate holds this obligation to ensure that oversight over these programs are in place, that priorities in these programs are defined and meet the needs of Cold War combat, and that information is shared in a responsible and secure manner.

The concept of information sharing among allies and information interception by enemies is not new, but the advanced and quick manner in which information can be transmitted to others poses new challenges to the United States government. The



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Senate must find a way to meet these new challenges and overcome the obstacles they pose so that its citizenry, and the citizenry of its allies, remain secure.

### Resources for Further Research

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Below are some resources that will be helpful for further research. General knowledge about the US intelligence apparatus, as well as its foreign policy with respect to east Asia and the Soviet Union are helpful. In addition, it may be beneficial to understand the powers and composition of the Senate during the 85th Congress (1957-1959).

<https://www.senate.gov/history/>

This resource is the official history of the United States Senate, and delegates can use this to research the powers, structure, and composition of the Senate.

<https://fas.org/irp/offdocs/int022.html>

The Federation of American Scientists writes of the history of the US intelligence apparatus and its evolution, and it will be necessary to consider the intelligence history as the Senate seeks to improve its operation within the Cold War context.

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/trudoc.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/trudoc.asp)

<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=11007>

These two sources, the Truman Doctrine and the Eisenhower Doctrine, are helpful in defining how US foreign policy approached communist movements (particularly the Soviets) globally. They are the foundation of the US policy of containment.

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/84/hjres159/text>

This is the text of the 1955 Formosa Resolution, which granted the President the authority to protect islands around mainland China that were threatened by the Communist power there. It can serve as an effective template for further resolutions by the Senate if necessary.

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960>

This comprehensive history from the State Department details the historical advancements in this time period. (NOTE: any events after 1957 will not be in consideration in this organ).