

*The Secretariat of the Fifteenth Annual
Virginia International Crisis
Simulation Presents:*

**European Police Commission
on Trafficking**

Chaired by Andrew Koch

VICS XV

Dear Delegates,

My name is Andrew Koch and I will be chairing the meeting of European Police Commission on Trafficking. I am a second-year student in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia double majoring in History and Foreign Affairs. I have been involved in Model UN since middle school and brought that involvement to UVa. I've participated in the International Relations Organization since the beginning of last year. This year I served as the Undersecretary General for Committees for our high school conference VAMUN and next year I will be running the conference. In terms of VICS I was the crisis director last year in the Alexander the Great committee and had a great time. I look forward to making this committee as fun as possible.

I know many of you are very experienced in Model UN having competed in high school, but if you are coming in as a novice do not feel intimidated you'll catch on very quickly. There will not be strict parliamentary procedure apart from voting on actions taken by the committee as a whole. In fact I would prefer to do as little as possible and allow discussion to carry the committee.

Overall the object of this committee is to stop the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers from taking over or destroying Eastern Europe and the world with their arms trafficking and to prevent the Convention from selling arms to organizations that could do harm to our member nations. Now it is up to each of you individually to decide if you actually want to follow this credo.

To give you an idea of the type of people we are up against I would encourage everyone who has not seen the movie Lord of War to watch it. These are bad people and they must be stopped. Please feel free to email me with any questions concerning the committee and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing all of you in March.

Best of Luck,

Andrew Koch

ank5d@virginia.edu

VICS XV

How the Committee Will Run

This committee will be almost entirely crisis based and will depend upon the actions taken by you and the other half of this joint committee, the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers. These actions can include both individual directives and joint directives.

Since each of you is a representative of a country or intergovernmental organization you will have powers outside of the committee within your country and with your government. Your actions within your own country will play heavily into the crisis situation. All of those decisions however, must be run through our outstanding crisis staff through governmental directives. These directives could range, for example, from “Buy arms from the arms dealers” to “Ensure border security by increasing police patrols from x to y.” But for the sake of our crisis staff make them more fun and imaginative.

Joint directives, for the purposes of ensuring that they are consistent with committee wishes, must be passed with a 2/3rds majority. These must be submitted in writing to the committee dais and introduced before being voted upon. A joint directive can carry a lot of force or could be completely empty. Examples would be “Shut down all airports in x country” or “Condemn the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers.”

As Chair I will be the President of the European Police Commission on Trafficking and thus, like any intergovernmental-European president, I will be exceptionally weak. I will have veto power over a joint directive for purposes of keeping the committee sane,

but I will not utilize such power unless absolutely necessary. Also I will preside over votes on joint directives. Other than those two things I will be completely useless. Thus, it is up to you all to run the committee through discussion and compromise.

How to Prepare for Committee

This committee will take place in late 2010 and early 2011. So please know your country’s position on the arms trade at the moment. Of course you do not have to stick to that policy completely because you are an individual with your own interests and the interests of your government. So have fun.

A policy paper could be helpful to you, but I will not be requiring them to be turned in.

An Introduction to Arms Trafficking

The Small Arms Trade

Every year approximately 500,000 people are killed by the 639 million small arms that are in circulation. In some cases these weapons cause 80% of the casualties in conflicts around the globe. Small arms have become the weapon of choice for all guerilla, as well as government armies because they are relatively cheap, easily assessable, extremely lethal, easy to use, sturdy, transportable, and easily hidden. Because these weapons are easily stored they often remain in conflict zones following a war and can cause regional instability, reigniting wars because of their accessibility.¹

¹ Stohl, “The Tangled Web of Illicit Arms Trafficking”

It is clear that the world is failing to control the proliferation of small arms. In order to do a better job we must learn to understand the networks organizing these arms transfers. Many of these networks utilize legitimate channels of international trade to proliferate small arms. The trafficking networks have also become integrated with each other, as evidenced by the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers, as well as the global economy.²

The arms dealers have perfected the art of sending legally produced small arms into and through countries in which the United Nations has placed an arms embargo. One of the greatest assets for the arms dealers are the government officials, both in supplier nations and in importer nations, who accept bribes of all kinds to turn a blind eye on the illegal actions.³ The impropriety of government officials is of great concern for this committee because there is always the potential that one of our number could be a paid employee of the International Convention of Arms Dealers.

Arms dealers have taken advantage of poor security on national stockpiles of weapons during times of peace and instability. For example, in 1997 500,000 weapons were stolen from the Albanian national arsenal.

In conclusion, the small arms trade is flourishing around the world. However, this committee's jurisdiction only allows us to operate in Europe among the member states of this committee. This does not mean that the arms dealers will only be coming solely from Europe. The International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers will

² Ibid

³ Ibid

be made up of many different nationalities, all bent on destroying Eastern Europe with their illegal activities.

The Small Arms Trade in Eastern Europe

Since the end of the Cold War, Eastern Europe has been a hot bed of the small arms trade. The disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc left stockpiles of small arms throughout these countries and also left these countries without a significant means of economic development, thus many of them turned to selling these arms to other nations and non-state actors to offset some of the pain associated with evolving from a communist to a capitalist economy.

Central and Eastern Europe is home to some of the biggest arms exporters in the world. Russia is the fourth largest arms exporter in the world, and the Czech Republic, Poland, and Romania are classified as 'medium-sized' exporters by the Small Arms Survey.⁴ Eastern Europe is also home to one of the biggest arms proliferation problems in the world. The Balkan nations as a whole contain an estimated 8 million small arms among a population of 24 million.⁵ Most of these arms were proliferated from the former Soviet Union.

Proliferation of Nuclear Materials

The smuggling of nuclear materials has increased exponentially since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991. There is nuclear weapons material in more than 40 countries around the globe and significant attempts have been made

⁴ International Action Network on Small Arms: Central and Eastern Europe

⁵ Ibid

in Eastern Europe to smuggle nuclear materials.⁶

Like the proliferation of small arms in Eastern Europe, the proliferation of Nuclear Materials has been a direct result of the collapse of the Soviet Union. From 1993 to 2001 the majority of confirmed cases of trafficking in nuclear or other radioactive materials occurred in Eastern Europe (38%), and Turkey and Russia (16%).⁷

Since the fall of the Soviet Union the United States as well as the entire international community including the European Union has been working to ensure that the nuclear materials in former Soviet republics would be kept safe. President Obama recently suggested that the international community institutionalize programs such as the Proliferation Security Initiative and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism in order to prevent the spread of nuclear material into the hands of terrorist organizations. This institutionalization would have a severely negative effect on the dealers who move nuclear material like some members of the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers.⁸

The potential for materials needed to make a dirty bomb passing through Eastern Europe is extremely high.

Topics to Think About

Arms Trafficking and Terrorism in Eastern Europe

There is and has been a huge connection throughout the world between

the trafficking of weapons and terrorism. For example the Colombian terrorist organization, The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) used approximately \$500 million gained from its drug operations to buy weapons. The Colombian government between 1995 and 2001 seized more than 15,000 small arms and 2.5 million rounds of ammunition circulating in the black market. These weapons would have eventually found their way to FARC or another terrorist organization in Colombia or South America.⁹

In Eastern Europe there are many organizations, calling themselves freedom fighters, using arms trafficking as both a way to conduct terrorism as well as a way to finance the terrorist acts. Albanian terrorist organizations are constantly linked to organized crime. These organizations claim they are fighting to make a Greater Albanian which would include the sovereign republic of Kosovo. The Albanian National Army (ANA) utilizes the trafficking of arms to fund its terrorist operations in the Balkans.¹⁰

One of the greatest challenges for our organization is to figure out how to sever this connection between terrorist organizations and arms traffickers. A question to ask, is can one exist without the other? And if the answer is no then how do we as security chiefs stop the whole system. However, if the answer is yes which problem would we attempt to alleviate first.

⁶ Addressing the Proliferation Challenge

⁷ Kozak, *Nuclear Illicit Trafficking*

⁸ Addressing the Proliferation Challenge

⁹ Stohl, *The Tangled Web of Illicit Arms Trafficking*

¹⁰ Albanian Terrorism and Organized Crime in Kosovo and Metohija

Finding the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers

The committee's primary responsibility is to find the location of the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers and stop them from enacting their devious plans. In order to fulfill this responsibility you must know the possible locations where these sorts of people hang out. Some of the possible locations include: Moldova, Kosovo, Belarus, and Ukraine.

All of these nations have issues that make them prime locations for this meeting of criminal minds. Whether they are hubs for human traffickers or drug traffickers the lack of international standards in these countries and their porous borders are ideal for these arms traffickers to exploit.

Moldova



Moldova is a place where both drug traffickers and human traffickers can

meet and get along, so we should consider the country a likely spot for the meeting of these arms dealers. Moldova is considered a tier 3 country in the trafficking of persons. This means that the country does not comply with the minimum international standards set down to climate the trafficking of human beings. In fact there have been accusations that government officials have been complicit in the trafficking of persons through Moldova.¹¹

Moldova also has a thriving drug trade and serves as a conduit for the international trade that goes from Central Asia to Western Europe and the United States. This trade has created a substantial crime network with a significant underground economic black market.¹²

Both the pliable government officials and the massive black market in Moldova could give the arms dealers exactly what they are looking for in terms of a location.

Kosovo



¹¹ CIA World Factbook

¹² Ibid

Kosovo is known for its lax rules and even laxer morals of government officials. For example in July of 2009 Kosovo police men were implicated in the trafficking of arms by the Serbian Police Chief Milorad Veljovic. The Serbian government has pursued a policy to cut off the channels of arms trafficking running through Kosovo. These channels have been frequently used by Albanian terrorist groups. The policies have been effective leading to arrests of suspected terrorists and arms traffickers as well as the discovery and confiscation of large stockpiles of illegal weaponry and explosives.¹³

For years the former Serbian republic of Kosovo has been a focal point for human trafficking in the region. Where there is human trafficking there is usually arms trafficking that accompanies the process. The inherent instability of the government in Kosovo makes trafficking of all sorts both incredibly easy and incredibly profitable. Because of the years of war that have gripped Kosovo there are 21,000 internally displaced people in a population of little more than a million.¹⁴ The country is very poor and thus, very open to extreme corruption and crime.

This could be the perfect place for the arms dealers to conduct their meeting. It provides everything they need from a poor population to a corrupt and inept government

¹³ Kosovo police involved in smuggling arms into southern Serbia

¹⁴ CIA World Factbook

Belarus



Belarus, for years, has been a channel through which arms have passed to governments and terrorist organizations unhindered by international regulation. In the 1990s the United Nations declared Belarus one of the worst violators of UN arms sanctions against Iraq and it is known by arms dealers as an “eager and reliable supplier of illegal lethal military equipment.”¹⁵ Two more recent examples are the conflicts in the Sudan and Lebanon. The conflict in Darfur has been worsened by the Mi-24 helicopter gunships and the Katyusha rockets supplied by Belarus to the genocidal government of the Sudan.

President Lukashenko has been openly defiant against the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations concerning the selling of arms. Not only is the country selling arms to third world conflict zones, it also, in 2001, “secretly delivered weapons worth more than \$500 million, including Katyusha rockets, 120mm mortars, antitank rockets and mines, to Palestinian militants and

¹⁵ Choke off Belarus’s Deadly Arms Trade

countries including Syria and Iran.”¹⁶ Their customer list reads like a who’s who of international state sponsors of terror; not only Syria and Iran, but also North Korea.¹⁷

The only nation that could put pressure on the Belarusian government and Mr. Lukashenko is the Kremlin; however it is unlikely that this will occur. It is believed that the Russian government is propping Mr. Lukashenko up, so that Belarus can be used as a channel for Russian weapons to disreputable countries.¹⁸

Belarus has also become the conduit for much of the drug trade going from Russia to the Baltics and Western Europe. The country is known to be lightly regulated as compared to the international community. These light regulations include an anti-money-laundering law that is woefully inadequate to meet the problems in Belarus head on. There have also been very few investigations that have led to prosecutions of money-launderers within the country.¹⁹

By this analysis we can see why the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers might like to meet in Belarus. It would provide them with a link between Russia and the rest of Europe and they would be protected by both the laws and perhaps even the government.

Ukraine



Ukraine has a little less of a sinister illegal activities profile than the other three countries that were mentioned above, but it does not mean that it should be ignored. Ukraine has, since the Cold War ended, been exporting small arms from its nation. Following the disintegration of the eastern bloc the Ukrainian military sold their stockpiles to clients on both the black market and legal commercial market.²⁰ This trade has also created a ripe black market for these arms as well as the nuclear material from former Soviet reactors and weapons stations.

The lax security of many arms stockpiles throughout Ukraine and the country’s proximity to Russia make Ukraine an ideal location for the International Convention of Illicit Arms Dealers.

The Ukrainian government has been in crisis since the contested Presidential election in 2010 between Ukrainian nationalist, Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and Pro-Russian opposition leader Viktor Yanukovich, in which Mr. Yanukovich won. The margin of victory of 3.5 percentage points and the allegations by Ms. Tymoshenko of more than 1 million votes being falsified or miscounted²¹ have cast doubt on the

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ CIA World Factbook

²⁰ Ukraine Special Weapons

²¹ Ukraine Premier Tymoshenko Concedes Election

legitimacy of the Yanukovich's government. Many feel that the government has become a puppet of the Kremlin. For our purposes this government in crisis has created serious doubts in the international arms control community about its ability to stop the flow of arms through the country. This government instability is like an early Christmas present to arms dealers so expect our adversaries to take advantage of the situation.

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