

Disagreements over Azerbaijan cause a Stalemate in First Political

By: Rachel Szopa

A determined energy filled room 227 as the delegates of First Political prepared for the second day of the McKendree Model United Nations Invitational. After learning that the Security Council seized the topics of Syria and Afghanistan, the Committee promptly tabled the Middle East and moved to discuss Europe. At the suggestion of the delegate from Cuba, the committee began to discuss resolution 1st/V/2. The resolution, submitted by Azerbaijan, discussed the Nagorno Karabakh conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

As noted in the resolution, the conflict created thousands of Azerbaijani refugees after Armenia seized Azerbaijani lands and the resolution urges for peace talks moderated by an unbiased third party. The delegate from Cuba stated that the resolution contained a "strong, forceful message"

and with amendments, Cuba thought the resolution was passable. In the following con speech, the delegate from Guatemala argued that resolution 1st/V/2 "is completely one-sided" and "is a biased resolution asking for an unbiased party to help solve [the problem]." In defense of his resolution, the delegate from Azerbaijan admitted "there is bias in the resolution, which is why we need an unbiased party to find peace." In a bold move, Azerbaijan did not yield to a question from Guatemala, instigating a murmur throughout the committee seats. Several delegates expressed that without a delegate from Armenia present-the committee does not have the full story needed to pass the resolution.

During a caucus, conversations heated, voices raised, and small alliances appeared to form among delegates. The delegate from India proposed an unfriendly amendment. The amendment in question struck operative clause four, which demanded "that the government of Armenia withdraw from all territories is it currently holding hostage which

rightfully belong to Azerbaijan..." The delegate thought this resolution could not be fairly passed with this clause since Armenia was not present, but Azerbaijan remained firm behind his original resolution. Amendment 1st/V/2A passed after six pro speeches and one con.

A friendly amendment passed, adding an operative clause that encouraged Armenia to allow refugees to return to their homes and asks Armenia to return lands to Azerbaijan. With time running out before lunch, the

body shortened the speaking time to two minutes and several delegates struck themselves from the speaking list. A few delegates, including India and Guatemala, articulated frustration at amendment 1st/V/2C which they thought restated operative clause four, which the committee removed in amendment 1st/V/2A. The committee voted to conclude the debate, and Guatemala called for a roll call vote. Three minutes before lunch, resolution 1st/V/2 passed with twenty-three votes pro.