

## Progress on Human Rights Pervades First Political

The talking never stopped in the First Political Committee. A constant flow of amendments and questions were produced throughout the debate. Never a lull, the delegates worked together in a productive and efficient way.

The first night of the conference was a success for First Political. As the night drew to an end, two resolutions passed with a third one in the works. The first resolution dealt with the issue of child soldiers throughout the nations. A friendly amendment was added to the resolution prohibiting involvement of children in

conflicts, especially nations where conflicts involving child soldiers have been prevalent (Amendment 1).

This amendment also changed the definition of a child soldier being 18 and younger to 17 and younger. Following the amendments approval, the resolution was then passed.

Dealing with violation of human rights, a second resolution was finally passed. Dragging out to a still at the end, this resolution was not as easily accepted as the first. More countries were involved in this debate, with eight countries speaking pro and four countries speaking con.

A total of four friendly amendments were proposed for this resolution, all passing. A big topic dealt with the creation of a monitoring body rather than an international task force (Amendment 1). Another amendment stated that this task force would be made up of individuals from diverse countries without a track record or human rights violations (Amendment 2).

After a long debate from delegates' speeches the resolution was finally passed, along with all of the amendments.

Overall, First Political had an eventful first night, with the passing of two resolutions. They began a third resolution, which will carry on tomorrow.

**By: First Political Respondent**