

Security Council Seeks
Compromise

When the Security Council joined on Wednesday morning, they continued debate over resolution 2/4, which focused on the conflict in Syria. The speaking list over the amendment to strike operative clause 4 was revisited. During an unmoderated caucus, the body realized the delegate from the United States was absent; the delegate was the only veto power opposed to the clause in question, which had delayed the committee from passing the resolution. Acting quickly, the Security Council unanimously failed the amendment before the United States arrived. The delegate from South Korea drafted an amendment to add examples of agencies that would receive aid; since Syria was not explicitly mentioned, the amendment failed. The

delegate from Russia insisted "nothing is implied in a Security Council resolution." After an addition of "Syrian refugees," amendment 2/4/1 was unanimously passed.

During the debate, the United States realized operative clause 4 was still included. The delegate stated: "you're wasting your time," since veto power would be used on the resolution. An amendment to strike the clause was presented, but the committee was halted when they learned 1st Political was attempting to pass a resolution focused on Syria. The delegate from China moved to seize the topic, arguing that multiple resolutions passed on the same topic would be redundant. The delegate from Rwanda sarcastically stated "there is a possibility of redundancy, heaven forbid!" The other

delegates agreed: the matter was considered insignificant compared to the current debate, and the motion to seize failed.

Returning from the tangential debate, the Security Council entered an unmoderated caucus to discuss United States and Russian relations in terms of the amendment. In the interest of progress, South Korea said "you need to break down and discuss this because you're going to veto the amendments either way." Russia maintained "asking us to compromise for the sake of passing a resolution isn't fair...I'm going to do what's in the best interest of Russia." The caucus became heated when South Korea argued that the death of 6 million innocent people was oppression and the nation's history of continued warfare was brought up.

Following the extended unmoderated caucus, it was determined that tabling the amendment to strike clause 4 would better achieve compromise between the United States and Russia. South Korea submitted an amendment to investigate war crimes possibly committed by the Assad regime. Then, in a surprising turn of events, the United States offered to compromise: they were willing to keep the fiercely debated operative clause 4 in the interest of targeting the Assad regime. When questioned about his decision to keep the clause, the United States responded: "I am hoping to act quickly to get much needed aid and support to the suffering Syrian people. This is the most important issue currently, and addressing it through compromise is our top concern."

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