



Santa Clara Valley Model United Nations

XXXV Annual Session - February 3-4, 2006

International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA)

Chairs

Amanda Chapin
408-515-4379
chapizzle@yahoo.com

Robert Klein
925-451-1863
rklein@berkeley.edu
rtk2@rtk2.com

Topics:

Nuclear Trafficking
Nuclear Development

Dear Delegates,

Hi, my name is Amanda Chapin, and I enjoy long walks on the beach and romantic candlelit dinners. Just kidding! Anyhow, I'm Amanda and this is my third year involved in Model United Nations. I am a freshmen at San Jose State University--Go Spartans! I am a history major, and once I get my BA, I plan on becoming a teacher. Yes, I went to college just to come back to high school! I live with seven other girls and have to deal with all the fun and drama that comes with that, as well. In my free time, like most of you, I hang out with my friends and go out and eat, or instead decide to just mess around at the dorms. I love food especially that of the Asian variety. I also love classic rock, and I love movies from the 70s, especially those about the Vietnam War. I also love anything done by Monty Python or Mel Brooks. Basically, if it makes me laugh or makes me question authority in any way, I love it. I also love politics and am very interested in journalism (when I was in high school, I was obsessed with Yearbook!) I am also fascinated by history of all sorts and also the different forms of government.

Your other chair is Robert Klein. He is currently at UC Berkeley and this will be his 5th year involved in Model United Nations! He is a very political person as well, as evidenced by his passion for Howard Dean. He has a great deal of input on this topic as well and will be very helpful in steering this wonderful committee.

Without sounding like a total cliché, I am uber-excited about being your head chair. I have attended SCV over the past two years, and I am excited to see your ideas on our two topics at hand: Nuclear Trafficking, and Nuclear Development. I am hoping you will all work together and come up with diplomatic and original solutions to these problems that the world faces.

I'm sure that I could ramble on for pages about myself and the topics but I know none of you want to read too much about me! I will end it with this--have fun with the topics! Don't get too bogged down in the bureaucracy of the United Nations and don't stress too much about the conference. One thing I have learned in my years in Model UN is even if you do all the research there is to do, someone will still throw a curve ball at you and knock you off your feet. Understanding your research is so much more important than having mounds of papers! Above all, just try to have a good time! If you need to contact me to talk about the topics or even to just chat, you can call me or e-mail me.

Thank you for taking the time to read all this and I look forward to seeing you all in February and once again, if you need anything don't hesitate to ask. I will answer you to the best of my ability.

As Always,
Amanda Chapin



IAEA - International
Atomic Energy Association

Topics:

Nuclear Trafficking
Nuclear Development

The IAEA is the world's
central intergovernmental
forum for cooperation on
the nuclear field.

Nuclear Trafficking

With the rise of globalization and the increase in interaction between countries, the world, in essence, becomes smaller. Millions upon millions of transactions are made between countries daily and while this can be good for many, there is also a darker side. This increase makes the trade of nuclear weapons easier, especially among both terrorist groups and on the black market. Nuclear trafficking poses a threat not only to the security of states, but to international security as a whole. Nuclear trafficking can be a gateway to nuclear terrorism and moreover a shortcut to nuclear proliferation, which can have unknown environmental, economic, or sociopolitical effects. In a September 27 report, the IAEA stated that incidents of nuclear and radioactive trafficking rose significantly in 2004. The trafficking of nuclear materials has increased for the first time since 2000 and the trafficking of radioactive materials has more than doubled during the past two years. This rise shows just how much of a threat nuclear trafficking is to the people of the world.

The 1991 dissolution of the United Social Soviet Republic (USSR) added to this threat. This is because the largest inventory of both nuclear weaponry and material in the world is held in these Newly Independent States (NIS). This material is vulnerable to theft largely because of the economic and political turmoil that is commonly found in these states. Since 1991, there have been countless reports of the theft from the nuclear facilities in these nations. Furthermore, out of those reported cases, fourteen have been confirmed cases of theft or attempted theft of weapons-useable material from NIS facilities between 1991 and 2001.

As of December 2004, the IAEA's Illicit Trafficking Database (ITDB) contained six hundred and sixty-two confirmed incidents involving illicit trafficking, which has occurred since 1993. One hundred and seventy-eight of these involved low-grade materials such as low-enriched, natural, and depleted uranium, as well as roughly two-dozen incidents involving trace amounts of plutonium-239. None of these items are in themselves suitable for making nuclear weapons, but the incidents demonstrate the insecurity of these materials and their storage facilities. However, about fifty of the reported incidents involved sources that are radioactive enough to be considered dangerous if used for destructive purposes, such as in a radioactive dispersal device, or a dirty bomb. Of these high-risk incidents, the overwhelming majority were reported in the last six years. Although the ITDB report states that this increase in trafficking is partially explained by better reporting from its states-parties, it also says it is indicative of a black market demand for these materials.

This large number of confirmed cases makes one wonder just how many more cases of nuclear trafficking go unreported each year and in the cases-both reported and non-how many are related to terrorist groups or terrorist activity. The idea that weapons-useable nuclear material could be stolen from a nuclear facility and smuggled to a transnational terrorist group or proliferate state represents a significant threat to international security.



IAEA - International
Atomic Energy Association

Topics:
Nuclear Trafficking
Nuclear Development

The IAEA is the world's
central intergovernmental
forum for cooperation on
the nuclear field.

Nuclear Trafficking (continued)

Countries that possess nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons need to increase the security in the area. It is important that terrorists and other rogue groups are not able to reach dangerous weapons. Without proper security, terrorists have easy access to dangerous weaponry. Countries should also have search teams ready to look for any missing nuclear weapons.

The main issue with nuclear trafficking is that nuclear weapons and nuclear material can fall into the wrong hands and that, in effect could put numerous human lives at risk, not to mention the sociopolitical chaos that could erupt with the loss of such weapons. However, many nations who possess nuclear material, such as the Newly Independent former Soviet states, do not possess the gumption nor resources to secure their materials. Certain nations may also be engaging in black market trade with terrorist groups--and it is not to their advantage to promote further controls on nuclear trade.

It is the United Nations' sole purpose to ensure the safety of every life on this planet and to prevent life from being endangered. Thus, we at the IAEA need to come up with effective solutions to curb, if not stop, illegal nuclear trafficking altogether.



IAEA - International
Atomic Energy Association

Topics:
Nuclear Trafficking
Nuclear Development

The IAEA is the world's
central intergovernmental
forum for cooperation on
the nuclear field.

Nuclear Development

With the population rise in recent years, nations of the world need to find affordable sources of energy that cause little damage to the environment. One of these potential sources is nuclear energy. The desire for reliable energy sources exists especially in developing nations hoping to improve the quality of life for their people. In 1977, the Committee for Technical and Economic Studies on Nuclear Energy and the Fuel Cycle, known as the Nuclear Development Committee (NDC), was formed with the aim of analyzing the resources that would be needed for future exploitation of nuclear energy. The main focus of the NDC--with regards to nuclear energy--is the assessment of the potential future contribution of nuclear energy to the overall energy demand and what the supply and demand would be for the different phases of the nuclear fuel cycle. Review of the technical and economic characteristics of nuclear energy growth and of the nuclear fuel cycle and finally, evaluation of the technical and economic consequences of the various strategies for the nuclear fuel cycle.

The benefits of nuclear power are that it is rather cost efficient, as it is cheap to produce. In addition, a great deal of energy can be made from very little nuclear material. It is also a replenishable source of energy, and thus countries will not have to worry about the fuel source running out. Countries will have much less to worry about depletion of materials, which is often the case in the use of fossil fuels. It is estimated that fossil fuels will run out by the year 2050, and so it has been suggested that countries begin looking at other energy sources. Nuclear energy is one of these sources.

Although nuclear power does have many benefits, there are also some risks involved. Nuclear energy can be unstable at times, and disasters such as Chernobyl and Three Mile Island permeate the public's view of nuclear energy. However, aside from safety, the biggest problem with nuclear power plants is the disposal of nuclear waste and the effects of nuclear power plants on both the environment and the workers at the said power plants. The controversial plan for a nuclear waste dump at Yucca Mountain in the United States exemplifies these issues. Waste standards and safety standards need to be set. These standards, among other things, provide protection to the environment regardless of national borders and also do so in such a way as to not cause a burden to future generations. They also make sure the waste is disposed of in a way that the workers will not come in direct contact with the waste. Finally, countries that use nuclear material to make energy can use the same material to make nuclear weapons or engage in illegal nuclear trafficking--both very shaky prospects for future international security.

The goal of the committee, with respect to nuclear energy, is to come up with safety standards for nuclear power plants. These standards can include: (but are not limited to) the disposal of nuclear waste, proper regulation of nuclear reactors, building codes, and safety standards toward the handling of nuclear materials by the works. The second goal of this committee is to help all nations find a way to further develop nuclear technology to create a better way of life for their people.