

The World in Crisis: Simulation Game with Iran in Focus February 15, 2005: CSI Program

Introduction

Prior to the game, students were given an article from Le Monde diplomatique by Ignacio Ramonet entitled, Iran: The Wrong Target, February 2005.

Students were divided into eight teams of approximately four students per team representing Britain, the European Union, the US Department of Defense/Project for New American Century, The Democratic National Committee (DNC), Iran, Iraq, Israel and Moveon. Org

Each team briefly discussed their perspective, identified their membership and then introduced themselves to the other teams.

Recent Development

This recent development was read and teams were given ten minutes to indicate their “first move.” A “move” is a realistic action taken by the team that is described on a move form and handed in before the ten minutes have elapsed. The moves are announced in the order received.

“The US has been flying drone spy planes into Iranian airspace as part of an intelligence operation aimed at locating nuclear facilities in Iran. Six hours ago, a small British civilian aircraft, carrying 70 passengers (including 47 Israeli citizens), wandered into Iranian airspace. The aircraft (which has a profile not unlike some U.S. military attack aircraft) was fired on by Iranian ground-based missiles and shot down some 80 miles SW of Teheran. No one is likely to have survived the attack.”

First Move:

BRITAIN: At a Press Conference, the Prime Minister sends an official question to the United States demanding to know why there were spy planes we were unaware of and demand the US takes action against Iran.

DOD/PNAC: This is a direct attack against the US, British and Israeli interests in the Middle East. Using our bases in Iraq we going to launch a proportional response by bombing an Iranian military base.

ISRAEL. We are calling for an investigation with US weapons inspectors (they obviously can’t control their missiles) and compensation for families of those killed.

DNC. We deplore the act and express sympathy, but it is understandable considering Iran's perceived....

IRAN. We apologize for civilian casualties. We were defending our air space from enemy aircraft. There was a similarity of aircraft, prior imperialist intervention spy planes and the distance inside our territory. We call for investigating why they were in our airspace. Moveon.org and other journalists are welcome into Iran to expose our peaceful intentions.

EUROPEAN UNION. We urge and will cooperate with an international investigation of the incident. We are neutral and are waiting for further evidence.

MOVEON.ORG. We are mobilizing – retrieve plane. Open up diplomatic channels with Iran. Call for a UN investigation of the circumstances of the downed aircraft – send journalists into Iran and organize grassroots protestors.

IRAQ. Iran wants our help. We aren't in a position to help, but we stand in solidarity with Iran. We don't choose to invite more Iraqi air strikes by making a pact with Iran.

Second Move:

BRITAIN. We do not support an immediate bombing of Iran by the US and support Israel in calling for an international investigation of the incident before action is taken.

ISRAEL. We do not support the immediate bombing of Iran. We do support a US and UN investigation of the attack and nuclear enrichment programs. (The outcome must be public). We are currently working on increased concessions to the Palestinians. If Iran does not cooperate completely, we will support US actions.

EUROPEAN UNION. We will fund international investigation. We are against military action. We will send EU weapons inspectors if needed.

MOVEON.ORG. We are making a 15 minute documentary showcasing an apologetic and honestly frightened Iranian government. Our website is a portal for hundreds of thousands of letters to elected officials with a message of no re-election for politicians who support attack. Our grassroots activists are ready to mobilize in the streets to protest new war if necessary.

DNC. A US attack against Iran, mounted on Iraqi soil, would not only undermine the potential for peace in the region, but will eliminate the compliance of Iran in the NNRP furthermore.

DOD/PNAC. The department is considering all military options and is currently devising a multinational investigation. Should Iran be uncooperative, we stand ready to

respond within 72 hours and will not allow this act of war and terrorism to go unpunished.

IRAQ. There has been a heightened attack by insurgents against US military bases in Iraq as a result of hostile feelings on the occupation of Iraq.

IRAN. We are mobilizing our defenses. We'll allow international weapons inspectors with agreements on further diplomatic talks. We call for sovereign free Iraq alongside us. _____ based on Britain's commitment to US. Stay out of our country!

Surprise Announcement:

The UN Weapons inspectors have found nuclear weapons in Iran. At the same time, Syria has demanded the removal of all nuclear weapons from the Middle East, including those of Israel.

Move Three:

DNC. We now believe, in light of Iran's possession of weapons of mass destruction, that we are left with no alternative than to militarily pacify the threat Iran presents to the free world. We also support the creation of a new GI Bill in order to better support the brave men and women who must rise to the challenge of defending freedom throughout the world.

IRANIAN PEOPLES PARTY. (a newly formed group). We are breaking off. We were unaware of arsenal. We deceived allies in Iraq – insurgents, moveon spokesperson. Calling for help.

IRAQ. Israel asks for Iraqi troops to fight with US, British and Israeli armies against Iran. Iraq will not comply, even under threat of "you'll be sorry." Iraq officially remains neutral. Insurgents continue increasing attacks on US military.

ISRAEL. We will not disarm and we will fully support US actions in Iran.

MOVEON.ORG. Sending a grassroots message to the US government to not provoke war in a now divided Iran. Form a strong international coalition between American and Iranian citizens who support the dismantling of nuclear weapons and sovereignty for the Iranian people who have separated themselves from the Iranian government.

BRITAIN. As a result of UN weapons inspectors discovering nuclear weapons in Iran, we pledge the minimum amount of support necessary to the US in disarming Iran and hope this will end as quickly and decisively as possible. We don't request support of

France or Germany at this time. After Iran is disarmed, we support nuclear non proliferation treaties in every country.

IRAN. We call upon the impoverished and oppressed nations of the world to rise against the capitalist/imperialist world power structure. We thank Indonesia for their blockade of South Pacific trade routes. We furthermore call on the African nations and Asian nations who have felt the whip of their foreign masters. All those in the world that recognize the _____ and inequality perpetuated by the C/I system. Rise Up! Cast off your self-imposed shackles. Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu. All tribes of the earth are necessary for this system to be overturned. We don't want bloodshed but we will not falter in our fight.

EUROPEAN UNION: (NO MOVE)

DOD/PNAC. – (Condolezza Rice acting a spokesperson). We are livid that Iran and liberal US entities are using this tragedy to spin Iranian national policy which has historically been anti West, anti-women, anti Christian and anti education. The UN weapons inspectors and US drones have found proof that Iran clearly is developing nuclear weapons. With this information, we see Iran as a clear and present danger to the American way of life, the region. The only way to stem the tide of tyranny in Iran is immediate involvement, the US led coalition with Israel, from Iraq and Britain. So we will attack Iran now. We refuse to negotiate with Syrian terrorists who demand unreasonable disarmament. Freedom Everywhere.

Evaluation

Each group was given a two-part form to fill out. First, "Given the game's outcome, next time we would." The second part read: "We want to ask these questions of the following groups," with room for three group questions..

Given the game's outcome, next time we would:

BRITAIN. We don't know.... We feel like we did the best we could given our circumstances.

EUROPEAN UNION. We were torn 3-1 on not supporting the US involvement in Iran. Germany supported disarming Iran.

DOD/PNAC. Act the same (maybe spend less time on negotiations)

DNC. Do a better job of consolidating power in the US.

MOVEON. We would not have supported the Iranian government – instead we would have focused on the people of Iran in our efforts.

ISRAEL. Do the same. We feel we played according to Israel's beliefs.

IRAN. Ayatollah. Hide weapons better, until developed, then openly share with public, etc./ Masses – hold their government accountable to true Islamic law and international diplomatic efforts.

IRAQ. Realistically, we would not do a lot different. If we could pretend that Iraq had more power that it really does we would have stood up against the US and for Iran.

We want to ask these questions of the following groups:

BRITAIN. To Iran: Why didn't you admit you had the weapons and disarm to avert war? To the DOD: Why were you so eager to bomb?

EUROPEAN UNION. To the DNC: How can you support military intervention? To the DOD/PNAC: Why did you act so aggressively toward Iran?

DOD/PNAC. To Britain: Why didn't you support immediate US action? To Iraq: Why didn't you quell insurgency? Why did you remain neutral? (Ungrateful!)

DNC. To Iran: What were you thinking? To the EU: Why did you not join the international coalition against the Iranian government when it was discovered they had nuclear weapons? To the DOD/PNAC: Why were greater efforts not made to create a stronger international coalition to aid in the attack on Iran?

MOVEON. ORG. To the DOD/PNAC: What basis (proof) do you have for arresting us? Even if there were Iranians in our group, they have the right to speak freely too! To the European Union: Why didn't you do anything? To the Iranian and Israeli people: Who amongst you would like to be a part of a grassroots organization working toward a peaceful resolution of this global crisis, and work toward global disarmament.

ISRAEL. To EU: Why no last move? To Britain: Why did you call for global, nuclear non-proliferation? To the US: Why didn't you consult with us before making your decision to strike?

.IRAN To the EU and Britain: What is your set position on nuclear proliferation and Western dominance? To the DNC: Where is your oppositional backbone? When will you stand up for the truth?

IRAQ. To Israel: Why didn't you come to us directly rather than through the US? To the EU: Why did you seat out the last move? To Iran: Where were you when we were being attacked by the US for the past two years? And WHY do you have nuclear weapons? Dude!! Are you trying to kill us.