

VefaMUN'24 Study Guide: Historical Crisis Cabinet: Jimmy Carter's Cabinet

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4. Keywords

Coup d'état: A sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.

Espionage: The practice of spying or using spies to obtain information about the plans or activities of a foreign government or organization.

Monarch: A sovereign head of state, especially a king, queen, or emperor.

Detachment: A group of troops or naval ships sent on a mission.

Accords: Formal agreements or treaties, often used in the context of diplomatic negotiations.

Hostages: People seized or held as security for the fulfillment of a condition.

Exile: The state of being barred from one's native country, typically for political reasons.

Embargo: An official ban on trade or other commercial activity with a particular country.

Purge: To rid (someone or something) of an unwanted quality, condition, or feeling.

5. Context of the Committee:

This Historical Cabinet, With the delegate's presentence to the committee, will be starting on November 4, 1979, the same date as the takeover of the American embassy. This committee will be simulating the crisis with

alternative historical events and altering and changing the ongoing statistics regarding the actions of the delegates.

6. Introduction of the committee:

a. Background:

in August 1941, during World War two, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom invaded the neutral state of Iran. The invasion lasted until May 1946 when Soviet troops withdrew from Iranian soil with the help of respectable efforts from the United States of America which applied political pressure on the Soviet Union that forced it to withdraw.

In the 1950's there were two main figures in the Iranian power struggle. Mohammad Reza Pahlavi who is known as "The Shah" and the Iranian prime minister Mohammed Mosaddegh.

This power struggle lasted until the 1953 military coup d'etat codenamed Operation Ajax when The Shah seized power with the help of CIA, MI6, and Iranian royalists.

The Shah was supported by Western powers and the United States of America. He was seen as the hand of the USA on the Iranian soil and the Iranian politics. Because of the sided actions and agreements he made without seeking the country's interest, there was a population among the people who opposed the Shah. The leading figure for this population was no other than Ruhollah Khomeini. On 7 January 1978 protests against the regime that would be known as the Iranian Revolution began. After 400 days and thousands of casualties, this chain of events resulted on 11 February 1979 with Khomeni's rulership.

b. Valentine's Day Open House:

On February 14 1979 at 9.45 am the United States embassy in Tehran was attacked and held by the "Organization of Iranian People's Fedai Guerrillas" Militants and militants took US marine Kenneth Kraus

hostage and witnesses stated that militants took different kinds of torture methods on him. Within 4 hours after the incident, Iranian foreign minister Ebrahim Yazdi returned the embassy to the United States of America, and Kenneth Kraus was released within six days.

After this incident, plans for occupying the United States embassy didn't stop until a successful one took place.

c. The Crisis:

Everything started when ex-Iran Monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was refused sent back to Iran for trial by the United States Of America where he takes medical assistance. "Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line" 's solution for this crisis was to hold the US Embassy for a short time to present their wishes to the United States and receive The Shah for trial. Another important feature of the US embassy is its thought usage in Operation Ajax. For Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line, it was used as a "den of spies" during the operation and they believed that inside the embassy there were secret documents stored about the operation and other kinds of documented history. This motivation pushed Imam's Line to plan the takeover of the embassy.

On November 4 1979 at 6.30 am plan had started. Khomeini supporters which are mostly students had begun the action. Gates had been broken by Khomeini supporters with various techniques and supporters were entering the embassy through the gates. At first, the students planned a symbolic occupation, in which they would release statements to the press and leave when government security forces came to restore order. This was reflected in placards saying: "Don't be afraid. We just want to sit in." When the embassy guards brandished firearms, the protesters retreated, with one telling the Americans, "We don't mean any harm. But as it became clear that the guards would not use deadly force and that a large, angry crowd had gathered outside the compound to cheer the occupiers and jeer the hostages, the plan changed. According to one embassy staff member, buses full of demonstrators began to appear outside the embassy shortly after the

Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line broke through the gates. In this stage of occupation, students were encouraged, and after Khomeini's direct support from the radio which held direct statements such as "Embassy is American spy den in Tehran" and naming this occupation as second revolution set the year 1979's destiny for Iran and USA. After acquiring full control of the building, occupiers delivered their statements to the press. They wanted The Shah to exchange for hostages.

On the other side of the world, inside the White House President Jimmy Carter and his team were not leaving the crisis respondless. First of all, the White House began to propose negotiations with the Iranian government in order to resolve the crisis. On the other hand, they froze all of the assets of the Iranian Government inside the United States and imposed economic sanctions on the Iranian Government. Another important issue was the escaped personnel from the embassy. Personnel was being housed inside the British embassy. President Carter transferred them to the Canadian embassy in order to bring them home. With the help of the CIA, personnel were successfully smuggled outside Iran identified as a film crew. And this chain of events was the decider of the elections which will happen one year after the incident.

After what was mentioned on day 1, the White House began to seek agreements with or without the Iranian Government in order to secure the hostages.

On day 15 of the crisis, November 18 1979 militants announced that they would free 13 hostages eight black men and five women which leaves 53 Americans hostages—one of them being 28-year-old vice council Richard Queen who will be released on day 250—Their main purpose was to show equality of the races and the special place of women in Islam. After all of the 13 hostages released on day 19 the media and the world had a chance to learn about inside conditions for the first time. In the hostage's statement, they said they weren't tortured and they were given the resources to live normally. After this process, they were transported to the United States back to their home.

After this process, President Carter tried to negotiate with the Iranian Government and the results were mostly unsuccessful for both sides. Because of these negative outcomes, the White House was forced to find

other ways to bring back their international prisoners. If they can not win the case by shaking hands, they are ready to race in a game they are one of the greatest, technology and military. Operation Eagle Claw was built inside of White House brick by brick. In this mission, eight helicopters will be used for the mission inside the desert.

On the mission day, the operation crew encountered severe dust storms that disabled two of the helicopters, which were traveling in complete radio silence. Early the next morning, the remaining six helicopters met up with several, waiting transport aircraft at a landing site and refueling area designated "Desert One". At this point, a third helicopter was found to be unserviceable, bringing the total below the six deemed vital for the mission. The commander of the operation, Col. Charles Alvin Beckwith recommended that the mission be aborted, and his recommendation was approved by President Carter. As the helicopters repositioned themselves for refueling, one ran into a tanker aircraft and crashed, killing eight U.S. servicemen and injuring several more. After the operation and operation's failure known publicly prestige and support of Khamenei increased tremendously inside Iran. Besides this operation, it's known that one more operation was planned in order to rescue hostages that weren't put into action. The last attempt with President Carter, the Algiers Accords was prepared according to the wishes of the Iranian Government. Iranian Government announced the acceptance of these Accords on January 18 1981 while Jimmy Carter was still president but when the hostages were released on January 20 1981 Ronald Reagan was announced as president.

d.Impact of the Crisis on American Politics:

The crisis took place in Jimmy Carter's presidency and was resolved on January 20 1981 when Ronald Reagen officially declared as president of fifty states. During the crisis, Jimmy Carter was often criticized for the problematic situation of the crisis and he was often described as "weak".Historians often refer Iranian Hostage Crisis as the main reason Jimmy Carter lost the presidential election to Ronald Reagan.

7.Organizations Involved:

Iranian Secret Police(SAVAK):



Established by The Shah in 1957. Shah's goal was to strengthen his regime by establishing a secret police organization to gain an advantage against his political rivals. SAVAK unit training was sponsored by the CIA and this police force was mostly hated and seen as American spies by Khomeini supporters. In 1979 units were dissolved with the Iranian Revolution.

Muslim Students of the Imam Khomeini Line:



Group of student who supports the Iranian Revolution and Khomeini. The main population of these students was from the University of Tehran, Sharif University of Technology, and Tehran Polytechnic. Muslim Students of the Imam Khomeini Line is mostly known for their action on November 4 1979 which is the occupation of the American Embassy.

Marine Security Guard(MSG):



A military organization of the United States Marine Corps(USMC) founded in 1948, whose detachments provide security at the American Embassy, Consulates, and other official U.S. government offices, such as the American Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

8. Timeline

Day 1, Nov. 4, 1979 - Iranian protesters seize the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and take 98 people hostage. They demand the United States return the deposed Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who is in a New York hospital. The U.S. refuses. Khomeini called the takeover “a revolution bigger than the first revolution” that had toppled Iran’s monarchy that February.

Day 2, Nov. 5 - Other followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, seize the British Embassy in Tehran, claiming Britain is America’s “evil” ally. But they give it up hours later.

Day 3, Nov. 6 - Iranian Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan and his Cabinet resign.

Day 5, Nov. 8 - Militants at the U.S. Embassy claim documents found in the embassy prove the American diplomatic personnel were part of an “espionage unit.”

Day 9, Nov. 12 - President Jimmy Carter orders a halt to oil imports from Iran, which provided nearly 4% of daily U.S. consumption.

Day 10, Nov. 13 - The Iranian government calls for a U.N. Security Council meeting to discuss its complaints against the United States.

Day 11, Nov. 14 - All Iranian assets in the United States are frozen on Carter’s orders.

Day 12, Nov. 15 - The embassy militants release one hostage, an Italian cook.

Day 14, Nov. 17 - Khomeini orders the militants to release all women and black hostages if they are absolved of espionage.

Day 15, Nov. 18 - The militants announce they will free 13 hostages - eight black men and five women.

Day 16, Nov. 19 - Three of the hostages - two black Marines and a female secretary - are released.

Day 17, Nov. 20 - Ten more American hostages are freed.

Day 19, Nov. 22 - Five non-American hostages are freed from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Day 25, Nov. 28 - Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, considered a moderate on the hostage issue after having said he didn't believe they should be held indefinitely, is replaced as foreign minister by Sadegh Ghotbzadeh, who advocates releasing the Americans only after the shah is returned.

Day 29, Dec. 2 - The shah leaves New York for a military hospital near San Antonio, Texas.

Day 30, Dec. 3 - Iranians vote overwhelmingly in favor of a new Islamic constitution giving Khomeini supreme power.

Day 31, Dec. 4 - The U.N. Security Council votes unanimously to urge Iran to free the American hostages.

Day 34, Dec. 7 - In Paris, the shah's 34-year-old nephew, Shahriar Mustapha Chafik, is shot and killed on the street.

Day 39, Dec. 12 - The U.S. State Department orders the expulsion of 183 Iranian diplomats.

Day 42, Dec. 15 - The shah flies to "temporary" exile in Panama. The International Court at The Hague orders Iran to free all the hostages.

Day 58, Dec. 31 - By a vote of 11-0, with four abstentions, the U.N. Security Council approves a resolution giving Iran until Jan. 7 to release the hostages or face possible sanctions. The hostages aren't released.

Day 71, Jan. 13, 1980 - Ten of 15 Security Council members vote in favor of economic sanctions against Iran but the Soviet Union, as a permanent member, vetoes the resolution. The United States decides on sanctions of its own.

Day 72, Jan. 14 - Iran's Revolutionary Council orders all U.S. news correspondents to leave Iran because of what it calls their "biased reporting."

Day 83, Jan. 25 - Presidential election day in Iran. U.S. officials express hope the election will change the tone of the hostage crisis. Bani-Sadr ends up winning.

Day 87, Jan. 29 - It is disclosed that six Americans, who escaped capture when the U.S. Embassy was seized Nov. 4, had slipped out of Iran with help of the Canadian Embassy, which issued them false identities. Decades

later, the U.S. acknowledged the CIA's role in their escape, which was the subject of the 2012 film "Argo."

Day 140, March 22 - Khomeini says Carter confidentially writes to him promising to recognize Islamic Revolution in a public speech.

Day 141, March 23 - The shah leaves Panama for Egypt, ending a 100-day residence on a resort island.

Day 142, March 24 - Looking haggard, the shah arrives in Egypt where he began his exile in January 1979 and is greeted by President Anwar Sadat, who says he can stay permanently. The shah enters a Cairo hospital.

Day 146, March 28 - The shah undergoes surgery for the removal of his spleen.

Day 156, April 7 - Khomeini rules the hostages must remain in the hands of the militants. In response, the United States breaks diplomatic relations with Iran, expelling 35 diplomats remaining in the country and imposing a series of economic sanctions. Iran's army is put on alert after forces of neighboring Iraq attack an Iranian border post and nearby oil facilities. Iran orders its diplomats home from Iraq.

Day 158, April 8 - An angered Khomeini calls the United States "bloodthirsty" but tells his people the U.S. break in relations and other actions are a "good omen" because they mean the U.S. has lost all hope of controlling Iran. Bani-Sadr says, however, "I tell the nation, it is a war."

Day 158, April 9 - As Washington hints of a possible naval blockade of Iran, the militants say they will burn the U.S. Embassy and kill the hostages if the United States tries “even the smallest” military move against Iran.

Day 165, April 16 - A senior U.S. official says Iran has until mid-May to end the deadlock or face possible military pressure.

Day 166, April 17 - President Carter imposes more economic sanctions on Iran, bans travel there by Americans except news correspondents and says military action could be the next step if the hostages are not released.

Day 172, April 23 - Japan and Canada join in economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iran. Iran announces new trade accords with the Soviet Union, Romania and East Germany.

Day 174, April 25 - The White House announces a U.S. military force flew to a remote desert in Iran in hopes of carrying out a rescue of the hostages in Tehran but the plan had to be aborted because of the failure of three helicopters. Eight American servicemen are killed in a ground collision of a C-130 and a helicopter as the aircraft were preparing to leave the area.

Day 175, April 26 - Iran announces the hostages are being moved from the U.S. Embassy to other parts of Tehran and to other Iranian cities to foil another U.S. rescue effort. Iranians recover the bodies of the eight Americans killed on the rescue mission.

Day 176, April 27 - Iranians display bodies of eight U.S. servicemen at U.S. Embassy compound in Tehran.

Day 182, May 3 - The U.S. hostages complete a half year in captivity. Iran arranges for the return of the bodies of Americans killed in the aborted rescue mission.

Day 203, May 24 - The International Court of Justice calls for release of the hostages and says Iran should compensate the United States for the seizure. Iran dismisses the ruling.

Day 224, June 14 - Khomeini announces a Cultural Revolution “to finish the enemies of God,” wipe out remnants of Iranian life as it was under the shah and put Islamic clergymen in charge of education.

Day 225, June 15 - Khomeini orders a purge of non-Muslims from Iran’s state-run radio and television.

Day 238, June 28 - The shah is reported in “very serious” condition in a Cairo hospital, suffering from pneumonia which resulted from chemotherapy for his cancer condition.

Day 243, July 3 - The shah again is described as being in serious condition in Cairo. His affliction this time is reported as a typhoidal infection.

Day 245, July 5 - About 2,000 women wearing black mourning dresses demonstrate outside the presidential office to protest new rules requiring government employees to wear traditional Islamic clothing on the job.

Day 250, July 10 - Khomeini orders the release of hostage Richard Queen, a 28-year-old vice consul, who is ill.

Day 258, July 18 - An attempt is made in Paris to assassinate Shahpour Bakhtiar, the last Iranian prime minister under the shah and leader of an anti-Khomeini exile movement. Bakhtiar is unharmed but a French policeman and woman neighbor are killed.

Day 267, July 27 - The shah dies in a Cairo military hospital. Tehran rejoices but U.S. officials express doubt the death will speed the release of the hostages.

Day 269, July 29 - The shah is buried in a Cairo mosque after a state funeral attended by President Sadat and former President Richard Nixon, there in a private capacity.

Day 288, Aug. 17 - Britain temporarily closes its embassy in Tehran "as a precautionary measure" because of tensions over the arrests of Iranian demonstrators in London. Eight of the embassy's diplomatic personnel leave Iran.

Day 299, Aug. 28 - Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization, says its investigations indicate that more than 1,000 people were executed in the first 18 months of the Islamic Revolution.

Day 311, Sept. 9 - Britain closes its embassy in Tehran, fearing retaliation by Iranians who claim Iranians were ill-treated in London.

Day 314, Sept. 12 - Khomeini lists four conditions for the hostages' release but omits a previous demand for a U.S. apology. The conditions: return of the late shah's wealth, cancellation of U.S. claims against Iran, unfreezing of Iranian funds in the United States and U.S. guarantees of no interference in Iran. Washington's immediate reaction is guarded.

Day 321, Sept. 19 - Air and ground battles break out between Iran and Iraq.

Day 324, Sept. 22 - Iraq says the border hostilities have become a "full-scale war." It launches air attacks on at least seven Iranian air installations, including one in Tehran.

Day 330, Sept. 28 - U.N. Security Council votes unanimously to call for a halt to the fighting between Iraq and Iran.

Day 341, Oct. 9 - Radio Tehran says Iraqi missile attacks kill 180 people and wound 300 others in two Iranian cities -- the highest casualty toll so far reported in a single day of the war.

Day 363, Oct. 31 - Radio Tehran says Iran has been victorious in the hostage crisis and a "just method" for freeing the captives has been worked out. A Swedish airliner is reported on standby to fly the Americans from Tehran. The White House continues to caution against over-optimism.

Day 365, Nov. 2 - Parliament votes to free the hostages if the United States meets conditions set by Khomeini and a parliamentary committee: Release of Iranian assets frozen in U.S. banks, return of the late shah's wealth,

withdrawal of lawsuits pending against Iran and a U.S. pledge of non-intervention in Iranian affairs. President Carter says the terms “appear to offer a positive basis” for negotiations.

Day 366, Nov. 3 - With Ayatollah Khomeini’s approval, the militants relinquish “responsibility” for the hostages to the Iranian government. U.S. officials call it a major breakthrough.

Day 367, Nov. 4 - Tens of thousands of Iranians demonstrate outside the U.S. Embassy to mark the first anniversary of its capture. Iran’s Foreign Ministry demands a quick Carter administration response to Iran’s terms for the hostages’ release. Ronald Reagan defeats President Carter in a landslide vote.

Day 373, Nov. 10 - Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher leads a party of Americans to Algiers and delivers the U.S. hostage reply to Algerian envoys who will relay it to Tehran.

Day 414, Dec. 21 - Iran announces the United States must deposit with the Algerians the equivalent of \$24 billion in cash and gold representing its estimate of the shah’s wealth and frozen Iranian assets - before the hostages are released. The U.S. calls the demand “unreasonable.”

Day 427, Jan. 3, 1981 - Radio Tehran says it is “totally improbable” the hostages will be freed before Reagan’s inauguration and that even after that the issue “will remain as it is now, at an impasse,” unless the United States meets Iranian demands.

Day 428, Jan. 4 - The Iranian government claims it now has full control of the 52 hostages, who had been under the control of the militants who seized them.

Day 435, Jan. 11 - Iran drops its demand that the United States deposit \$24 billion in Algerian banks.

Day 438, Jan. 14 - The Iranian parliament passes a key bill on the hostage question, authorizing third-country arbitration of conflicting U.S.-Iranian financial claims.

Day 440, Jan. 16 - A U.S. Air Force jet flies U.S. and British bankers to Algiers to work out with American negotiators already there the financial arrangements sought by Iran. The United States sends the draft of a proposed agreement to Iran and the White House says if it is accepted the hostages could be free before Carter leaves office.

Day 442, Jan. 18 - Iran announces acceptance of agreement for the release of the hostages. Final details are worked out in Algeria for the transfer of Iranian funds frozen by the United States. Plans are made to fly the hostages to West Germany.

Day 443, Jan. 19 - The release of the hostages is delayed by complications in financial aspects of the U.S.-Iran agreement.

Day 444, Jan. 20 - The financial complications are resolved and the hostages are released as Reagan takes office as president.

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