

MODEL UN CRISIS KIT PART 4

HOW TO WRITE DIRECTIVES, PRESS RELEASES AND COMMUNIQUES

LEVEL: For Intermediate MUN Delegates, Ages: 14 - 18



How to Write Directives

How to Write Crisis Notes (Personal Directives)

Crisis Notes are the dominant medium for taking individual action in committee by using your portfolio powers. Delegates will continually send Crisis Notes to shape the crisis at hand, to both fix the issue and bring more power or prestige to themselves.

Main Components of a Solid Crisis Note

- Memorable Title (can be funny or serious, but needs a name)
- Addressee (Somebody under your command, or just their title)
- Specific orders or actions that you would like to see undertaken
- What you expect/hope will be the result (So the Crisis Staff can figure out what the result will be if they don't understand your goal)
- Signature, with your title

Goals

- Demonstrate expertise and thorough planning to impress Crisis Staff
- Clearly state what you want, and why, so they can decide to grant or deny it
- Do it so well that the crisis staff is afraid to shoot you down without good reason

Personal Directive: Operation Lockdown

To all Heads of Embassies and Consulates in North Africa,

In light of the current hostage crisis in Libya, immediately place embassy and consular security on high alert, and close all visa and consular offices until further notice. Make sure all ambassadors have assigned personal security at all times, and cease any field work in dangerous areas.

Work with the governments in your respective governments to find any information you can about the captors of the 2 US Aid Workers captured earlier today, and make it clear that their cooperation is critical to our bilateral relationships. Specifically, try to find the name of the organization that has captured these aid workers, their demands, and the location where our citizens are being held. Report back immediately with any information you obtain.

-Secretary of State, John Kerry



Branding Tip

Write your notes on colored paper so the crisis staff always knows it's you, and you can keep track of your notes as they circulate through the room!

How to Write Committee Directives (Public Directives)

While Crisis Notes are how you take individual action, Directives are how you take committee action, instead of long-form resolutions. Just like in any Model UN Committee, the goal is to sponsor (write) as many strong directives as possible.

Main Components of a Solid Committee Directive

- Memorable Title (can be funny or serious, but needs a name)
- Specific orders or actions that you would like to see undertaken
- What you expect/hope will be the result (So the Crisis Staff can figure out what the result will be if they don't understand your goal)
- Signatures, with portfolios of all signatories (Note: In different committees, the Chair may require different numbers of signatories, anywhere from three to half the committee)

Goals

- Demonstrate innovative ideas that the rest of the committee isn't thinking of
- Position yourself as the leader of the idea, and defend it against opposition
- Pass it as a committee to positively impact the crisis with your ideas

Committee Directive: Operation Tripoling Down

Signed: Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Secretary of Agriculture, Vice President

In reaction to the current hostage situation in Libya, the US National Security Council determines to undertake the following measures:

1. Direct intelligence resources to find out the exact location of these hostages and how well protected this location is,
2. Prepare plans and intelligence for two blackhawk helicopters and a team of Navy SEALs to rescue the hostages from their location at the order of this committee,
3. Cooperating with the Libyan Government, secure and set up a hospital outside Tripoli to provide emergency medical care for the hostages once rescued,
4. Issue an order that all information about this hostage situation is to be kept Top Secret without any leaks to the media, in order to protect the security of this mission, until after the mission is complete.

Once the location is obtained, report back to this committee before launching the rescue mission.

How to Write Communiques & Press Releases

How to Write Communiques

Communiques are tools used to contact entities outside of your committee in order to involve them with the crisis in a certain way. They are written as formal correspondence to outside actors as a way of enticing them to take action, even though they aren't under your direct control. You can write communiques as an individual delegate or as a committee.

Main Components of a Solid Communique

- Header that says "Communique" (so it isn't mistaken as a directive)
- Addressee, with formal title and full name if possible
- The specific action or information you want them to undertake or give you
- What you'll give in return (your offer) OR what you'll do otherwise (your threat)
- Signature/ Signatures

Goal

- To get an outside actor/party to act for you or your committee to impact the crisis

Communique

ATTN: Nouri Abusahmain, President of Libya
Dear Mr. Abusahmain,

It has come to the attention of the United States Government that two of our nationals have been kidnapped and are being held hostage by the Al Qaeda terrorist organization. We request that you, in all your capacities as President of Libya, use this authority to have the American aid workers found and returned to either an American embassy, or a UN outpost where they can be safely repatriated. We also ask that you find those responsible for these kidnappings, and persecute them accordingly. Failure to do so will be considered a sign that Libya no longer wishes to have cordial and cooperative relations with the United States, and the US will withdraw investment and aid accordingly.

Sincerely,
US Secretary of State John Kerry

How to Write Press Releases

Press Releases are tools used by committees or individuals to inform “the public” in the crisis about certain facts, or to spread misinformation about the ongoing crisis. Often, delegates may use these to try to influence public opinion against certain plans to help their own, to encourage the public to be safe, to stop protesting, or even to get involved with the crisis somehow.

Main Components of a Solid Press Release

- Header stating that it is a Press Release
- Descriptive Headline
- Information that you want the public to have and react to
- Signature/s

Goals

- To inform/ misinform the public about the crisis to get the public to react in a certain way
- To share information with the committee that was previously a secret
- To encourage a response from the international community

Press Release

American Aid Workers Successfully Rescued in Joint US-Libyan Effort

Washington, D.C.: In a joint statement made this morning by US President Barack Obama and Libyan ambassador to the United States, both parties announced the successful retrieval of two American aid workers who were held hostage in Libya. The workers, who have now been identified as Bridget Campbell and Sophia Swarsky, were captured by members of Al Qaeda while serving with Doctors Without Borders three hours south from Tripoli, the nation’s capitol.

The two workers underwent emergency medical treatment in Libya, as well as follow up treatments and counseling in America, the statement read. Libyan troops were also able to capture the kidnappers, which are, according to the Libyan government, being put through the justice system to pay for their crimes.

“This is a great day for US-Libya relations,” said President Obama in the statement. “This is a sign that we can work together to keep our citizens safe while abroad, and do so with the help and cooperation of foreign governments. Peace is not a unilateral goal, but a global process. This is an excellent start”

Signed: Secretary of Commerce, Secretary of State, Secretary of the Interior



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