

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

IOWA YOUTH SYMPOSIUM

Final Position Paper (2013)

Adopted on: Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Position Paper created by the Political Committee

Regarding: Intelligence Agencies and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

Background:

Espionage is defined as the practice of spying and using spies to gather information about other states' political, economic, and military systems. Espionage can be divided into two categories: Human intelligence and technical intelligence. Human Intelligence is information gathered by non-technological means. The purpose of espionage is obtaining confidential information acquired through covert, observational, or cyberspace operations with the intention of violating agreements, placing national security at risk, and/ or obtaining intellectual property. Espionage is often executed by intelligence agencies which are defined as organizations within a country that gather and decipher information from other states and organizations. Examples of current intelligence agencies around the globe include the Mossad of Israel, MI6 of the UK, the Ministry of State Security of China, and the Security Intelligence Service (SUPO) of Finland. Counterintelligence is defined as the act of defending from espionage enacted by foreign and domestic intelligence agencies. Examples of espionage in history include: Greeks, Romans, and African spies called Quimitchin, spying on enemies in times of war and Sir Francis Walshingham, the father of modern intelligence, using espionage to stop a plot to kill Queen Elizabeth in 1583. Espionage is essential in the maintenance of national security, the nation's economy, and its government. Political espionage is any spying that occurs that specifically reflects a state's political interests, initiatives, or policy/lawmaking. Military espionage occurs when a state gathers information regarding armed forces that aids in defense and/or preparation of war. Economic Espionage is defined as using intelligence gathering to obtain information on fiscal exchanges, and other monetary exchanges between public and private sectors of states; public espionage relating to a nation's government's fiscal dealings such as a stock market. While private sector economic espionage deals with intellectual property rights of specific companies and organizations which do not report directly to a government.

U.S. Position:

The US has used espionage since its conception with George Washington pushing for an intelligence agency. The U.S. currently has 17 agencies that creates an Intelligence Community under the Director of Central Intelligence. Irresponsible international espionage threatens the stability of governments and jeopardize their survival. Mismanaged intelligence administration damages international relationships and national capabilities. The United States' use of of espionage can be used for positive political gain. After spying on the Brazilian and Argentine governments, the United States gained important information relating to drug trafficking issues and economic/ political security. The United States strongly condemns the use of private sector espionage, which results in

financial gain for the party who is committing these acts. The United States understands that espionage is controlled by individual states' self-interest; the United States feels that direct intervention for the United Nations would be infringing upon a state's sovereignty. If an agent of espionage is discovered in a state, domestic governmental procedures take precedence over other UN bodies. The U.S. will not commit acts of espionage on behalf of other nations, but only on our own judgement. States may determine for themselves how to share information received through espionage.

Justification:

Espionage has been used extensively throughout history. Espionage is vital in maintaining the United States' national security, regulating economic events, and also acquiring intelligence during international conflict. While espionage may lead to tension between nations, the overwhelming number of prevented wars and maintaining a global balance leaves espionage as a force for good and thus a right that every sovereign nation deserves. The United States has the responsibility of protecting its nation and citizens against any threats through the use of intelligence agencies, and also counter-intelligence. The United Nations does have the capability to prevent certain negative effects of espionage, but the U.S. believes that sovereignty takes precedence in all cases, and deferring espionage to international law may lead to mistrust and overall inefficiency. Espionage places the United States in tactical advantages in military situations. Such advantage would allow the U.S. to fulfill its responsibility to protecting its citizens.