

## **POSITION PAPERS AND OPENING STATEMENTS**

### **POSITION PAPER (For SimCon's Eyes Only)**

**WHAT IS IT?** A summary of your students' preliminary research about the issues as they exist in and/or impact your country, posted in a single message from your country to SimCon.

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** It should include a very open, honest appraisal of the following:

- 1) the kind of involvement your country has had with the issue;
- 2) the reasons for your country's interest in the issue;
- 3) the goals that your country and you team would like to achieve in the negotiations;
- 4) the strategies that your team intends to use to achieve your goals.

### **WHEN IS IT DUE?**

1<sup>st</sup> draft [individual].....end of class on Wednesday, 24 March  
Combined copy .....end of class on Friday, 26 March

### **OPENING STATEMENT (Posted to All)**

**WHAT IS IT?** A statement that introduces your country to other participating countries, and states you country's initial proposals for solving the problems in each issue area. It is sent to the other country delegations at the beginning of the negotiations.

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** It should include the following:

- 1) an introductory paragraph which gives other countries an idea of the history, culture and accomplishments of your country;
- 2) an abbreviated, somewhat less "open," more diplomatically-phrased, discussion of the information contained in your position paper about each of the issues, designed to show your country in the best possible light;
- 3) a closing paragraph that diplomatically communicates your anticipation of the up-coming negotiations.

**WHEN IS IT DUE?** All Opening Statements must be posted on, but not before, Tuesday, March 30, 2004.

### **HOW IS IT DIFFERENT FROM THE POSITION PAPER?**

The Opening Statement is different from the Position Paper in that it:

- 1) includes an opening paragraph introducing your country;
- 2) is couched in more diplomatic terms, in order to protect and enhance your country's image;
- 3) does not reveal all of the strategies you plan to use in the negotiations that might alarm or offend another country;
- 4) includes a closing paragraph communicating anticipation of the negotiations;
- 5) is sent to the whole community, whereas the position paper is sent only to SimCon.

### **Some helpful sites:**

Commanding Heights: [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/lo/countries/mx/mx\\_overview.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/commandingheights/lo/countries/mx/mx_overview.html)

CIA Handbook: <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/mx.html>

ICONS Research : <http://www.icons.umd.edu/reslib/>

Your Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick 2 or 3 current examples of your issue in Mexico:

A.

B.

C.

Explain each example and some of the reasons why it is important to Mexico:

A.

B.

C.

Explain what Mexico is doing to maintain or improve the situation:

A.

B.

C.

How does this effect Mexico's relations with other countries.