



CNN INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT'S NETWORK

Esteemed Delegates,

As the director of CNN International Correspondent's Network, allow me to welcome you to Gator Model United Nations IX. My name is Yiliam Cardenas and I will be the executive producer for CNN International and the chair to guide you in your deliberations. I am a third year student at Santa Fe College majoring in Nursing. This is my third year being part of GatorMUN. I have worked my way up by staffing my first year, then being an assistant director my second, and now directing. This has allowed me to know every part and of the committee process and what can be done to make this committee the best it can be.

This is a crisis committee, which means it will be incredibly fast paced and will force you to think quickly. There will be no formal resolutions, only communiqués, press releases, and directives. You will be allowed to pass notes to the crisis staff as a means of communication.

You will need to have thorough knowledge of the inner workings of CNN International and how each position works with each other. Also, it would be to your benefit to know to whom you have to respond and explain your actions. It is of utmost importance to keep the public up to date and informed of what is going on in the world. Also, each delegate is required to write a position paper for this committee; the requirements and instructions for doing so are available under the 'Delegate Tools' section of the GatorMUN website. Your position paper should focus on how you think CNN International should present itself and how you are going to improve the company and get news out to the public first. You should always keep in mind your position and how you can influence the company to do its best.

I want to remind you that this background guide is meant to be a helpful guide for further research. I suggest that you do research on your competitors and the standings of CNN International with people and countries, including their government. It will also be in your best interest to look at recent events that have happened around the world and what may come of those events.

If you have any questions about the committee or your position, please feel free to contact me (Yiliam Cardenas) through gatormun@gmail.com, specifying that you are a delegate in the CNN International Correspondent's Network committee. I look forward to meeting all of you and seeing how we shape the world's view on news.

Sincerely,

Yiliam Cardenas

Director, CNN International Correspondent's Network

GatorMUN IX



Committee History

Ted Turner, founder of Time Warner Company, created Cable News Network International (CNNI) under the Turner Broadcasting System during a time of globalization on January 1, 1984. It began as a small network whose purpose was to inform travelers and businessmen of what was going on around the world. However, as the only network of its time to broadcast 24 hours a day, it quickly gained the interest of the people making it the world's largest news organization (Murray 1999). CNNI continues to work closely with CNN and their sister networks to deliver news as soon as it happens. Currently, CNNI is the most watched news channel worldwide, followed by BBC World News. In addition to holding the number one channel position in the United States, it has also achieved dominance (despite the continental competition EuroNews), as it has become "the number one channel in the five key markets of the UK, France, Spain Germany and Italy" (Donohue, 2006).

Throughout the years, CNNI has changed its logo to accommodate the changing technology and is available in high definition in most countries. However, not everything has been smooth sailing for CNNI. The network has been at the end of many accusations that claim the news channel is biased and that it portrays Americanized views on news stories. Many out there claim that since CNNI is an American company with its main headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, the network cannot be unbiased and therefore does not portray the news correctly. To this CNN responds that its "reputation is based on reporting global news accurately and impartially, while [its] coverage through the use of words, images or video always reflects a wide range of opinions and points of view on every story" (CNN, 2008). During interviews many reporters have said that one of their most difficult jobs is to keep their own personal opinions out of the news stories.

CNNI relies on a team of over 4,000 news professionals to bring the latest news stories every hour of the day. Each of those news professionals has deadlines to meet and it is imperative that they complete their task. If only one news story is missing, then the whole newscast can and will be thrown off course, but most importantly, CNNI would have failed to provide its viewers with all information. To get the information, there is a system that has been in place throughout the years involving a web of interaction. The network has a plethora of correspondents around the world that capture all the latest news stories that are sent back to the headquarters where producers decide the news that is worthy to show the viewers. Before anything is aired, however, it needs to go through lawyers who analyze the information and decide if it is lawfully correct. Along with this there is a press office that researches upcoming events around the world and works with the producers and correspondents. This way there will be immediate coverage in those areas. At the same time, technology personnel make sure everyone is equipped. Budget advisors are working with producers and advertising advisors as to keep the company's profits high. Every position plays a vital part in the equilibrium of this great network.

As their company slogan states "go beyond borders," there are no limits for the CNN International to keep its viewers informed with the latest news.



Positions

Executive Producer- Yiliam Cardenas

Chair- The director will oversee the production and news that is aired to the public.

Producer A: West- Amanda Sandoval

This delegate will mainly focus on the information that will air from the western hemisphere. His duties within the committee involve deliberating over what gets aired and when, as well request information as needed.

Producer B: East- Jonathan Foster

This delegate will mainly focus on the information that will air from the eastern hemisphere. His duties within the committee involve deliberating over what gets aired and when, as well request information as needed.

Researcher/Press Office- William Reed

This delegate will handle miscellaneous information from around the world and will have to push for information he/ she feels it is pertinent to be aired.

Global Economy Correspondent- James Chancey

As the war around the world continues, the economic values of many currencies shift. It is up to the correspondent to keep the public informed.

U.S. Correspondent A: Democratic- Jim Ramos

This delegate will be in charge of covering the candidate(s) for the Democratic Party and their followers. However, under CNN's presentation policy, it is emphasized that this delegate always be unbiased when reporting.

U. S. Correspondent B: Republican- Blake Snook

This delegate will be in charge of covering the candidate(s) for the Republican Party and their followers. However, under CNN's presentation policy, it is emphasized that this delegate always be unbiased when reporting.

Latin America Correspondent- Maria Hamati

This delegate needs to research the current political and social issues in the area and think about how they might develop over the time period that our committee is going to be taking place.

Europe Correspondent: National Economy- Danielle Perez

This delegate will report on how the economy is doing nationally and the effects of the economy within the region, especially within the European Union.

Middle East Correspondent A: National Politics- Parsa Campos

GatorMUNIX

This delegate will need to research how the politics in the countries are shaping the overall feel of the people. It will be essential to follow revolutionary activity, reactions to U.S. presence, and public opinion within the region.

Middle East Correspondent B: U. S. Involvement- Alex Manigan

This delegate will report on troop movement out of the area and the possibilities of U.S. commerce in the region.

Africa Correspondent- Joan Hastings

It is important to research the current news on Africa, development progress, political strife and any upcoming natural disasters.

Asia Correspondent- Karl Chang

The Asian correspondent will be charged with researching and presenting current news in Asia despite political obstacles and government concerns of CNN Int. reporting in the area. It is important to research the current news on Asia and their economic progress and any upcoming natural disasters.

Lawyer: Legal Terms and Conditions- Robert Lanz

This delegate will work closely with everyone making sure no laws are broken, especially in foreign countries. This delegate needs to research the most common broken laws and the ones that lead to the bigger lawsuits.

Lawyer: Copyrights- Brian Adkins

This delegate will work closely with those correspondents in the field, specifically those in the Middle East and Asia. They will also advise the producers on what is legally appropriate to air.

Budget Advisor- Andrew Lennon

This delegate will oversee the budget and make sure enough revenue is coming in to satisfy Time Warner.

Advertising- Dakota Winn

This delegate will pitch in ideas on how to get more advertising on the screen and built in more commercials, especially when Time Warner requests more revenue.

Technology Assessor- Gennaro Kraff

This delegate will research the needed equipment on the field, and assure they have everything they need. Mistakes in a foreign country can be costly and even deadly.

Time Warner Representative- Chelsea Steinman

This delegate will be in charge of the economic aspects of CNN, and look out for the company's own financial interests in CNN to satisfy the Board of Directors.



Description of a Crisis Committee

Since this is a crisis committee, the rules of procedure will be somewhat different than those of standard Model United Nations General Assembly committee. During sessions, the actions, communiqués, or directives the delegates set into motion, will lead to a timely response or negotiation from the party in question in the form of either a personal message or an announcement to the whole committee. In order to accommodate for this, the rules of debate will be less strict than a General Assembly.

There will be not be a speaker's list in this committee; instead the majority of debate will be carried out through moderated caucuses with speaking time decided at the opening of each committee session. Each speaker will be chosen in turn by either the assistant director or myself, and that speaker will have a limited time to make the point or argument they wish. During session, guest speakers or videos may periodically appear to relay information to the committee. Guest speakers may be requested by sending a written note to the dais. Delegates can also move to enter and vote on entering an un-moderated caucus. During this time delegates may caucus and form plans of actions, as well as act upon any relevant updates introduced to the network.

An additional difference from the standard MUN format you are most likely accustomed to is that resolutions are not the instruments of policy creation. Instead, decisions will be carried out by way of directives: short messages that will explain a course of action, such as positioning of correspondents or broadcasts. Directives must be signed by three members of the network to be put to a vote, and then must receive approval of 50% +1 of the network to be put into action. When a directive is completed and turned in, there will be a pause in debate (at my or the Assistant Director's discretion) for reading, discussion, making amendments (if necessary,) and/or voting. Any directives that are passed will immediately take action, and our crisis staff shall decide the logical and realistic results of the action, which will soon be announced to the committee. Keep in mind that I, the Executive Producer, have the final say if a directive is passed or not; however, I will respect you all as advisors and not veto a directive unless it lacks any plausibility. Furthermore, delegates have portfolio powers and the ability to act unilaterally (without the approval or cognizance of the network) pending approval from the crisis staff and depending on that individual delegate's resources and powers. Upon the start of the first committee session, I will provide all delegates with dossiers specifying which powers, resources, and particular duties each position has that cannot be found in research. I will review all committee rules and procedures with the delegates at the beginning of the conference, so if there is some aspect of the committee you do not understand now, you will have a chance to ask for clarification before debate starts.

Also, keep in mind that because of the nature of our committee, time will move at my discretion. Therefore, the length of our committee will be equivalent to a full year.

Topics and Focus Areas

GatorMUNIX

CNN International has grown and adapted to the needs of its viewers throughout the decades. It does not only broadcast worldwide 24 hour a day, it also offers its customers alerts via e-mail and mobile. They also allow users to create an online account where they can customize their preferences and sign up for electronic newsletters. In the past decade, the world has drastically changed and CNN International has been there documenting and reporting every event.

It can be said that the stability of the world was set off balance on the morning of September 11, 2001 when two planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York City. CNN correspondents had to rush to the scene and kept the world informed of the tragedy. As hard as it may have been to report the loss of so many lives and the events that followed the attack in New York, CNN was there to provide the raw footage. CNN was present to report the presidential address to the nation and to commence the coverage of the War on Terror.

In the mean time, Europe was getting ready to change the way the world saw its finances. In January 2002, the European Union launched the Euro as coins and banknotes (Bertaut, and Iyigun 11-12). At this time, the United States started to face an economic decline, allowing the Euro to grow stronger than the Dollar. The United States faced high rates of unemployment due to major factories closing down. The United States debt was on the rise and the country, to this day, faces devastating budget cuts.

Politically, the European Union continued to gain strength by accepting 10 new nations in 2004, setting a record for the largest expansion in Europe's history. Later, the fifth president of Iraq was hung on December 2006, marking the beginning of Iraq's long road to a democracy. About a year later, Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister of Pakistan was shot to death after a campaign rally. On January 20, 2009, history was made again as the United States welcomed a new African-American president, Barack Obama. Obama continued the war efforts in the Middle East that had been started by former president, George W. Bush. On May 1, 2011 a great milestone was reached in the war efforts after U.S. forces killed the leader of al- Qaeda, Osama bin Laden. Terrorist attacks made a great impact in July, when several bomb exploded in Norway (Simon, 2011). The world has been raddled by all these events causing multiple ranges of emotions in the communities.

Despite all the economical and political turmoil in the world, Mother Nature did not take pity. On August 2004, a heat wave covered much of France killing tens of thousands of people. Then, a series of earthquakes started to hit various parts of the world. The first earthquake was reported in Southern Iran; later earthquakes hit Indonesia, Pakistan, Southern China, Haiti, Japan, California and the Eastern coast of the United States. Most earthquakes caused numerous deaths and tremendous devastation.

Throughout all of this, CNN International was reporting every second of the day to keep viewers informed. These focus areas can serve as a snapshot of CNNI's story choice over the past couple of years to determine and improve on what they cover in the future. CNN has to keep correspondents in strategic locations so that if disaster strikes they are ready to report. News does not sleep and neither does CNN. CNN International has been keeping viewers informed since 1984 and it plans on doing so for many more years.



The year 2012 will be a year full of events and it is up to you to continue the coverage for CNN International. There will be political shifts in multiple countries, the economy will be shaken, and the climate will be as unpredictable as ever. The people will want to be informed of all the happenings all the time.

Brief Timeline of Events

These events have shaped the world leading up to where we will be starting in committee. Of course, from now until January 2012 there will be more events that will happen and it is up to you to be informed of such events and apply them to the committee.

2001	September 11- Terrorist attack against U.S.
2002	January- Euro is set in circulation U.S. Economy declines
2003	August- Heat wave hits France
2004	European nations adds 10 new nations
2005	August- Hurricane Katrina hits U.S. October- Pakistan gets hit by earthquake
2006	December- Iraq's President is hanged
2007	End of year- Benazir Bhutto is killed
2008	May- Southern China earthquake

GatorMUNIX

- 2009** January- Barack Obama takes office
 April- Swine Flu outbreak
 September- Indonesia quake
- 2010** January- Earthquake hits Haiti
- 2011** May 1- Osama bin Laden is killed
 July 22- Norway terrorist Attack

Research and Preparation

Your sources should include books, online articles, and videos. Wikipedia should only be used to get background information for the network and to give you a starting guide on your research, but it should not be your only source and all the information obtained should be found in other reliable sources. It will also be in your best interest to watch CNN and make note of their production style. Be familiar with how they report news and the way they present it to the public. Furthermore, GatorMUN has a zero-tolerance policy against plagiarism, so make sure to cite all of your sources.

All delegates need to be familiar with their position and the amount of power they have. In other words, you need to know what you can and cannot do. It is of utmost importance to research not only your personal position, but also the positions of your fellow members so that you will be able to know how to interact with the other positions and what you may request from them. Remember that as a committee you need to work efficiently and be coordinated to reach your main goal: Be the first to get the news out to the public.



Works Cited

Bertaut, Carol C., and Murat F. Iyigun. "The Launch of the Euro." *Federal Reserve Bulletin*. (1999): 11-12. Web. 15 Sep. 2011.

<<http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/1999/1099lead.pdf>>.

CNN. (2008, April 18). *CNN web site targeted*. Retrieved from

<<http://www.cnn.com/2008/TECH/04/18/cnn.websites/>>.

Donohue, A. (2006). Cnn tops european news channels according to ems. *brandrepublic.com*,

Retrieved from <<http://www.brandrepublic.com/news/563911/cnn-tops-european-news-channels-according-ems/>>.

Murray, M. D. (1999). *Encyclopedia of television news*. (p. 47). Phoenix: The Oryx Press.

Simon, M. (2011, July 26). *Norway terror attacks: the latest developments*. Retrieved from

<<http://news.blogs.cnn.com/2011/07/26/norway-terror-attacks-the-latest-developments/?iref=allsearch>>.

"World Disasters Timeline." *Map Report*. N.p., 15 Sep 2011. Web. 15 Sep 2011.

<<http://www.mapreport.com/subtopics/d.html>>.