

Introduction

Welcome Delegates, it is February 1964, and this UN committee is being formed to address the escalating tensions in Vietnam, a nation divided by ideological and geopolitical forces. At this time, Vietnam remains split into two distinct provisional governments: North Vietnam, officially known as the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, and South Vietnam, recognized as the Republic of Vietnam.

This committee has been convened at a critical juncture, with hopes of fostering diplomatic dialogue and finding a path toward peace. Representatives from prominent world powers—including the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and France—alongside delegates from local governments and neutral parties, will gather to deliberate on strategies to promote regional stability, prevent further escalation, and address humanitarian concerns. The stakes are high, as the world watches anxiously, hoping that diplomacy can succeed where conflict has thus far prevailed.

Current situation

In recent months, the Republic of Vietnam has undergone significant political turmoil, marked by several military coups and juntas. As of now, the Republic of Vietnam is under the control of General Nguyễn Khánh, who seized power in January 1964. Nguyễn Khánh has installed himself as chairman and head of state of the previous Military Revolutionary Council (MRC), a twelve-seat governing body composed of former Vietnamese generals. This political instability underscores the deep divisions and challenges facing the Republic of Vietnam, a country embroiled in a brutal and protracted conflict. Currently, the Republic of Vietnam is engaged in a rural war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam-backed Viet Cong. This guerrilla force has been gaining ground, controlling an estimated 40% of the rural areas, leaving the Republic of Vietnam struggling to maintain authority and stability. Although Nguyễn Khánh has pledged to

reinstate a national assembly and hold village elections, these promises remain unfulfilled, casting doubts on his ability to establish a stable and legitimate government.

To fully understand the current situation, it is crucial to examine the historical context of Vietnam's political and military struggles. The region of Vietnam was formerly a French colony, a status that shaped its political and social structures for decades. Vietnam's path to independence was complex and fraught with conflict. The separation of Vietnam from French colonial rule began during World War II when Japan invaded the colony and placed it under the administration of Vichy France, a puppet government aligned with Nazi Germany. This period marked the beginning of a long struggle for genuine Vietnamese independence, a struggle that would influence the country's trajectory for years to come.

The journey for independence gained momentum during the First Indochina War, which began in 1946 and lasted until 1954. The war pitted the French colonial forces against the Viet Minh, a communist-led independence movement spearheaded by Ho Chi Minh. The Viet Minh's resilience and determination ultimately led to the defeat of French forces, culminating in the pivotal Battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1954. This defeat forced France to negotiate and sign agreements in Geneva later that year. These agreements recognized Vietnam's independence and provisionally divided the country into two separate entities: the communist-led Democratic Republic of Vietnam in the North and the Republic of Vietnam in the South, which was backed by Western powers, including the United States.

However, the Geneva Accords, which intended to establish peace and facilitate national elections to unify Vietnam, instead sowed the seeds of future conflict. The planned elections were never held, as the leaders in the South, supported by the United States, feared a likely victory by Ho Chi Minh. This led to the entrenchment of two competing governments with starkly different ideologies. The North, under Ho Chi Minh, pursued a communist agenda with support from the Soviet Union and China, while the South, led initially by President Ngô Đình Diệm, adopted a staunchly anti-communist stance with heavy backing from the United States.

The Republic of Vietnam's internal challenges were further exacerbated by the authoritarian rule of Ngô Đình Diệm. His government's policies, including the suppression of political dissent and favoritism toward the Catholic minority, alienated significant portions of the population, particularly the rural Buddhist majority. This discontent provided fertile ground for the growth of the Viet Cong, a communist insurgent group that sought to overthrow the South Vietnamese government. The Viet Cong's guerrilla tactics

and widespread support in rural areas have proven to be formidable challenges for the Republic of Vietnam's military forces.

The situation became increasingly unstable following the assassination of Ngô Đình Diệm in 1963, which led to a series of coups and power struggles among South Vietnam's military leaders. Nguyễn Khánh's rise to power in January 1964 is the latest chapter in this turbulent saga. While he has promised reforms, including the reinstatement of a national assembly and village elections, it remains uncertain whether these promises will be realized. Without significant reforms and a concerted effort to address the grievances of the rural population, the Republic of Vietnam risks further losing ground to the Viet Cong.

The broader geopolitical context also plays a critical role in Vietnam's struggles. The Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union has turned Vietnam into a battleground for competing ideologies. The United States has heavily invested in supporting the Republic of Vietnam, both financially and militarily, viewing it as a bulwark against the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. Conversely, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam enjoys substantial support from communist allies, creating a proxy war that exacerbates the suffering of the Vietnamese people.

UNHSC Members

These members encompass global powers, local governments and neutral powers

Global Powers

- United Kingdom
- French Republic
- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- People's Republic of China
- United States of America

Local Governments

- Democratic Republic of Vietnam
- Republic of Vietnam
- State of Japan
- Kingdom of Laos
- Kingdom of Cambodia
- Commonwealth of Australia
- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Republic of Korea

Neutral Powers

- Republic of India
- Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- Swiss Confederation