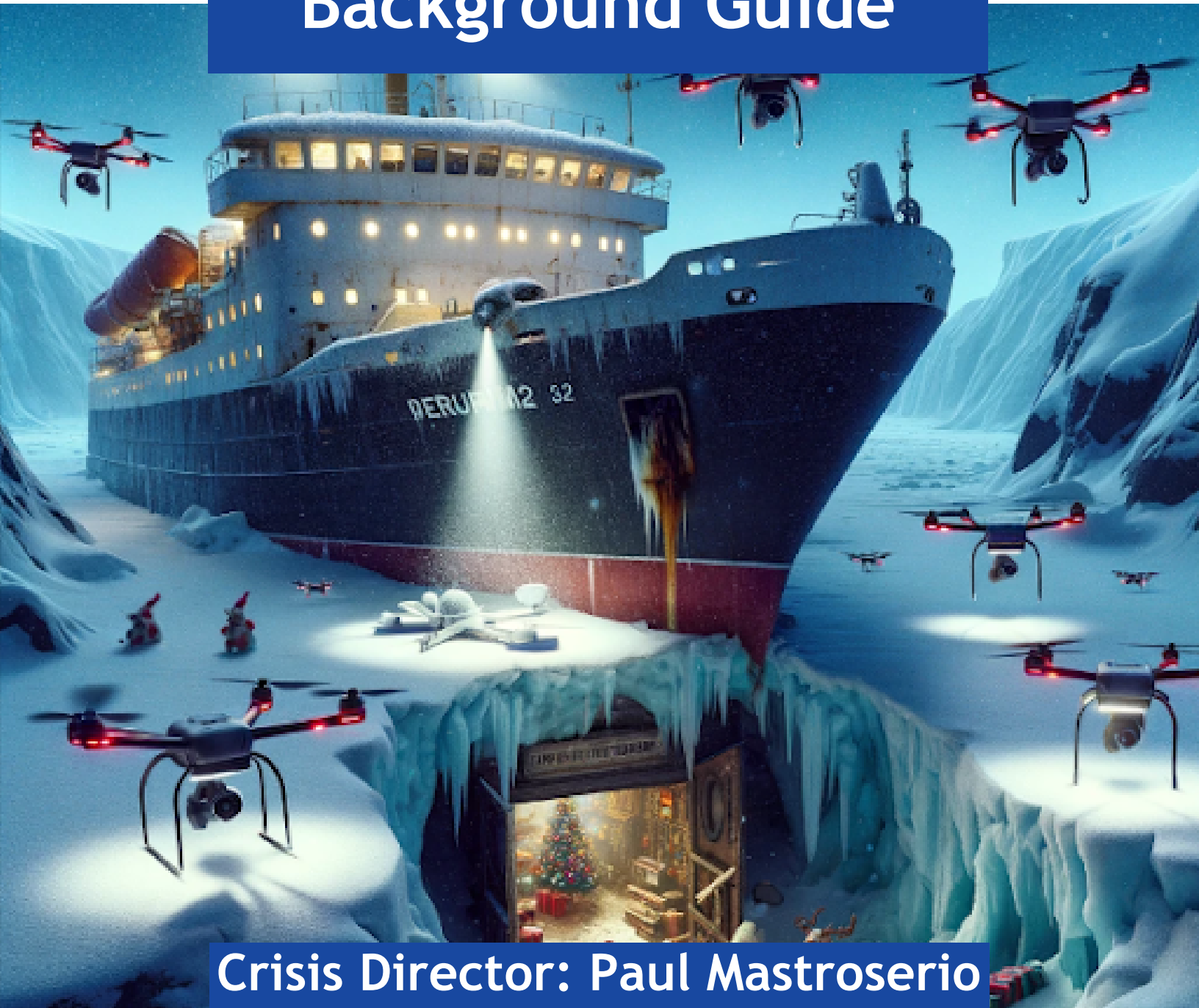




SHUMUN XXV // February 24-25

Ad-Hoc: United Nations Arctic Sovereignty and  
Anomaly Committee, 2076

# Background Guide



**Crisis Director: Paul Mastroserio**

**Chair: Fatima Talpur**

**Welcome to the 25<sup>th</sup> iteration of SHUMUN, Seton Hall University's flagship Model UN Conference for high schoolers!** This will be an innovative two-day simulation of the United Nations for high school students hosted by Seton Hall University on February 24th and 25th. It will push them through substantive debate and academic rigor and challenge them to the depths of their creativity.

## **SHUMUN's Mission**

SHUMUN XXV is a model United Nations conference for high school students with a long history of engaging simulations and enrichment of the delegates in attendance. Our conference offers both General Assembly and Crisis-style simulations. SHUMUN aims to promote public speaking and collaboration skills among high school students while fostering an engaging environment to expand students' interests in international affairs. We seek to provide delegates with an educational and entertaining weekend acting as member-states in United Nations bodies, other multinational bodies, or as individuals in creative problem-solving crisis simulations.

Seton Hall University is a large proponent of their student body's interest in Model United Nations and also has a competitive collegiate team, SHUNA, in addition to SHUMUN. Many Senior Secretariat and Dais members also compete with our nationally ranked team, SHUNA, and we pride ourselves on our large amounts of Model UN experience. However, we also pride ourselves on our diversity of conference staff and the ability of individuals of all interests and experience levels to join and participate in running our conference.

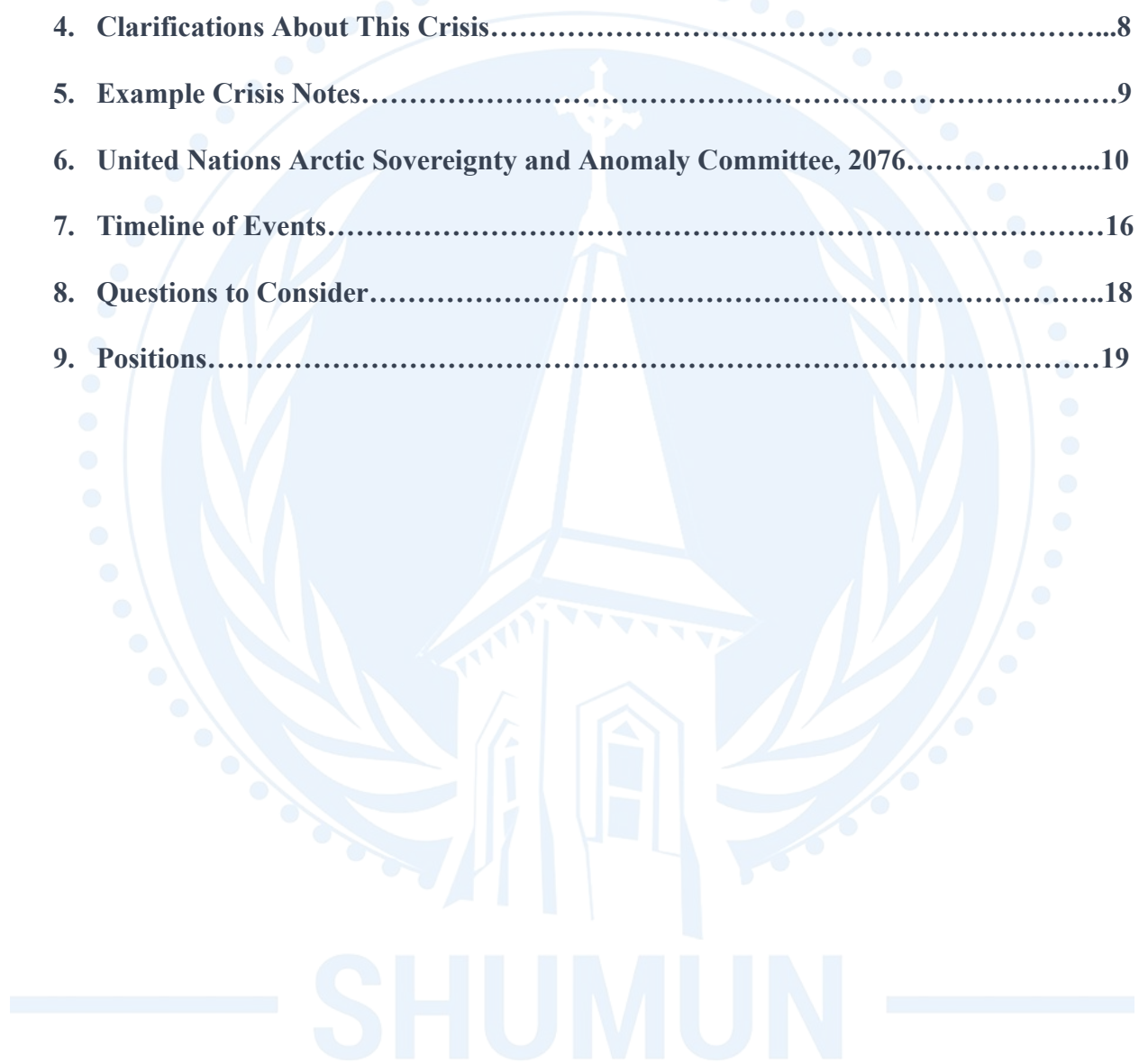
Hosted on Seton Hall University's campus in South Orange, New Jersey, SHUMUN is a constantly evolving conference looking to provide the best experience to delegates year after year. Since 1999, SHUMUN has been a staple of Seton Hall's Model UN scene which also includes a competitive collegiate team, SHUNA.

Our entire staff is more than excited to see delegates respond to crisis updates and navigate their curiosities for international affairs!

— SHUMUN —

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## Letter From The Crisis Director

Happy Holidays Delegates!

Welcome to the Ad-Hoc Committee of SHUMUN XXV! You wouldn't guess what crazy committee has been left wrapped under the tree for you for SHUMUN XXV. I would like to congratulate all of you for taking a step into the unknown and simulating the experience of having to confront a crisis as global leaders often do in reality: immediately as they occur, with little chance to prepare.

My name is Paul Mastroserio, and I am a Sophomore, ROTC Cadet, Majoring in Diplomacy, a Seton Hall United Nations Association Executive Board Member, and have been competing on the Collegiate Model UN Circuit for 2 years. I have been concocting this mind-warp of a crisis conceptually for a little over a year, and I am extremely excited to see impressionable young minds tackle this bizarre scenario.

When making this committee a reality, a major theme kept in mind was the division between the ordinary and the extraordinary. While the subject matter of the simulation is fantastical in nature, as crisis director, ***I highly encourage and will be actively rewarding a grounded approach to your directives and crisis notes***, with a focus on realistic solutions to unrealistic problems. Remember that you are not the guy with magic powers.

In this rather crazy scenario, lies lots of ground for nuanced discussions of sovereignty, security, and other topics, and it is my utmost regret that I will be in another room unable to witness these talks unfold. I hope your time in the Ad-Hoc is crazy, educational, and most importantly, jolly.



— SHUMUN —

## Letter From The Chair

Hello Delegates,

My name is Fatima Talpur, and I am so incredibly excited to serve as the chair of the ad-hoc committee in this year's SHUMUN conference. A little about me: I'm a sophomore political science and philosophy double major here at Seton Hall. I'm originally from Louisville, Kentucky, and I've been doing Model UN since I was in sixth grade. I've been a member of Seton Hall's United Nations Association (SHUNA) since my freshman year, along with being a part of Seton Hall's Mock Trial team. Currently, I serve as SHUNA's Director of Diversity and Inclusion.

I never believed in Santa growing up (a fun perk of being Muslim, just like not eating bacon), so my mom had to constantly remind me to never spoil the magic for the other kids. Yet this committee has truly convinced me of the miraculous tales of that jolly man dressed in red, more so than the truly incredible Spongebob holiday specials I watched. I am now more persuaded than ever that Christmas isn't just a one-day event, but instead a culmination of months of hard work, careful budgeting, and gaslighting your kids to stop them from bugging you about what presents they're getting.

As this committee plays out, I want to give you a little advice, straight from one of the holiday's most iconic ballads: 🎵 "He sees you when you're sleeping / He knows when you're awake / He knows if you've been bad or good / So be good for goodness sake" 🎵 Even though this committee is silly on a surface level, there are many opportunities to explore genuine global issues. For each and every decision you make regarding the future of Santa's existence in this world, there will be an impact. Your progress in this committee isn't judged on who can come up with the craziest crisis arc, but who can balance the very real political and diplomatic negotiations that will occur between nations as the committee progresses.

I hope you all have so much fun over the weekend, and enjoy the committee Paul and I have poured months into preparing and polishing. If you have any questions, reach out to me here: [fatimantalpur@outlook.com](mailto:fatimantalpur@outlook.com). Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!

Your chair,

Fatima Talpur

SHUMUN



## Letter from Santa

To The United Nations,

In the vast tapestry of our world's history, few traditions have transcended time and culture as universally as the spirit of Christmas. From my time as a bishop in the Eastern Roman Empire to hard nights at my workshop in the North Pole, I have watched centuries unfold, always with a singular mission: to bring joy, warmth, and gifts to the hearts of children and adults alike, irrespective of borders and beliefs.

Today, I find myself reaching out not to request milk and cookies, but to address an urgent matter that concerns us all. The veil of secrecy that has long shrouded my workshop has been shattered, not by malice, but by the inexorable march of progress and the unintended consequences of your material endeavors. While the world has forever changed, my commitment to delivering presents and spreading Christmas cheer remains unwavering.

It is with great pleasure that I can inform you that the Danish Crew that collided with my workshop is alive and well. My elves are doing a wonderful job taking care of them as I write this letter. Despite my hospitality, I watch as your militaries swarm my home with weapons and prying eyes. I calmly request that such measures cease immediately.

I have come to understand that the methods employed by my workshop are unconventional to the standards of your world order. In my sacred duty to determine those who are naughty or nice, and to fulfill the wishes of children across the world, I have made many friends and built integral connections with your governments and economies, in secret. I have no doubt in my mind that mankind's curiosity and stubborn controlling nature will make it impossible for your governments to accept my influence, no matter how much I love and care for each and every one of you.

I stand before you, a figure of myth made manifest, to affirm that my operations will continue. The magic of Christmas, the joy of giving, and the smiles of countless children are non-negotiable. With the veil of secrecy, I have long enjoyed gone forever, it is indeed true that Christmas as we know it is at existential threat. For the good of the children, we must find a way to coexist, to integrate the wonder of Christmas into the fabric of your modern world without diminishing its magic and prosperity. As critical moments come to pass in the coming days, do remember the boon that Christmas has on your economies, your cultures, and your faiths.

The challenges we face are manifold, and while the crashed icebreaker in my waters remains a pressing concern, it is but one of many issues that require our collective attention.

As we hopefully enter negotiations, it is deeply important to me that the existence of my workshop remains hidden from the general public. Christmas will have little meaning without

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faith, and children should act naughty and nice on their own accords, without confirmation of my scrutiny.

Let us redefine the boundaries of what's possible, to ensure that the laughter of children and the spirit of giving endure in this new era. I await your response. Together, let us chart a course that honors our shared past and secures a future filled with joy and wonder for generations to come.

With enduring hope and the promise of peace,

Santa Claus



## Notes on Procedure

1. SHUMUN will be utilizing Google Docs and Gmail for the conference. For any questions contact our email: [shumun.se@gmail.com](mailto:shumun.se@gmail.com). Delegates will communicate in-room with paper notes.
2. SHUMUN uses Parliamentary Procedure (often abbreviated as Parli Pro) to run committees. A Google search will give you more than enough information on how this is used in Model UN, and any other questions can easily be addressed in committee.
3. SHUMUN has a **zero-tolerance policy regarding bullying, offensive remarks, harassment, discrimination, or anything of the sort**. Model UN should be a fun activity for delegates to participate in and no one should feel excluded at any point during the weekend. If at any point the Senior Secretariat is notified of any violation of this policy, the delegate and advisor will be contacted and the issue will be discussed, potentially resulting in expulsion from the conference or disqualification from awards. In general, if you think even for a second that something would offend someone, do not do, or say that thing.
4. Profanity is prohibited.
5. Pre-writing is defined as any notes or directives written outside of committee time and is strictly prohibited. Delegates are allowed to bring research into the committee, but not pre-written notes or papers. Engaging in pre-writing will result in immediate disqualification from award consideration.
6. SHUMUN XXV Crisis Committees are **PAPER-ONLY**. We are utilizing a two-pad system for crisis notes, delegates will be expected to **arrive with 2 standard legal pads**, post-it notes, and additional scratch paper. For any questions, please contact the secretariat at [shumun.sec@gmail.com](mailto:shumun.sec@gmail.com).
7. If you need to use the restroom during committee, you do not need to raise your hand or ask permission.



## Clarifications About This Crisis

This committee will adopt a format similar to a United Nations Security Council committee. There will be full crisis elements on the first day to stimulate dynamic discussions and decision-making with a focus on advocating for interests by subterfuge, and planning. On the second day of the committee, we will end these crisis elements, urging all parties to collaboratively draft a resolution, reflecting on the outcomes and insights from the previous day's activities. This structure is designed to provide a comprehensive experience, combining the urgency of crisis response with the collaborative effort of resolution drafting. When planning your crisis arcs, focus on gaining leverage in future negotiations instead of trying to solve every problem in a grand display, and remember that the final crisis update will be given at the beginning of the second day of the committee.



## Example Crisis Notes

To Jedi Librarian

I wish to take out any Jedi texts related to the ability (Force Heal, Force Lightning, Lightsaber Combat, etc.) With these texts, I will read and study them and begin training to learn this ability. Please inform me when I have completed training so I can return the texts. Please burn this note.

Thanks, 'x'

To My Secretary

I want you to use my personal funds to pay for more security. I want at least 2 personal guards stationed outside my residence and office to stop any attempts on my life. They will also accompany me while I travel. Please burn this note. - 'x'

To Bounty Hunter

I'm placing a hit on 'y.' I will pay you by having my finance handler transfer funds into a hidden personal account. I want you to DISCREETLY steal a guard's uniform. You will use it to sneak in. I'll also give you money to purchase some poison which you will put into their drink once you're inside. When you're done, I'll send your full payment. Contact me when you've obtained the uniform and poison and are ready to go. Also, burn this note.

- 'x'

To My Finance Handler

Burn this note. Please put together a fruit basket to send to (backroom character). Have it delivered with a note from me expressing my desire for better relations. Thank you, 'x'

# United Nations Security Council Arctic Sovereignty and Anomaly Committee, 2076

## Introduction

The year is 2076. Polar ice caps are melting, and the world is more fragile than ever, as sea levels displace millions, and fossil fuel shortages threaten the economies of the world's powers. As new waterways are revealed in the melting of the Arctic Circle, a fantastical discovery was made by a Danish Icebreaker: Santa is real, and he has a massive workshop hidden beneath the ice.

Additionally, Global Intelligence will discover that the North Pole has been holding secret ties and ownership in publicly traded companies, having influence in NGO's and corporations such as Microsoft, Amazon, and Nintendo, to deliver popular gifts to girls and boys across the globe. This discovery has caused hysteria known as the North Pole Revelations.

In response to the North Pole Revelations, the United Nations Security Council secretly convened to form a confidential Ad-Hoc body named the "Arctic Sovereignty and Anomaly Committee" (ASAC) to organize solutions to handle the consequences of an anomaly that can see you when you're sleeping, enter the home of any global citizen with ease, ride a magic sleigh capable of evading 6<sup>th</sup> generation aircraft, and command influence over the global market economy.

The United Nations, while at threat from the North Pole, is also in dire need of its assistance. Santa's workshop has been discovered to have been the world's no.1 exporter of consumer goods. If Christmas ends forever, the already fragile global economy would crash, plunging the world into chaos.

ASAC will be tasked with handling the crash site of the Danish icebreaker, negotiating with the North Pole, and forming a new standard for how Christmas will be treated in the future.

## Arctic Trade on the Rise

The Arctic Circle, historically ice-bound and elusive, is becoming increasingly navigable due to Arctic ice melt from climate change. This transformation is opening new maritime routes, reducing travel distances between major global markets, and presenting fresh economic opportunities. These new opportunities are met with new tensions and environmental concerns, as nations vie for control and access, and the delicate Arctic ecosystem faces new threats. The Northwest Passage, a historic and coveted trade route, lies deep inside Canadian waters and territory. Despite this, the nature of the passage being one of few traversable routes has made the United States contest the region to be lawful waters for international trade. It is likely that further melting of the Arctic Circle will result in the new routes rendering the Northwest Passage Obsolete. The melting Arctic will lead to a myriad of changes in the coming years to global trade dynamics all of which will result in a greater amount of human activity in the region.

## The Pilgrim

On December 5th, 2076, the Danish icebreaker "Pilgrim" collided with an unseen structure underneath the ice at the North Pole, grounding the vessel. As the Pilgrim was unable to put out a distress beacon, the vessel was listed as lost 5 days later by the Danish Coast Guard, which deployed drones to the last location detected by global satellites. When Danish drones reached the crash site, they discovered the breached opening of a massive underground industrial complex, assumed at the time to be military in nature, and highly dangerous. Unbeknownst to the DCG at the time, this was Santa's Workshop. Much to the confusion and concern of the Danish Coast Guard, the entire crew of the Pilgrim was not found at the crash site, nor were their bodies found.

Santa would later confirm the crew's safety in his communication to the UNSC, emphasizing peace and hospitality provided by his elves. The Arctic Sovereignty and Anomaly Committee (ASAC) now faces the challenge of managing the crew's knowledge of Santa's existence and operations. These crew members could be pivotal witnesses, or a dangerous security concern depending on the actions of the committee.

*In order to buy time for ASAC to choose a course of action on how to respond to the sailors of the pilgrim, a one-way signals blockade by maritime forces has been established to make it more difficult for the sailors to communicate with the outside world without authorization from members of the UNSC.*

## North Pole Revelations

The discovery of an unknown structure at the North Pole by the Danish Coast Guard, initially mistaken for a military installation, led to a significant military response orchestrated by NATO Supreme Allied Commander Richard L. Dawson. Dawson ordered a deployment of armed forces, including spy planes, nuclear submarines, and drones to the region, with the ability to deploy nuclear weapons to the North Pole. In an effort to contain the situation and prevent potential leaks, Commander Dawson seized the data collected by the DCG and enacted a strict information quarantine among involved personnel. As provided to ASAC by the UNSC, NATO has also declassified initial plans written to begin a ground invasion of the complex as well. The rapid mobilization in the Arctic Ocean triggered threatened and confused responses by non-Western states, as the action had no logical reason.

After the rapid mobilization of sensitive NATO assets threatened both a larger international incident and the destruction of his workshop, Santa sent a confidential letter to the United Nations Security Council. He sought to open a dialogue and clarify the existence of his workshop, as well as the fate of The Pilgrim. The full letter has been provided to you at the start of the background guide, titled, "Letter From Santa."

After the International community was informed of the truth, the response was militarily tuned down, but after Santa's letter included an admission of current connections to the International economy and NGOs, the intelligence community began highly secretive yet frantic investigations to confirm the severity of Santa's claims. As global intelligence officials started to find evidence of collusion with the North Pole, government officials, and CEOs suddenly became unreachable, fueling speculation and minor hysteria among intelligence circles. Already, the sudden vacations and disappearances of CEOs of top corporations as large as Amazon are already creating rumors among the general public. It is up to ASAC to balance accountability and security with the potential repercussions of this disruption.

### **The Economic Impact of Christmas**

Christmas is a high-volume selling holiday for goods suppliers around the world. Originating from ancient winter solstice celebrations, it has evolved into a significant commercial event, especially since the 19th century when it became associated with the giving of gifts, largely influenced by the story of Santa Claus. Sales increase dramatically as people purchase gifts, decorations, and supplies to celebrate. Overall retail spending worldwide reached \$1.3 trillion during the 2023 holiday season. It is an economic fact that economic demand peaks every year during the holiday season. The presence of holiday economic performance extends beyond the West as well, affecting states as different from each other as China and Zimbabwe.

*For this committee, it will be stipulated that all gifts that are addressed from Santa Claus, all cookies and milk left out overnight on Christmas, and all services claiming to send letters to the North Pole are genuine and that the production and distribution of these goods is done through the economic cooperation of the North Pole with other distributors.*

If Christmas were to stop, the economic repercussions would be profound. Retail sectors, particularly those heavily reliant on the holiday season's boost, could face severe losses, potentially leading to job cuts and business closures. The travel and hospitality industries, which benefit from holiday-related tourism and family gatherings, would also experience a downturn. Moreover, the absence of Christmas could impact the manufacturing sector, especially those involved in producing toys, electronics, and seasonal goods, leading to a ripple effect across global supply chains. The cessation of Christmas, a time characterized by heightened economic activity and consumer spending, could easily result in a massive global economic depression.

ASAC must account for the economics of Christmas and its importance as it considers negotiations with the North Pole, as the fate of a massive element of the global economy lies in its hands.



## **“He Sees You When You’re Sleeping”**

It should come to your attention that the abilities reportedly possessed by Santa Claus, particularly the capacity to "see you when you're sleeping" and "know when you're awake," present a potential infringement on individual privacy rights. Such capabilities, albeit rooted in folklore, now demand serious consideration due to their implications for international law, especially in relation to Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which safeguards against arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence, as well as attacks upon honor and reputation.

The inherent surveillance capabilities, if existent and active, could constitute a systematic violation of these internationally recognized privacy norms. The notion of continuous monitoring, regardless of its intention, stands in stark contrast to the principles of consent, necessity, and proportionality that underpin the right to privacy.

Given the global jurisdiction these operations cover, it is imperative for ASAC to deliberate on the establishment of a regulatory framework that addresses these concerns while respecting the sovereignty of the North Pole entity. This framework should ensure that any surveillance or data collection practices are in strict compliance with international human rights standards.

ASAC's role in facilitating a dialogue with the North Pole entity will be crucial in aligning its operations with contemporary legal and ethical norms. It will be up to ASAC to determine the potential for these capabilities to be misused, and whether Santa should be left to detect who is naughty or nice.

## **Inner Workings of the Workshop**

Recent attempts by ASAC resources to conduct a thorough inspection of the underground complex identified as Santa's Workshop have encountered unprecedented challenges. Initial observations have revealed complexities that defy logical explanations, particularly concerning the scale of operations and resource accumulation within the facility.

Despite its concealed location beneath the Arctic ice, the workshop has amassed resources on a scale that would typically be deemed impossible for such a remote and inhospitable environment, one which evidently is made of only ice. The quantity and variety of materials present suggest a logistical capability far beyond current understanding, raising questions about the methods employed for transportation and storage.

Moreover, preliminary reports indicate the presence of potentially over a million human adjacent sapiens assumed to be “elves” inhabiting the complex. This vast population suggests a highly organized society with its own distinct culture and social structure, the details of which remain largely unknown to us. The lack of visibility into the living conditions, societal organization, and cultural practices of these elves presents a significant gap in our understanding of the North Pole.

The workshop's subterranean nature, coupled with advanced concealment techniques, has hindered our ability to gain deeper insights into its operations. The technology or magic safeguarding this facility appears to be beyond the scope of conventional surveillance and reconnaissance methods, posing a considerable challenge to our investigative efforts.

Lastly, it has been confirmed that the crew of the Danish Icebreaker “Pilgrim” is indeed alive inside this complex.

It will be up to ASAC to determine the importance of the contents of the workshop, and whether the existence of this facility should constitute a state by international law.

## **The Sleigh**

Santa’s Sleigh is a mythological aerial phenomenon and a pivotal element to Santa’s ability to distribute gifts to children globally in a single 24-hour cycle. The intelligence gathered from past reports once unexplainable hints at capabilities capable of serious security risks.

A UAP (UFO) incident recorded on December 25th, 2065, by the U.S. destroyer Solemnity marks a significant observation of what we believe to be the Sleigh in action, traveling at speeds exceeding Mach 7 over the Arctic Circle without the generation of a sonic boom. This event, notable for the detection of multiple smaller heat signatures now believed to correspond to the reindeer traditionally associated with the sleigh, underscores the vehicle's ability to operate beyond the bounds of existing aerospace technology.

Still unfound is any explanation for the method in which the millions of tons of Christmas gifts are compiled into the sleigh for transport. Any explanation given by experts briefed on the subject has concluded that fundamental laws of physics including conservation of mass are likely broken by the Sleigh’s enigmatic design.

The Sleigh's demonstrated capacity to outmaneuver any known human aircraft or missile system positions it as a virtually untouchable entity in airborne scenarios. Its advanced propulsion and stealth capabilities not only allow for rapid global travel but also ensure evasion from conventional tracking and interception methods. This level of technological sophistication and utter lack of care for the laws of nature suggests a vehicle that operates on principles yet to be comprehended by modern science.

## **Jolly Old Saint Nicholas**

Santa Claus's assertion in his letter to the UNSC that his being Saint Nicholas carries serious repercussions. This claim suggests he's not just a figure from folklore but a living saint, revered in Christianity for over a millennium. If such a revelation were to reach the general public, it could deeply influence how societies view religious history and cultural traditions, and deeply upset the natural order.

Handling this situation requires careful consideration. If the public perceives the UNSC or ASAC to be opposing a Saint, it could lead to widespread outcry and damage the trust in international bodies. On the other hand, Santa Claus's identification as a saint might actually bolster trust in negotiations, supporting the belief that he truly intends to act for the global good.

The confirmation that Santa is Saint Nicholas does not directly prove the existence of other aspects of the Christian faith, nor has his unexplained magical phenomena been confirmed to be directly related to his Sainthood. It is possible that Santa was magical independently of religion and was revered by the West for his acts.



## Timeline of Events

- **2034:** Unprecedented melting of Arctic ice due to climate change reveals previously inaccessible trade routes. This leads to increased commercial and scientific interest in the region.
- **2035-2040:** Nations and corporations expand Arctic exploration for resources and new shipping routes. Global investment in icebreaker ships spikes.
- **2045:** Russian Nuclear Icebreaker *Arktika* opens trade route from Siberia to China, crossing the Arctic Ocean.
- **2045-2050:** Arduous negotiations in the international community expand the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas to expand economic rights in the Arctic Circle, and declare the Arctic Ocean international waters. Core passages through the Arctic Circle are ruled in favor of freedom of navigation.
- **2050:** Climate change accelerates, with significant implications for global weather patterns, sea levels, and Arctic ice. The international community steps up efforts to address environmental challenges.
- **2055-2060:** Technological advancements in surveillance and exploration equipment lead to increased scrutiny of the Inner Arctic Circle.
- **December 25th, 2065:** United States destroyer *Solemnity* detects a UAP (UFO) flying over the Arctic Circle traveling at Mach 7 without triggering a sonic boom. The UAP data contained multiple heat signatures. Statements from Signals Technicians are taken and remain classified.
- **December 5th, 2076:** Danish Icebreaker *Pilgrim* makes a startling discovery as it attempts to cross the North Pole and crashes into what they initially believe to be a highly advanced, unknown military installation. The vessel is both inoperable and grounded.
- **December 10th, 2076:** The Danish Coast Guard deploys drones to the North Pole in search of the *Pilgrim* after failure to send any communications. Drones discover the shipwreck and the complex.
  - Santa, aware of the impending exposure, sends a preemptive, confidential communication to the United Nations Security Council, revealing his existence and requesting a dialogue (Letter from Santa).
  - NATO Supreme Allied Commander Richard L. Dawson confidentially seizes drones and intelligence from the DCG, and places personnel who have seen the intelligence under temporary information quarantine.
  - Nuclear Submarines, UAVs, Spy Planes, and global satellites turn toward the North Pole, under the flags of several nations.
  - Top leaders of global intelligence agencies scramble to inspect major NGOs, corporations, and government officials to find connections to the North Pole entity. Meetings globally are mysteriously canceled, as CEOs and officials take sudden leaves of absence.

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### Ad-Hoc

- **December 11th, 2076:** The United Nations Security Council convenes in secret to address the revelations, and unanimously passes a resolution to open the "Arctic Sovereignty and Anomaly Committee", a special Ad-Hoc committee on a coordinated response to the North Pole, led by heads-of-state.
- **December 12th, 2076:** The United Nations "Arctic Sovereignty and Anomaly Committee" opens session secretly in an underground bunker in Greenland.





## Questions to Consider

1. Should the North Pole be recognized by the United Nations? What role will it play in international politics? Should it be subject to international law?
2. Are the economic benefits and the stability of Christmas worth the sacrifice of global sovereignty? How much influence can Santa and his workshop be allowed to wield?
3. Do states have the cultural authority to prosecute a universally loved figure? What are the potential repercussions of the existence of the North Pole being made public?
4. Given Santa's evasive nature and magical resources, what does it mean for nations to hold him accountable?

## Positions

### **Argentina:**

Argentina is a mostly Catholic Christian nation with an export-based economy. For Argentina, global market stability is paramount to the nation's economic well-being. Argentina's Catholic Christian traditions also put it in a position where Christmas is one of the most important holidays of the year. Argentina has a long history of Antarctica occupation and meteorological study dating back to the early 20th century. Argentina has a unique expertise for operating in frozen environments. Overall, Argentina's position within ASAC would likely be nuanced, balancing its national interests with broader considerations of global stability, economic prosperity, and cultural values. Argentina may seek to contribute constructively to the committee's efforts to address the complex religious issues raised by the discovery of Santa Claus.

### **Australia:**

Australia is a mostly atheist country that prioritizes diversity. They rely on stability in the Pacific and freedom of navigation. Australia is a major exporter of raw materials. While Australia is far away from the North Pole, they share similar concerns with Climate Change. Australia will be solution-oriented, seeking to balance its national interests with broader considerations of global stability, economic prosperity, environmental sustainability, and cultural diversity. Australia may advocate for dialogue, cooperation, and multilateral diplomacy as the preferred means of addressing the complex issues raised by the discovery of Santa Claus's existence.

### **Brazil:**

Brazil has been struggling over the years with unstable politics. There are radical over-corrections on the left-wing and right-wing governments in Brazil. Brazil in particular must take into consideration its domestic cultural politics and the notable right-wing monopoly on religious tradition while negotiating over the possible shock to its institutions. Brazil's economy, like many other economies, is an export-based economy that relies on being able to export key goods such as soybeans, coffee, and beef.

### **Canada:**

Canada, with its extensive Arctic territory, is deeply invested in the implications of climate change and the opening of new Arctic trade routes, seeing them as opportunities for economic development and asserting sovereignty. The country places a high priority on security, particularly concerning Santa's surveillance capabilities, given its extensive role in the intelligence community and the security of its vast northern borders. The public revelation of Santa's existence and identity, especially as Saint Nicholas, would require sensitive handling, considering Canada's diverse cultural fabric and the potential for this revelation to resonate

deeply with its Christian communities, while also balancing Indigenous perspectives and traditions in the Arctic region.

**Chile:**

Chile's economy is heavily dependent on international trade, particularly in the export of copper, fruits, and wine. As such, Chile may recognize the economic importance of Christmas and the global trade associated with it. Chile's fruit exports may be tied to Santa Sympathizers who manufacture fruit cake. Chile may consider its relations with other Latin American countries in formulating its position within ASAC. Chile's unique blend of Christian and indigenous culture may give Chile a unique position on the value of Christmas.

**China:**

China, vigilant about its national security and the integrity of the Great Firewall, perceives the Arctic's opening and Santa's surveillance capabilities as potential threats, challenging its sovereignty and tight control over information. The revelation of Santa's existence, particularly as Saint Nicholas, a figure deeply rooted in Western culture, could be seen as a challenge to China's efforts to maintain cultural autonomy and manage Western influences. This situation necessitates a strategic and possibly defensive response to safeguard national interests and preserve the cultural barrier that separates China from Western traditions. The possibility that China's massive export economy could have secret connections to the North Pole would appear as a large threat to China.

**France:**

France, with its strong emphasis on cultural heritage and global diplomacy, views the Arctic developments with interest, considering the potential for scientific research and environmental stewardship. The notion of Santa's surveillance operations, however, poses a dilemma, challenging France's staunch advocacy for privacy rights and individual liberties. The revelation of Santa as Saint Nicholas could stir a significant public and cultural response, given France's Christian heritage and secular values. Balancing these revelations with respect for religious sentiments and national identity would be crucial, ensuring they align with France's principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

**Egypt:**

Egypt, primarily concerned with its geopolitical and economic interests in the Middle East and Africa, might view the developments in the Arctic and the revelations about Santa Claus from a strategic perspective. The expansion of Arctic trade routes is less directly impactful for Egypt, given its geographical distance and reliance on the Suez Canal as a key global trade artery. However, the potential global economic shifts and the introduction of advanced surveillance capabilities could prompt Egypt to reassess its security and trade strategies. The revelation of

Santa as Saint Nicholas might not have a profound cultural impact due to Egypt's predominantly Muslim population, but it would necessitate diplomatic finesse to navigate the global discourse and maintain its international relations amidst these extraordinary revelations.

**Germany:**

Germany, as an unofficial leader of the European Union, is vigilant about the Arctic's evolving trade dynamics and their potential to alter European economic structures. The discovery of Santa's extensive surveillance capabilities and his workshop's advanced operations could be seen as a challenge to personal freedoms and data protection principles, deeply valued in German society. Furthermore, the potential economic control and influence exerted by the North Pole entity, especially through undisclosed ties to major corporations, raises concerns about market fairness within the EU. Balancing these revelations with Germany's commitment to environmental stewardship, privacy rights, and a stable European economic landscape would require a nuanced approach, ensuring compliance with EU standards and the safeguarding of European sovereignty and values.

**Iceland:**

Iceland, with its strong Scandinavian ties and shared heritage with Denmark, is particularly concerned about the "Pilgrim" incident, given the involvement of a Danish icebreaker with Icelandic crew members aboard. The discovery of Santa's workshop following the accident raises questions about jurisdiction and international law in the Arctic, as well as the potential intelligence risks of letting the crew back to the general public. Iceland's response would likely emphasize the importance of safeguarding its citizens and upholding the principles of Scandinavian brotherhood in addressing the fallout from the "Pilgrim" collision.

**India:**

India is not a Christian nation, and may find the revelation of Santa's existence to create friction with their cultural beliefs and identity. India is a major global economy with a diverse array of manufacturing, service, and agricultural capabilities. India would likely focus on leveraging the situation to enhance its global trade position, seeking beneficial outcomes from any international agreements while maintaining respect for its diverse cultural identity. While they wouldn't value Santa culturally, the economic value of Christmas is a global phenomenon.

**Indonesia:**

Indonesia, facing significant challenges from rising sea levels due to climate change, views the Arctic developments with concern, particularly the environmental implications that have caused a period of recent mass emigration. Indonesia is also a major trading nation and the largest economy in Southeast Asia. Indonesia has no significant cultural connection to Santa, and its negotiations may focus on the climate and Indonesia's wallet.

**Italy:**

Italy is the home of the Vatican and is a majority Christian-country. Italian Christianity is known for its elements of superstition and faith in the more spiritual aspects of Christianity. Italy's economy generates around \$40 billion dollars every Christmas in retail. Italy has a massive economic investment in keeping Christmas going. Italy is committed to addressing climate change and environmental sustainability, and it may prioritize these concerns within ASAC discussions. Italy may advocate for measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of Arctic developments, such as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity, and promoting renewable energy sources.

**Japan:**

Japan is a non-Christian country. They have little faith in the spirit of Christmas, however, they do recognize and appreciate the holiday. Chicken is an important food for Japanese Christmas dates, celebrated on December 25th. Japan's unique celebration of Christmas may make Japan's society extremely receptive to the existence of a living Saint. Japan is a major industrialized economy that might find value in arctic trade routes.

**Mexico:**

Mexico is a Catholic nation whose infrastructure has only continued to degrade. The sprawl around Mexico City has created a serious environmental problem. This has made Mexico City's population even more vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Mexico is economically integrated with the rest of North America and is a major manufacturing center within the Western Hemisphere. It is likely that Santa has many connections within Mexican manufacturing.

**Russia:**

The Russian Federation has seen stellar opportunities presented by climate change. With the opening of the Arctic Circle and the warming of Siberia, economic growth has spurred in the north. The economic significance of Christmas in Russia, while growing, is slightly unique due to its Orthodox Christian traditions, which celebrate Christmas on January 7th. The revelations about Santa Claus, particularly his ties to Saint Nicholas, resonate with Orthodox Christian heritage. Russia would need to navigate the implications of Santa's identity carefully, balancing its authoritative stance in the Arctic with the global and domestic ramifications of these revelations, ensuring they align with national interests and cultural sensitivities.

**Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi Arabia, primarily known for its oil exports, may not see direct changes from Arctic trade route expansions. However, global energy dynamics could shift with Arctic resource exploration, influencing oil markets. Christmas has less economic and social impact in Saudi Arabia due to cultural and religious differences, but global shifts in Christmas traditions could affect



international relations and cultural exchanges. Saudi Arabia would likely focus on how these developments impact energy markets and diplomatic ties, maintaining a strategic approach to its economic and international interests.

**South Africa:**

While the introduction of new Arctic trade routes does not offer a large amount of change to South Africa, the introduction of new economic opportunities near Antarctica could see South Africa and the Cape of Good Hope see new economic growth by 2076. South Africa boasts a significant Christian population, and a large economy capable of being affected by shifts in holiday economics.

**Republic of Korea:**

For South Korea, a technological powerhouse and a key player in global manufacturing and export, the introduction of Arctic trade routes offers new logistical efficiencies and market access, potentially enhancing its trade network. As a major consumer electronics supplier, South Korea faces significant economic implications from the Christmas season, which drives considerable consumer demand worldwide. The potential disruption or alteration of Christmas traditions could impact South Korea as a major supplier of holiday goods.

**Spain:**

For Spain, its Mediterranean positioning and location to the Americas have caused little change with the emergence of new Arctic trade routes. The revelation of Santa Claus as Saint Nicholas could be a large threat given Spain's deep Catholic traditions, intertwining religious reverence with the complexities of acknowledging a figure of such historical and mythical magnitude

**Turkiye:**

Turkiye's stance on Arctic developments is adversarial, the shift in global trade routes has posed a challenge to its traditional role as a key trade nexus through the Black Sea. While Turkiye might assert a cultural claim to the figure of Saint Nicholas (who was born in modern-day Turkiye), acknowledging this connection also brings to light the complex historical context of Turkiye's Islamic identity emerging from the conquest of the Christian Byzantine Empire (where Saint Nicholas's legacy began) by the Ottoman Turks.

**The United Kingdom:**

The UK, with its interests in global trade and environmental leadership, views Arctic developments as significant, particularly for bolstering its maritime economy. Concerns about Santa's surveillance present a nuanced challenge, considering the UK's emphasis on privacy and data protection laws. The revelation of Santa's identity as Saint Nicholas would require delicate

handling, given the UK's diverse religious landscape and the potential impact on its Christian population, alongside the implications for cultural heritage and public sentiment.

**The United States of America:**

The United States values Arctic trade expansion and climate change as avenues for strategic advantage, and has seen new industry in the State of Alaska. To the United States, the Arctic has become a new economic battleground to contend with other great powers for resources. Santa's surveillance capabilities concern the U.S. as it challenges its sovereignty and security, critical for a global power. The disclosure of Santa's identity needs careful handling to prevent diplomatic and public unrest; a massive portion of the United States and many of its service members and lawmakers are Christian and may prove unwilling to prosecute a saint. The U.S. economy undergoes heavy stimulus every Christmas season and may have a great number of North Pole sympathizers embedded in its infrastructure, presenting a security risk.

