

HackMUN VI

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE: FIRST CONTACT



Table of Contents

Note From the Chairs	2
Committee Procedures	3
Context of the Crisis	5
Introduction to the Committee	6
Committee Positions	7
Committee Archetypes	8

Note From the Chairs

Greetings, Delegates!

Our names are Nikhil Shah and James Devereux and it is our pleasure to welcome you to HackMUN VI's Specialized Committee on First Contact! This committee has been created as a love letter to the Three Body Problem series (although the character names' include a wide variety of references), and we hope you enjoy participating in it as much as we enjoying making it. **We encourage you to read through the entirety of the background guide as this specialized committee is different from any General Assembly or Crisis Committee you may have seen.** We hope the dynamic of three distinct committees adds a level of challenge in the navigation of the issues you will be presented with, and also a unique feeling to the committee as a whole! We hope your differing perspectives will lead to more creative solutions and we look forward to a day of debate, policy-making, compromise, problem-solving in response to various crises, and most importantly, fun! Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the substance of the committee, your personal powers, or anything else.

If you are new, do not be shy. Model UN is home to one of the most encouraging communities in high school. The various experiences and perspectives that people bring to these conferences are what makes Model UN what it is. Try your best and be engaged!

We wish you all a great conference and look forward to the diplomatic resolve, passion, and joy you will bring to the conference! Please remember to reach out if you have any questions.

Feel free to contact us with any questions. See you at HackMUN VI!

Sincerely,

Nikhil Shah, Under-Secretary General, HackMUN VI

James Devereux, Secretary to the Under-Secretary General, HackMUN VI

Committee Directors for the First Contact Specialized Committee

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Committee Procedures

Position Papers

If you wish to be considered for an award this year at HackMUN VI, you must turn in a position paper. Position papers help you prepare effectively for debate and engage meaningfully with the topic before the day of the conference. Furthermore, your chairs can better understand the unique issues and possible solutions, and your committee position at large, prior to the actual beginning of the committee. For this crisis committee, the ideal position paper demonstrates a solid grasp of sovereign politics and your character's role within your country. More importantly, you should attempt to describe your unique position/stance within the emergency, and how that interacts with your character's archetype. Lastly, you should brainstorm potential solutions to the challenges at hand. Please send position papers less than 2 pages in length, 1.5-inch spacing in EITHER Google Doc or PDF format by the morning of **Friday, March 7th, 2025**, (the day before committee) to firstcontacthackmun@gmail.com.

How This Specialized Committee Will Function

This committee will function as a modified version of a joint crisis committee. Like a joint crisis committee, there will be multiple independent committees, each passing their own directives. There will also be crisis updates. Unlike a joint crisis committee, there will be three bodies, instead of the usual two. Further, **there will be no crisis notes**. For simplicity, each committee is composed of 8 members, each of which is a particular “archetype.” Each committee will have all 8 archetypes present. You may treat these as a broad context in which to build your character; as this is entirely fictionalized, the details of how your character functions within these roles are entirely up to you. Be creative! These archetypes are intentionally left vague so as to allow you to build a true character, with complex motivations underlying their actions. With the exception of the diplomat, these archetypes do not have any special powers within the committee.

Context of the Crisis

On February 17th, 2025, scientists noticed strange readings on their seismometers. An irregular series of waves felt simultaneously across the globe— an earthquake without an epicenter. After a worldwide scramble to understand the geological phenomenon, an explanation arose. The waves encoded a single number: 365. The next day, the waves repeated almost identically, but ever so slightly stronger. Now, they encoded a new number: 364. This confirmed scientist's worst hope: a global countdown. But to what?

Commandeering the world's telescopes, the team of scientists discovered within days that what had been previously thought to be an asteroid, 2024 YR₄, was in fact a spaceship - it was accelerating in a way no natural phenomenon could explain. Factoring in the newly found acceleration, its date of arrival jumped from 2032 to February 17th, 2026: exactly aligned with the countdown. Despite national security's best efforts, this knowledge could not be contained for long, and the public reaction was immense. An intelligent, spacefaring civilization powerful enough to shake the entire planet is arriving in less than a year.

Immediately, world populations splintered into several main schools of thought: trying to fight off the aliens, trying to welcome the aliens, trying to flee from the aliens, or even just spending what they think to be the last year of their life living as hedonistically as possible. In response to the crisis, the most powerful people of each country convened. This is the committee.

Introduction to the Committee

This specialized committee will deal with humanity's response to the unprecedented crisis of first contact. Each committee will be tasked with managing their relationship to their own citizens, sovereign nations, and the aliens themselves, in any way they see fit. Each committee will be composed of 8 members, each of whom satisfies an "archetype" - President, Military Leader, Intelligence Head, Diplomat, Religious Leader, Alien Scientist, Food CEO, or Energy CEO. Each member of the committee has their own preoccupations regarding the alien interaction, be it political, economical, moral, or scientific. Given the variety of motivations, both internal and foreign conflict is all but guaranteed. The aliens have already demonstrated their immense power with their method of communication. Thus, whichever faction can most effectively exploit the alien's arrival will surely dominate the others. So, the aliens draw increasingly near, committees must navigate their interactions not just with the aliens, but with each other. For any country, a lack of information is a death sentence, as the other two countries could easily be scheming to destroy you. And so, as the aliens draw increasingly near, tensions between countries will rise. Further, citizens will only get more fractious and unruly. How you deal with the conflict is up to you. Of course, whether you will negotiate with the aliens with words or with weaponry is an open question. Whether you will indulge your citizens' protests, or quell them violently, the choice is yours. Will you take this opportunity to increase your own personal power? How about the power of your country as a whole? How will you strategically partner with other countries to extend your own power? How can we ensure that humanity is never again unprepared for an event like this? Alien technology will make obsolete the resources we have today, so how can you preserve your place in the world order? The combined forces of any two countries will overpower the third, so how will you ensure your own survival? Remember: there is no order in a three-body system.

Committee Positions¹

NOTE TO DELEGATES: EACH POSITION IS ASSIGNED AN ARCHETYPE. SEE “COMMITTEE ARCHETYPE” FOR DETAILS ABOUT EACH. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PERSONS OR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

	USA	China	Russia
President	Bill Pullman	Luo Ji	Ivan Nabakov
Military Leader	Howard Stark	Shi Qiang	Pavel Alekseyev
Intelligence Leader	CIA: Darcy Lewis	MSS: Chen Yixin	FSB: Felix Bortnikov
Diplomat	Henry Rothstein	Tianyi Wang	Alexandra Nikitina
Religious Leader	Archbishop John Carroll	Xie Song (Famed Buddhist)	Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill Zaytzev
Alien Scientist	Marcia Rossi	Naimei Yang	Pelegeya Belova
Food CEO	Kellogg: Martha Wilson	COFCO Group: Shuyao He	X5 Group: Dmitri Volvov
Energy CEO	Exxon: Haiden Thompson	Sinochem: Sichuan Zhang	Lukoil: Yelena Petrovna

¹Any resemblance to actual persons or already known characters is purely coincidental

Committee Archetypes

NOTE TO DELEGATES: PLEASE READ THROUGH BOTH YOUR OWN ROLES & THE ROLES OF OTHER DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE (ESPECIALLY DIPLOMAT)

President

As president of your country, your goal is to appease your people. The public knowledge of the arrival of aliens has citizens split on peace or war, staying on the planet or trying to take to the stars, making the government totalitarian or languishing in anarchy until the aliens arrive. Your priority should be to navigate the impending power of the aliens while not only remaining in the public's favor, but also the favor of the other countries. Whether this means increasing your own power or foreign investment, the unity of your country is up to you.

Military Leader

As the military leader of your country, your goal is to protect your homeland. Whether this involves forcibly quelling riots in the streets, developing more powerful weaponry, or even striking first against the incoming aliens is up to you. As the leader of a well-ordered, disciplined military, you hold nearly unilateral power, and you must use it carefully. The implication of the technology that these aliens must hold is not lost on you - whatever else they are, these aliens are advanced, and dangerous. Protect your nation, at whatever cost.

Intelligence Leader

As the intelligence leader of your country, your goal is the monitoring of sovereign entities, be they of this world or the stars. Terrestrially, in step with your country's diplomat, you seek to gather information about the strategies of foreign governments, to ensure that your country is never at a disadvantage in this global game of secrecy. Similarly, you may apply your intelligence expertise to deal with the aliens, working to find their motivations and respond appropriately.

Diplomat

As the chief diplomat of your country, your goal is to work with the other countries around you. You are the only archetype to have a special power. By passing a directive, you may be sent to another country's committee for 5 minutes. Countries may, if they choose (via directive), prohibit you from visiting them. Of course, should any country block incoming diplomats, other countries will likely retaliate in turn, which almost certainly will leave any such country in the dark, politically speaking.

Religious Leader

As the religious leader of your country, you have a lot of political and moral clout, and in these extremely confused times, people are looking to you for guidance. Your role is to lead public opinion on the aliens - after all, if not you, then who else? The question of what another conscious species might mean has been long debated, and it seems like yours is about to be the generation to answer it. Do you deride the aliens as foreign and treat them as hostile, or do you welcome them with open arms, to see what can be learned? The holy texts say nothing about this, and whatever you do, millions or even billions will move with you.

Alien Scientist

You are among the very few people who have dedicated their lives to studying aliens and first contact, and now it really matters. You are among the few who initially decoded the alien's message, and now the world's eyes are on you as everyone anticipates the next messages. The world has never seen anything like this, and everyone is relying on you for any insight that might be gained about these incoming aliens. The method of communication is up to you. The content of communication is up to you. Whether to assume hostile intentions from these aliens is up to you. You may choose to work in line with your fellow delegates, be it the Intelligence Leader or Military Leader, or work alone. What might the aliens want? How might they have moved? The arrival of aliens is a study on politics and technology of a scope and nature never before seen, and you must lead it.

Food CEO

As the CEO of a major food corporation, like the Energy CEO, you immediately sense that your power is in danger. The aliens, having survived a spaceflight lasting at least a year, must have advanced agricultural resources onboard, making you and your company obsolete. However, recognize the opportunity you may have here. The alien arrival brings change, and change implies potential for profit; if you play your cards right, you might soon make more profit than anyone else in history. Do you seek to equip the world with the food required to flee the planet, or seek to feed the armies of the world should they fight? Or, if you can get your hands on that alien technology, then your competitors would have no chance against what you could provide. The world is going to need a lot of food in the upcoming years, and you are in prime position to supply it.

Energy CEO

As the CEO of a major energy corporation, like the Food CEO, you immediately sense that your power is in danger. No one is quite sure what this alien technology must be like, but your scientists tell you that the amount of energy required to move as far and as fast as the

aliens have is far beyond earthly scales. Of course, that is what everyone thought when oil was discovered too, and that worked out pretty well for you. There's a lot of money to be made here, in lots of different ways. Of course, if you can get your hands on that alien technology before anyone else can, you are all but guaranteed an instant monopoly over world energy. On the other hand, any military preparing to fight the aliens would of course need lots and lots of energy, energy you are well equipped to supply. This is a crisis, to be sure, but it is a crisis that is going to require a lot of energy, and you are more than happy to supply.