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Synopsis for the Mexican Drug War

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Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the Security Council the topic synopsis entitled "the Mexican Drug War" (SP/ADSC/SYN/IIF/00.2).



The Mexican Drug War

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Section I—Introduction

As the United Nations was created following the end of World War II, the Security Council was created as the only committee able to use veto power, employ peacekeepers, and enforce sanctions. This elite committee of fifteen, with five permanent and ten rotating members, was created to maintain international peace and security. During the Cold War, its power was questioned, but since then it has been active and engaged in various world issues, including the situations in Iraq, Syria, and the Central African Republic.

Section II—Background Information

Solutions to this issue can vary greatly in their area of concentration. On the one hand, reduction of the demand for illicit drugs would weaken the power of the cartels. However, decriminalization initiatives have been met with resistance in some countries. On the enforcement side of the debate, the United Nations has discouraged the use of Mexican soldiers in the Mexican Drug War. In 2016, UNGASS was held in order to come up with a solution to solve the problem. UNGASS supported a more prohibitionist solution, though Mexico had pleaded for a more humane solution. Mexico has used the aid of other countries such as the United States to modernize its security forces and track down the source of the drugs and the people responsible. Though, to date, there is no UN agreement nor any agreement on a bilateral note that deals with the issue directly. It is possible however to develop a multinational compact that directly deals with the issues by calling on other nations to heighten their border security, and to provide potential aid to Mexico and the other Latin American nations when requested. However, since this is dealing with a nation with its own laws and regulations, the Security Council must keep in mind that the sovereignty of nations is to be paramount to any other consideration.

Section III—Possible Solutions

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nations when requested. However, since this is dealing with a nation with its own laws and regulations, the Security Council must keep in mind that the sovereignty of nations is to be paramount to any other consideration.

Section IV—Bloc Positions

African Bloc: The African bloc struggles with this issue as it directly affects them as drug distribution waypoints. The various cartels participating in this conflict have operations stationed in West African countries, often serving as an inlet for drugs to be easily exported to Europe.

Asian Bloc: While it is tempting to suggest that the Mexican Drug War has little impact on the Asian bloc, it manifests in unique ways. For example, there is a thriving trade between Mexican drug cartels and Chinese gangs of totoaba fish bladders used in traditional Chinese medicines. The traffickers have nicknamed the fish “the cocaine of the sea” and utilize similar methods of recruitment for that enterprise that they do for the drug trade itself. In branching out and seeking methods of money laundering, it is entirely possible for the Mexican Drug War to be effecting the Asian Bloc.

Latin American Bloc: The Mexican drug war is an extremely pressing issue for the Latin American Bloc as this is where the war is situated. The Mexican government has attempted to deescalate the situation but their ability to do so was hindered by corruption, and any attempt to resolve the issues have only resulted in flare-ups of violence.

Middle Eastern Bloc: The Middle Eastern Bloc’s connection to the Mexican Drug War seems unlikely, however rogue actors within the region such as Hezbollah have made in-roads with Mexican drug cartels. Cartels gather expertise on improvised explosives and tunneling while Hezbollah gains an important pathway for training their operatives and putting them in play against their enemies. There have even been connections between the Quds Revolutionary Guard in Iran and Mexican drug cartels.

Western Bloc: The Western Bloc aims to end the Mexican Drug war due to the adverse effects experienced by all countries in this Bloc. Both Western Europe and the US are negatively affected by cartels illegally importing drugs, exacerbating the Opioid Crisis in the US, and facilitating the rise of cocaine in Europe.

Section V—Questions That Should Be Taken Into Consideration

How will the Security Council and other relevant organs of the UN deal with the situation without inflaming an already volatile situation?

How will the Security Council deal with Cartels and other criminal organizations?

Can any deal/agreement made on the issue be realistically implemented?

How will Mexico's government corruption be dealt with in order to deal with the Drug War?

How can the Security Council or other relevant organs of the UN protect the civilians?

How will the concerns of the Permanent 5 be assuaged?

Section VI—Helpful Sites and Resources

Article—Council on Foreign Relations—Mexico's Drug War
on.cfr.org/3c5bvk1 (shortened URL from www.cfr.org)

Article—CNN—Mexico's Drug War Fast Facts
cnn.it/2VkvZKM (Shortened URL from www.cnn.com)

Article—The Washington Post—U.N. Says Mexico's Security Forces Likely Behind Disappearances Of People Along The Border
wapo.st/3a0cZKw (Shortened URL from www.washingtonpost.com)

Article—The Guardian—UN Backs Prohibitionist Drug Policies Despite Call For More 'Humane Solution'
bit.ly/3c86cA6 (Shortened URL from www.theguardian.com)

Potential Search Terms— Mexican Drug War, Cartel Violence, Drug Trade, President Obrason, Violence in Mexico, Cartel Homicides, Human Rights in Mexico, Sinaloa Cartel, Drug Trafficking in Mexico, Central American Cartels, Migrants Escaping Violence