

The Model United Nations is a student-led project spanning all over the world aiming to simulate Foreign Affairs political work and the processes of the United Nations and hereby preparing the next generations for this difficult task.

Students are allocated countries, whose interests they are to represent as authentically as possible. In their councils they are then supposed to find common ground to effectively find resolutions to real world problems, which will, if workable, be presented to real politicians.

In Munich, there are several of these meetings annually. A Nymphenburger delegation consisting of Year 11 students Vivienne Voges, Max Weck and Adrian Stein was lucky enough to take part in one of such.

Vivienne Voges:

On the weekend of 13 to 15 December 2013, Adrian, Max and I participated in a Model United Nations conference organized by the LMU and TU in Tutzing near Lake Starnberg.

Our German teacher had introduced the idea of going to this conference. None but Adrian, Max and I signed up to take part. We ended up being the only participants still at school. Everyone else was a college graduate.

In preparation for the conference and the delegation we were representing we had to research the standpoint of our country on the topics of our allocated committee. I represented the Swiss Confederation in the 1st Committee: Disar-



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mament and Security. Our topics were the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, the developments in information and telecommunication and the possibility of an arms race in outer space.

I found it to be quite difficult to exactly understand Switzerland's opinion on all three topics. I ended up concluding to ultimate neutrality due to Switzerland's sovereignty. My position paper mostly focused on the topics discussed, not clearly stating Switzerland's opinion.

I have taken part in two conferences before. My old school organized for the MUN-team to debate at a conference in Munich in the European School and a conference in St. Petersburg. Therefore I had believed I was well equipped for debate. Little did I know that the procedures would be completely different so when we arrived on Friday afternoon we were surprised to hear that we had missed the intro-workshop to the new rules of procedure, which weirdly enough took place before the conference had started. This soon turned out to be rather fatal since neither Adrian nor myself understood the procedures during the first debating session. This lead to embarrassing myself as I first of all voted against the motion to move into debate and further on abstained when an abstention was out of order.

After stopping to worry about the different procedures I managed to focus on the debate yet I also came to realize that my research and preparation had been insufficient. The level due to the fact that college students were debating, was a lot higher than what I had experienced in the 9th grade. People intensely prepared and mentioned many treaties and UN-resolutions I had never even heard about.

In the end I must say that I do believe I could have voiced myself a little more yet Switzerland was also a country hard to express a concise opinion about. I ended up giving very humanitarian speeches about peace and freedom.

Sadly our debate resulted in nothing. Both our resolutions on the topic of weapons of mass destruction failed. I abstained from voting as I did not believe Switzerland would approve of either.

We moved on to the second topic with little time to spare until the end of the conference. We only managed to come up with press releases that do not have to be debated. I did co-submit one of these as it specified on the problem of economic espionage. We did not touch topic three as time was far too short.

Very interesting I found the speeches by the American and Israeli Consul on the topic of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These were held between debating sessions and opened another forum of debate. I was both impressed by the quality of questions asked by students (I was too intimidated to ask a question) and by the rhetorically perfected answers. Both Consuls never answered clearly yet one still felt to have received a substantial answer.

Max Weck:

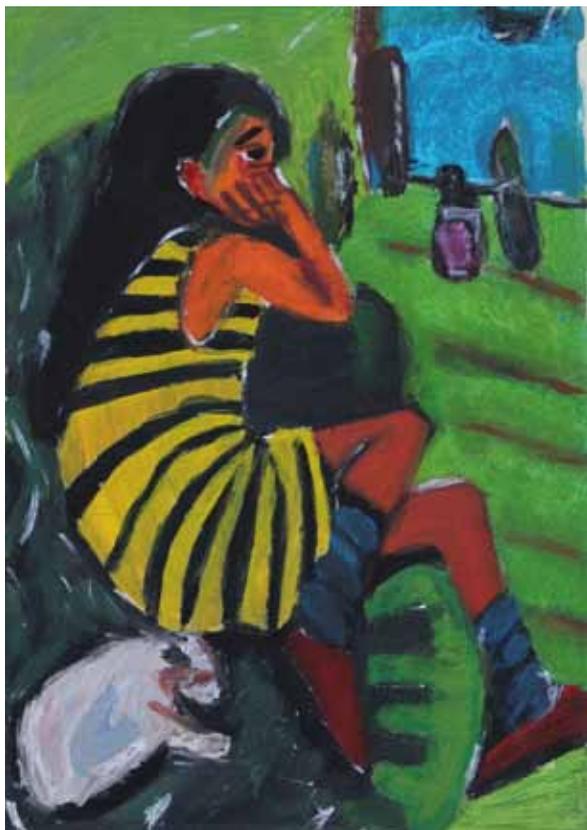
I represented the State of Kuwait in the Economic and Social Council and our topic was 'Promoting Rule of Law to Facilitate Economic and Social Development'.

Before the event we had to prepare position papers, in which we had to explain the opinion of our country concerning the different topics. I found it was a great new challenge to think about such issues of global importance and to try to look on it from the perspective of a certain country, because often you have to represent an opinion, which is totally different from your own.

When it then began on Friday the 13th, I was at first really nervous and exited. Even because I realized, that I was the only one, who still went to school. All the others in my com-

mittee were studying or had already finished. Furthermore the procedure was really formal and it took some time till we fully understood it.

An especially exiting situation at the beginning was, when I hold an opening speech, in order to explain my country`s position towards the discussed topic. This speech was a big challenge for me, as I had to prepare it in a quite short time and then had to hold it in front of a lot of people, I didn` t knew, and I think I really got aware of my strengths and areas for growth in that moment.



After some hours of moderated discussion then, we had some `unmoderated caucuses`, during which we went into groups, in order to represent the same opinion and worked out working papers and draft resolutions. For me this was a huge challenge. At first it was difficult for me to take part at the discussion because I was a bit nervous and sometimes details, like the formulation, were discussed, which I did not really understand. But after some time I managed to become more active and was really proud, that I was able to discuss, in a group of older students, about such important issues, like the promoting rule of law. A discussion during which we had to consider political, economical, social and even ethical issues, like Human Rights.

We worked collaboratively together to achieve a valuable, and well formulated resolution, and I think that I improved my discussion skills a lot. We even got an interesting view on the work of politicians because it is really difficult to work out a resolution, which contains constructive ideas, but is vague enough to be accepted by the majority.

Even if our resolution was not accepted in the end, it was a great experience to deal with such important issues, and to think about creative solutions for complex problems, together with others. Furthermore we even heard speeches about the conflicts in the Near East from the General Consuls of the USA and Israel, a topic, I am especially interested in.

Adrian Stein:

At the 2013 IsarMUN I represented the State of Qatar in the DISEC (Disarmament and Security) Council, which only included about 25 delegates but still provided for interesting discussions.

The most important part of the three-day-meetings was finding allies to support and draft resolutions my country was aiming for. Regarding this matter, many delegates acted very personally and not uncommonly out of the role of their state, which led to increasingly chaotic scenarios.

# Projekte

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Examples include a big fight between Canada and the U.S., an unexpected alliance of Germany and Iran (who coincidentally were room mates from the same university) and an aggressive Brit opposed to a respectful and nice Syrian representative.

Accordingly, my committee was unable to find a resolution to be favored by a majority of the delegates and therefore failed to come up with substantial results. However, we did have heated discussions with strong arguments and issued a press release as our final result.

Meanwhile, I was pleased with how fast I got accustomed to the standard of public speaking and debating in an environment of almost exclusively university students. Still, I found it hard to follow the state of the debate at times and consequently could not always come up with new ideas quickly enough to contribute to a general consensus. Also, drafting eventual resolutions was beyond my level as a newcomer.

The two issues we discussed, a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East and Internet security, were highly controversial but also interesting. I had some difficulties to fully stay in the position of the State of Qatar, as its principles differ quite heavily from my personal views on the topics. Nevertheless, I believe I tried my very best and got a lot of positive feedback from fellow delegates and my chairs, who also encouraged me to continue in this field.

In addition to the debating sessions, there were two fascinating presentations by the Consuls of the U.S. and Israel on our topics. This provided valuable first hand views on some of the most important aspects of Foreign Affairs right now and enhanced interest in the field even further.

Also, the food at the Academy was delicious, encouraging all students to continue the diplomats' lifestyle, which I suppose would be even more exclusive.

As for the fun part in it, there was a party for all delegates on the second night, which finished, one might say, turbulently and strongly affected the debate on the last day, as a large number of delegates arrived late to the session and did not have their minds clear enough to engage in arguments over issues of International importance. The chairs imposed sanctions, the harshest being a forced bath in Lake Starnberg. Unfortunately for everyone else though, the participants in question achieved to convince the head chair to suspend their punishments.

In conclusion we can say that this weekend was an interesting and fun experience. All of us are now even more interested in International affairs and politics and looking forward to the possibility of another conference.

Adrian Stein, Q11  
Vivienne Voges, Q11  
Max Weck, Q11

