Diplomacy Comps Review

October 18th, 2009

Organizing Peace Talks

* *Pre-Talks*—Arrange the pre-talks before hosting peace talks to allow groups to talk. This is when initial bilateral contacts with each party are established in delicate and confidential assessment missions by the mediator. Early communications b/w the parties are often enabled by confidential message-carrying or back channel communications b/w an official point person of semi-official members of the two parties.
* *Who should attend the talks--*Remember, all conflicts are unique. You will have to determine which parties will be participating in the talks and who will be representing each party. The leaders of each group are not always determined by rank, position, or title; therefore, it is up to the mediator to find the leader (decision-maker) for each group. Are these parties able to deliver? The length of pre-talks can be short or long in duration it just depends on the circumstances.
* *Research and planning—* Learn about the disparities of each group. For instance, what is the origin and background of the group? Where does the group gain its’ support? How does the group identify itself and what are some of the characteristics that make up this identity—ethnicity, religion, etc.? Determine the priorities and wants for each group prior to the peace talks; furthermore, find out what they need because they will rarely voluntarily share this with you. Determine the costs for having certain leaders attend the talks (Will there be a price tag? Will it be difficult to appease them?). Estimate the cost for the overall peace talks.
What costs are the leaders wanting to be bought out, keep them from killing a whole race
* *Articulation of what peace talks should be and how they should go*—Create an agenda and timeline for the peace talks. Determine which type of diplomacy will be used to carry out the peace talks—direct, shuttle, or proximity. Decide when, where, and how often the peace talks will take place. Maintaining structure and organization are critical to progression of the talks because, without it, there may never be an end to the talks

or they may just fizzle out without a resolution.
- don’t want to have decades long peace talks, but some sides don’t want peace

* *Determine the direction of the peace talks
direct, shuttle, proximity*

**The Peace Process: Some Issues That May Arise**

* It can be difficult to *determine who should be invited* to the peace talks. For example, every time the US or EU declares a group as a terrorist org. then it limits where and who the mediator can meet. This is evident in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process because Hamas is considered a terrorist org. and, therefore, is not represented at the peace table.
* *Translation issues*—Find an interpreter who is not biased. However, if the interpreter is biased then they should be biased for the side that they are translating for. Choose the language that peace talks will be conducted in and try to eliminate any political controversy over the language.
* *Peace Table*—There are several different types of tables that can be used at the peace talks—rectangular, circular, square, etc.. However, it is important to carefully choose which type of table to use because even the shape of the table might connote a problematic message at the peace talks. Some tables have built in confrontation while others do not.
	+ Most tables are rectangular with the leaders in the center, and on opposite sides of the table with agents to the right and left of them. This system has built in confrontation.

**Arab-Israeli Conflict, The Oslo Accords**

* *The Oslo Accords*—They were signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington, DC on Sept. 13th, 1993. In August 1993, the Israeli and Palestinian chief negotiators initialed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangement in Oslo. Pres. Clinton hosted a formal signing ceremony in Washington at which Israeli PM Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat shook hands. This agreement est. an important new approach for achieving a peaceful resolution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by initiating open, direct talks b/w Israel and the PLO. The PLO recognized the existence of the State of Israel and Israel recognized the PLO as the legitimate rep. of the Palestinian people. Israel committed itself to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and West Bank and acknowledged the Palestinian right to self govt. in those territories under a PA. The Oslo Accords did not produce a permanent agreement. The Oslo approach to Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking efforts effectively came to an end with the failure of the Camp David Summit in 2000.
* In 1993, President Clinton named Dennis Ross the US Middle East envoy. Was Ross a good choice for this position? The answer is controversial. Ross is Jewish and he received criticism from both the Israelis and Palestinians because of his ethnic/religious identity. The Palestinians questioned whether or not Ross could be unbiased. However, it could be that Clinton appointed Ross to the conflict knowing that he was biased because of the increased likelihood that Ross could reach an agreement. Ross appealed not only to many Israeli Jews but also to American Jews who have significant political influence in the US regarding the conflict. Many Jews *trusted* Ross to incorporate their interests into the peace agreement. On the other hand, Palestinian leadership knew that by having Ross as a mediator the likelihood of reaching an agreement might have been possible b/c the Jews in Israel and America both trusted him to reach an agreement. As a corollary, Ross helped the Israelis and Palestinians reach the 1995 Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He also facilitated the Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace and worked on talks b/w Israel and Syria.

**The Bosnian-Croatian-Yugoslavian Conflict, The Dayton Accords**

* The Dayton Proximity Talks culminated in the initialing of a General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conference was led by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and negotiator Richard Holbrooke with two Co-Chairman. The Dayton Peace Agreement was reached at Wright-Patterson AF Base in Dayton, Ohio in 1995 and it was initialed by the Rep. of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Alija Izetbegovic), the Republic of Croatia (Franjo Tudman) and the Federal Rep. of Yugoslavia (Slobodan Milosevic). The full and formal agreement was signed in Paris including additional signatures by the leaders of France, US, Germany, UK, and Russia. The agreement framework mainly consisted of the three entities agreeing to fully respect the sovereign equality of one another and to settle disputes by peaceful means. The parties also agreed to obligate themselves to respect human rights and the rights of refugees and displaced persons.
* Why did Christopher and Holbrooke choose the Wright-Patterson AF Base to host the talks? There are several reasons behind the decision. The US took the lead in hosting the peace talks; therefore, hosting them in the US would add to US prestige if an agreement was reached. The environment of the WPAFB reminded the groups participating in the talks of war and of what the result could be if a peace agreement was not reached. There is strategy in choosing the location of the peace talks and, in this case, the location significantly helped to influence a peace agreement.