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I. Letter from the Secretariat

Dear Delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure that I welcome you to the 9th Annual Session of ATALMUN. As the Secretary General, I am proud to see this conference grow and thrive, bringing together bright young minds to engage in meaningful dialogue and diplomacy.

The "Commitment to Perfection" now became a reminder of our dedication to excellence in every aspect of this conference. We encourage each of you to strive for your personal best, to think critically, and to contribute constructively to the debates and discussions.

I would like to extend my gratitude to rest of the executive and the organization team whose hard work has made this event possible. I look forward to a memorable and impactful session, where we push the boundaries of diplomacy and leadership.

Best of luck to all delegates!

Sincerely,

Turgut Emir Önder
Secretary General of ATALMUN'25.

II. Letter from the Under-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

We would like to welcome you all to the Town of Salem committee of ATALMUN'24! It is our utmost pleasure to serve you as the Under-Secretaries-General of this committee.

Salem and its story has had impact throughout the centuries due to its nature based upon the justice system and its unlawfulness. Many people were accused of witchcraft even though they were innocent, therefore, it is significant that we remember that these people died for opposing the Puritan principles and doing science. Many of them had the potential to be the first women scientists, but they were burned alive during the process. So, never forget those who died for the “sin” of being a woman. And here in this committee, we wanted to recreate the American environment at that time period so that each of you can fully grasp the oppressions towards one's life. In this study guide, we have analyzed the main issues regarding the matter. Read it carefully, and do your research about the agenda item. Each of you has an essential role in this committee. The town of Salem is in your hands now, and we cannot wait to see the plans you have for us. Do not hesitate to contact us via email if you have any questions regarding the agenda.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the Secretariat: Secretary-General Turgut Emir Önder and Deputy-Secretary-General Ecem Çoban for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

İrem Uzun & Fırat Yalçın

iremuzun1604@gmail.com & firatyalcin443355@gmail.com

III. Rules of Procedure

a. A Brief Summary on the Rules of Procedure

The committee will follow a special procedure which includes both General Assembly and Crisis Cabinet procedures. Keep in mind that the below mentioned steps of these procedures are written on the basis of our committee, therefore, they do not explain these procedures as a whole. We are only underlining the parts which **this** committee will use. Also, since you will be representatives in this committee, you may use the personal pronouns. Should you have any questions regarding the rules of procedure, do not hesitate to contact us via email.

i. Parts from the General Assembly Procedure

1. **Roll-Call:** The Roll-Call is an essential stage to open the debate. In the beginning of each session, the Board Members will call the names of the representatives in the committee in an alphabetical order. The representatives who are present have two options to state that they are present. They should say whether “Present” or “Present and Voting” which means that they are actively following the debate and voting on the motions. If you say present and voting in the voting procedure, you do not have the right to stay abstain. The delegates who do not participate in the committee for at least three sessions will not be having their attendance certificate, therefore, if you have any special problems that require you to stay abstain, please contact the Secretariat.
2. **Caucuses:** There will be three caucuses we will be using in this committee, including the moderated, unmoderated and semi-moderated caucuses. For caucuses to be put in order, first and foremost, the chairboard should open the floor to debate. After that, each representative has the right to propose a motion stating its topic, duration and type. A moderated caucus allows delegates to debate under the chairboard control. The chairboard chooses which delegates will speak and they will warn the delegates about their remaining time. Only one delegate can speak at a time. However, in the semi-moderated caucus, delegates can speak however they wish without chairboard control but they do not have the right to leave their seats or write documents connected with the committee. In this caucus, the chairboard will only give a warning when the timer ends, they will not control which speaker will speak unless an argument arises. In the unmoderated caucus, delegates can speak to each other without staying in their seats, they can discuss anything related to the committee and wander around while discussing, or write a document such as the resolution paper or a directive. Similar to semi-moderated, the chair only controls the remaining time. Nonetheless, you can always ask questions about the agenda item to the chairboard, no matter what the caucus is by stating a Point of Information. Also, the topic of a motion

cannot be a question and it should be simplified as much as possible.

Before saying your motion you should propose one of these sentences: “I would like to raise a motion about.../ I would like to discuss upon...”

Here is an example for how to propose a motion: “I would like to raise a motion about the importance of the Space Shuttle Programmes in America in a moderated caucus for fifteen minutes, individual speaker time being one and a half minute.”

3. **Communique & Presenting the Communique :** This committee’s final document will be a communique. A communique is a document of explanation, it does not have a specific format like the resolution paper. In a communique, you explain the matters you’ve discussed in the committee carefully and detailise your solutions to those issues in paragraphs. It may be seen as a press release, but a formal and longer version. Also, this stage is a special motion by itself. You may propose this motion as its name by saying “I would like to raise a motion about presenting the (draft) communique.” The reason why it is separated from other motions is that in this motion, the proposer reads the paper to the committee out loud.
4. **Voting Procedure:** In this committee, we will use the roll-call voting procedure. The chairboard asks the representatives in order about their vote separately. You have five options: Yes, No, Yes with Rights, No with Rights, Abstain. The “with rights” ones mean that you do not accept the paper as a whole but you agree or disagree with most of them and when the voting is completed you make a speech about the clauses you agree or do not agree with. Abstain means that you neither agree nor disagree.
5. **Points (for both procedures) :** Points allow you to ask questions or take permissions from the chairboard. There are five in total. None of the points except “Point of Personal Privilege due to inaudibility” can interrupt a representative’s speech.
 - **Point of Information:** When you want to ask for information about the agenda item or a translation of a word which you do not know in English, you can use a point of information.
 - **Point of Personal Privilege:** This point is used for personal situations such as turning off the AC, going to the bathroom, answering an important phone call. We suggest you use your point of personal privilege in the message papers which will be given to you in the conference. Also, as mentioned above, if you have problems hearing a speaker’s speech, you may interrupt them by stating an inaudibility motion under the roof of personal privilege motion and the chairboard will request the speaker to increase their voice.

- **Point of Order:** When there is a mistake in the ongoing order of the session such as forgetting a stage or a mistake in the speakers list etc. you can always raise a point of order to state this inaccuracy to the chairboard.
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** This motion can be used to ask questions about the rules of procedure and state mistakes as questions.
- **Right of Reply:** While right of reply does not fully qualify as a motion, it's still a sentence you may state as one. Right of reply can only be used when a speaker specifically mentions your **name**. You may raise your placard and say ‘‘Right of Reply’’ or write a message paper to the chairboard explaining which parts of the speech got you offended. If the chairboard accepts your offer, you will be given a limited time to reply to the previous speaker or explain your aim in the matter.

ii. Parts from the Crisis Cabinet Procedure

1. **Tour de Table:** After the Roll-Call, in the beginning of every session, each representative will deliver a speech about the topics that were discussed before or will be discussed. They may state their thoughts, their hopes, what should be done etc. You can deliver a speech about whatever you wish.
2. **Trial Procedure:** Since the agenda item of our programme includes a nationwide disaster, delegates will have the right to sue each other by sending message papers to the chairboard, by detailing why they are doing this action and what their evidence is. They can make agreements with other delegates to be their witness. When a case gets accepted by the chairboard, the victim will have a limited amount of time to gather their defenders and write their defense speech. After that, a delegate will raise a motion to start the trial procedure. Everyone included in the case will deliver a speech. The jurors will be the Under Secretaries General and depending on the speeches, a result will be announced according to them.
3. **Sending Directives:** A directive can be sent to the chairboard through message papers. There are three types of directives we will be using. You can find examples of these directives in the sample part.
 - **Individual Directive:** An individual directive includes only one delegate, and their personal plans. The result of these directives can be shared to the whole committee in the updates.

- **Top Secret Directive:** A top secret directive is usually used to take some action privately, behind the scenes. Usually these directives are used to betray someone, without them knowing. All the aspects of the top secret directive are the same with the individual one except the announcement part. The updates on these directives will only be given to the one who wrote them, privately without the committee knowing.
 - **Joint Directive:** A joint directive is written by two or more delegates, explaining their plan and how they will accomplish them.
4. **Press Release:** A press release is a document written by the members of the committee to enlighten the public about the ongoing crisis and calm the citizens upon the upcoming events. It is usually expected after a sudden update. If the committee does not write a press release during a disaster, the public may arise and protests for the government to resign might cause a rebellion in the country both economically and politically.

b. Sample Documents

In these sample documents, İrem will be the president of the country of X, and her country will be at war with the country of Y which is ruled by Firat. We will detailize an assassination.

i. Directive

-Top Secret Directive-

To: Chairboard

From: İrem

At 23.36 on the 16th of June, I called the minister of internal affairs and defense for an urgent meeting at the Swift Palace. I asked them to meet me there after an hour and ordered my guards to check the area for any kinds of tracking devices such as bugs and gave a day off for all the workers such as janitors, gardeners, maids *except the securities and the police* to prevent my plans from the country of Y's spy operations. When I made sure everyone had left, I went to the Palace with guards surrounding me. The press was not alerted, and I switched cars, therefore, they did not see my entrance. After I met with the ministers, I explained my plan of assassination of Firat. The plan is: Tomorrow morning, on June 17th, Firat will be in the town center of his capital, giving a speech about not losing hope in the war at exactly 11 o'clock. Since our spies may have the risk of being noticed, we will be using someone he can trust, someone who is a citizen of the country of Y and someone who is a victim of the war. Since we have had many captives since

the beginning of the war it was not hard to find a pregnant one. We will threaten her husband to kill Fırat, otherwise his loved one will be punished.

I ordered the ministry of internal affairs to reach out to our spies, for them to threaten the husband at around 7 a.m. tomorrow. She explained the details of the plan to our spies very carefully and ordered them to wear the traditional clothes of the country of Y to dispose of any kind of risk of getting caught. We also sent pictures of the pregnant woman to convince the man of our plan.

After the man is convinced, he will hide his weapon, which is a small kitchen knife, to his crotch. When Fırat mentions that the country is on its way to win this war, the man will scream in the crowd saying ‘My wife has been kidnapped by X! Shame on them! I want your blessings and luck, Mr. President! You have to look me in the face, shake my hand and convince me that we will find her!’

When Fırat invites him to the stage to do all these things mentioned, the man will take out the knife as he is taking out some present for Fırat and stab him from his aort, all in a second.

Signature, İrem

ii. Press Release (from İrem to the country of X)

Dear citizens, today, our suffering has come to an end, the sun shines on our fellow nation once more now that the war is over.

We shed so many tears, blood and sweat. We lost parts of ourselves, we understood the importance of unity once more. Nobody can stand against our power, and the truth has shown itself again. The victory is ours. Now, we mark the beginning of our recovery plan. All the areas which were affected by the war will be restored, there will be memorials to remember our greatest soldiers. I know you are tired, but we have to stand up as we always do. May the power be with you.

The President

IV. Introduction to the Committee and Agenda Item

Salem, which is located on the north coast of Massachusetts, was settled by Puritans in 1626. They were having conflicts with Native Americans and French settlers, nonetheless, as a city, it was isolated from the others and had strict cultural beliefs. In 1692, Puritan community led the unjust persecution and execution of innocent individuals since they were casted as witches due to their suspicious activities regarded as magic. In this special committee, there will be two cabinets in one room: The Witches and The Puritans. Both will try to outdo one another and the committee will result in a state of leadership decided by the representatives. The names of your characters are given randomly and they do not refer to a specific person in the history. The roles you have will

be in a parenthesis in your allocation. You, dear delegates, will lead the accusations and trials by your directives. Therefore, it is up to you to decide how our ending shall be.

V. The History Behind Salem's Witchcraft Activities

In the winter of 1692, two sisters, Betty Parris and Abigail Williams started to act in a strange manner. They had hallucinations and they murmured unknown words from time to time. While the scientists in our current period suggest that they may have faced these conditions as a symptom of fungus, a physician in that era stated the girls are haunted by the devil. As these stories started to spread across town, many others confessed they are having similar symptoms. These confessions were probably made to stay as far as possible from trouble. People would, of course, point out their sickness as well so the needle's tip would not end in their chest in the end. Four of these people, four girls, accused Sarah Good, Sarah Osbourne and Tituba. All of these women have something in common: not following the Puritan principles. Sarah Good was accused of being an unfaithful wife, Sarah Osbourne did not attend the church meetings regularly and was suing the family of one of her accusers, and Tituba was an enslaved Native American woman who emphasized her values often.

First, Sarah Good's story begins with her father dying without a will. He had lands which cost approximately five-hundred dollars. Despite this wealth, Sarah only had a single coin because her brothers had the right to own most of the land. When her mother married another man, this new husband took that coin away, the only matter left from her father, because he thought that women do not deserve to have an income by themselves. She tried to reject it, but the deed was done. She was now in the servant class, hence, she had to marry an indentured servant. Sarah Osbourne married another man, and was accused of lack of faith. Tituba was a slave who wanted to practice her cultural traditions. All of these women were accused of witchcraft because they had their own choices about what they had wanted to do. The accusers were often the ones who had the money and the power. Therefore, it seems as if there are ongoing threats towards these women. Later on, Tituba confessed being a witch but it was probably because of fear, owing to the fact that if you did not confess, you would be hanged. As we see in these stories, there is a pattern. If you place yourself to the other side of the gender roles, you will be punished.



Fig. 1 "Mary Walcott." (William A. Crafts)

Here, we would like to remind the reader: Witches did not emerge in Salem and the Puritans already knew them from the European Witch Hunts. When they first emerged, the literary writers in that era also wrote specifically about women being more likely to participate in witchcraft due to their nature. "Women have loose tongues and can hardly conceal from their female companions the things that they know through evil art, and since they lack physical strength, they readily seek to avenge themselves through acts of sorcery... Since they are prone to flux, they can more quickly offer children to the demons, as in fact they do." (Kramer 117). So, blaming women for being witches was the easiest way to punish an act they are not pleasant with. It was quick, because everyone would agree upon the society's well-being. Some may suggest that women blamed other women so it is not correct to associate the trials with misogyny. However, these women who led the accusations were the ones who grew up in a patriarchal society. These girls grew up with the belief that the most elegant form of womanhood can only be achieved through maintaining dignity and becoming a faithful wife. Consequently, they saw the women who do not meet these requirements as enemies.

Another aspect is that women were seen as the reasons for the problems of the society including diseases and failures in crops. As mentioned above, in a society which relates illness with devil's work, if you try to heal people using medicine with herbs and such, you would be seen as a witch as well. To summarize, if you were a woman at that time period, if you breathed without having

the consent of the superior male around you, you would be punished and regarded as a witch. There is no escape. The only expected matter is to be submissive.

The trials ended in 1693 due to criticism because the governor Philip's daughter and wife were accused of witchcraft as well. People started having protests upon the cancellations of the trials. And he had realized the unfair conditions citizens face. In 1702, the trials were declared as unlawful and in 1711, the Massachusetts government passed a bill to compensate the families of whom have suffered.

VI. The Significance of Salem in American History

- a. **The Result on the American Legal and Judicial System:** Since the accusations of someone being a witch depended on spectral evidence, which is testimony based on dreams and visions, the American government started to take new precautions on trials to prevent injustice. New legal practices and rules were implemented.
- b. **Warning Against Hysteria:** The trials act as an example for an activity which is led by religious fear and panic causing the society's mental corruption. After the trials, people have started to have doubts on religious groups and their morals inasmuch as they are the reason for many people to lose their lives based on biased accusations. In addition, it showed how the ones who have the money and power can manipulate a majority for someone with whom they do not have benefits.

VII. The Witch Hunts

The first act will be to accuse someone based on their latest suspicious activity. For example, it could be to heal someone with herbs. Since science was not approved by the Puritan community, if you healed someone that would be seen as witchcraft. Another example might be having affairs with one whom you are not married to. Because religious principles did not allow you to do so. Later on, this act would be reported to the religious leaders of the community. With gatherings, the spectral evidence would be analyzed and if it concerns the moralities of the society, then, the witches would be arrested. In their arrest, they would face interrogations. The interrogations included the public sphere, so anyone who is a citizen of Salem could come and ask questions to the person. If they had false testimonies, they would face torture. Even if they are innocent, people expect them to confess they are a witch and nothing more. The religious leaders physically analyze the body of the suspect to see whether there were marks leading to the person's deal with satan. In the best case scenario, they would be arrested. However they mostly were released after the interrogations to be publicly lynched among the citizens and to get murdered by their accusators.

VIII. Further Research

To gain a broadened understanding of the Agenda Item, you could watch/read below mentioned additions.

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvd8kuufBhM>
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_ZaFmX72EY&t=9s
3. https://www.google.com.tr/books/edition/Salem_Possessed/lSgtq5rZUkEC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA1&printsec=frontcover
4. https://www.google.com.tr/books/edition/Salem_Story/YNyMV_huGAC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA10&printsec=frontcover

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