



Committee: Historical

Delegation: Syria

Topic: **San Francisco Conference**

The Syrian Republic enters the San Francisco Conference as a newly independent state, engulfed in anti-imperialist fervour yet also with a sense of optimism that, with the fall of the great evils of our time, a new world can be created where all – even the downtrodden and colonised – may find their place in the sun as equals. As a young country with a painful history of foreign rule, Syria will seek to use the Conference to connect with other smaller and middle-sized powers, particularly those of the so-called 'third world', so that together we may solidify the position of the oft forgotten amid a slowly materialising hierarchical and bipolar order spearheaded by the present great power coalition.

Syria was a primary victim of the League of Nations' ill-fated Mandate system and suffered countless abuses at the hands of its French colonial overlords, most notably the brutal suppression of unrest between 1925 and 1926.¹ In turn and in line with the particular stances of our delegation,² the primary thrust of our efforts will be aimed at securing a robust plan for decolonisation. Due to our experiences with the single-nation mandate system of the interwar years, Syria will seek to establish a new trusteeship system run by a council of nations – in which established emerging powers should be represented, as countries with direct experience in decolonisation from the perspective of the colonised – that will adequately prevent abuses similar to those of the past twenty-five years.

Stemming from its mistrust of the established Western powers – highlighted particularly by the ongoing French incursion into the Republic and its Lebanese neighbour³ which has been met from our side with utmost condemnation⁴ – Syria will also seek a critical rethinking of the proposed body known as the 'Security Council' as laid out at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference. This rethinking must address the membership of the Council, particularly regarding its proposed permanent members, the structure of the Council as it pertains to the relationship between permanent and non-permanent members and the criteria by which both groups are chosen, as well as the specifics of the 'veto' power as

¹ Minutes of the 8th Session (Extraordinary), R27/1/49667/4284/Jackets 1-4, Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations, § 8 (1926). Accessible at: <https://archives.ungeneva.org/events-in-syria-french-mandate-for-syria>

² "You are outraged I sit in your chair for five minutes. Imagine how Syrians feel after 25 years of your occupation." Quote attributed to **Fares al-Khoury** in a well-known anecdote from the San Francisco Conference, which displays his positions and attitudes toward European colonialism – (2025, July 11). *Who Is This Man Sitting in the French Ambassador's Seat?* Syrian Guides – Syria Tours beyond the Beaten Path. <https://syrianguides.com/who-is-this-man-sitting-in-the-french-ambassadors-seat/> (Accessed on 22.11.2025)

³ (1945, June 1) CRISIS IN THE LEVANT. *New York Times*, p. 14. Accessible at: <https://www.nytimes.com/1945/06/01/archives/crisis-in-the-levant.html> (Accessed on 22.11.2025) ; (1945, May 31) Memorandum for the President by the Director of the Office of Near Eastern and African Affairs (Henderson), 890D.01/5–3145. Accessible at: <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v08/d1088> (Accessed on 22.11.2025)

⁴ (May 29, 1945) Memorandum of Conversation, by the Assistant Chief of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs (Kohler), 500.CC/5–2945. Accessible at: <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945v08/d1078> (Accessed on 22.11.2025)

amended to Section C of Chapter VI of the Proposals for the Establishment of a General International Organisation following the Yalta Conference.

Among Syria's concrete objectives in this regard will be to guarantee a place among the permanent members of the Security Council for a nation representative of the currently colonised, soon-to-be-decolonised world – the sphere of nations that finds itself between an emerging bipolar world order. This entails not only potential lobbying for the inclusion of a sixth member to the permanent council but also reconsidering some of the current five members, with a particular objection – for reasons stated above – to France, whose membership in the current pentarchy we see as no more than a tool for a rapidly weakening power to continue legitimising its exploitation of the non-European world.⁵

Further, Syria will push for a more regionalist approach in the composition of the non-permanent membership, meaning the establishment of a criterion that would guarantee at least one state from each geohistorical region of the globe is represented at any given time. The effects of this would be twofold. Firstly, it would provide for more informed and thoughtful decision-making within the Council, as a delegation with closer ties and greater knowledge of any local situation would always be present in Council discussions. Secondly, it would facilitate the Council's stated aim of guaranteeing security and providing for military action where needed, as the body would be assured at least a regional presence anywhere in the world. Of course, the most important consequence of such a system would undoubtedly be the provision of a further safeguard against great power and colonial power encroachment in regional affairs, as it would give the less powerful a constant choir of voices to express their grievances against would-be domineering nations.

The Syrian Republic wishes for the success of this Conference in establishing a new order that will fulfil the promises set out during the war – a world where all peace-loving nations will coexist as equals. However, to protect those dreams from being abused in an effort to once again neglect the downtrodden of the Earth, as was done following the last war, we will nonetheless stand our ground and endeavour to unite with other like-minded delegations – large or small – to ensure the third world is well heard in the halls of San Francisco.



⁵ James, R. A. (2024). The San Francisco Conference and the Evitable UN. *Journal of National Security Law and Policy*, 14(1), 112. <https://nationalsecurity.law.georgetown.edu/journal/2024/01/20/the-san-francisco-conference-and-the-avoidable-un-vetoes/>