

Committee of Public Safety

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1. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

* Maximillien de Robespierre
* Bertrand Barère
* Jean-Baptiste Robert Lindet
* Jean Bon Saint-André
* Georges Couthon
* Marie-Jean Hérault de Séchelles
* Pierre Louis Prieur
* Louis Antoine de Saint-Just
* Lazare Carnot
* Claude Antoine, Comte Prieur-Duvernois
* Jacques Nicolas Billaud-Varenne
* Jean-Marie Collot d'Herbois

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE: INTRODUCTION

Bonsoir, delegates, and welcome to DCCMUN 2012! My name is Brendan O’Brien, and I will be serving as your chair for the Committee of Public Safety. I am also the Undersecretary-General of Committees for DCCMUN 2012 and one of the current club Undersecretaries for Delegate Preparation. I look forward to meeting all of you and watching you define the course of French history over these two days.

In this committee, you will take on the roles of members of the Committee of Public Safety, the committee responsible for defending France in the immediate aftermath of the French Revolution from threats both external and internal. We begin on August 1st, 1793, two days after Maximillien de Robespierre was elected to our committee and its membership was expanded to twelve members. Our fair republic is in the middle of a war against Austria, Prussia, Spain, Great Britain and virtually the entire rest of Western Europe. These bloodthirsty tyrants seek, by their own admission, to restore royal rule. We cannot let this happen and must use any and all means to prevent it.

To make matters worse, a persistent insurrection by traitors and counterrevolutionaries in the Vendée puts a drain on our forces. While this is the most persistent outbreak of betrayers of the revolution, traitors and subversives could be anywhere. One of our own, General Charles Dumouriez had defected to the Austrians not more than five months ago. If our republic’s own generals are not immune from counterrevolutionary treachery, then who is? We must remain vigilant. Our committee has the power to make recommendations to the Revolutionary Tribunal, which in turn has the power to execute criminals and enemies of the revolution. Use this power wisely, and ensure France is safe from her enemies.

In short, both of these issues will need innovative and likely forceful solutions if our fair republic is to prevail. The reactionaries are clever, determined and merciless. Each of you will need to use everything at your disposal to ensure France remains a beacon of hope against the monarchical, oppressive tide of what seems like the entire world.

Logistically speaking, this committee will be a crisis committee. Time will be of the essence; the date will regularly advance, so you will not just have to decide on effective solutions, but sometimes expedient ones. And, given the power vested in you to protect the nation from counterrevolutionaries from without and within, you will be able to pass resolutions with some unusually lethal operative clauses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [brendan.obrien@davismun.org](mailto:brendan.obrien@davismun.org). Please put “Committee of Public Safety” in the subject so I can easily identify your questions. I’d be happy to answer just about anything, so please feel free if you need anything clarified.

Bonne chance, delegates!

Sincerely,

Brendan O’Brien

Undersecretary-General of Committees, DCCMUN 2012

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE: PASSAGE OF TIME

This committee will operate from August 1st, 1793 to August 1st, 1794. Thusly, remember in your research that nothing that occurred after July 31st has happened yet! Place yourselves in the shoes of your character at that time period. That said, you should still have knowledge of the entire course of the Revolution; it will help inform your policy decisions a great deal.

Time will also pass during the committee at a rate of about two and a half months per committee session. Within the sessions, you will get regular crisis updates. Each of these updates will announce the current date. While you have no prerogative to table a topic if a time change makes it obsolete, letting any issue sit for too long without doing anything will obviously have negative effects. If the Austrians were left alone for three months, they might overrun the country! Your job is not to micromanage combat tactics – our army’s noble generals will take care of that. However, you do have the authority to recommend a given tactic if you feel that it has a good chance of success and your policy decisions may help or hinder the army’s performance. You will want to ensure that it is well-supplied and well-staffed. How exactly you might go about this is up to you, but the section “Committee Procedure: Executions and Other Special Resolutions” may give you some ideas on ensuring our generals remain loyal.

Speaking of letting issues sit for too long, the time-sensitive nature of this committee may result in you tabling debate frequently to move from one of the topics to the other, based on recent news developments. I will entertain motions to do so much more frequently than I would in an ordinary committee, provided, of course, that they are followed by motions to reopen debate and/or set the agenda. Remain vigilant, delegates! A crisis worthy of the committee’s attention could flare up anywhere and at any time, and you must always be ready to respond.

In this committee in particular, maintaining the balance between making good decisions and fast decisions is in important thing to consider. This is not to say that you should automatically go with the first idea that pops into your head by any means. A disastrous order could doom the Republic, and this would be far more detrimental than waiting a bit for a more prudent solution. It does mean, however, that breaking gridlock and finding compromise may be more important than ever. If a resolution on executing a rebel band, for example, was held up for too long, it might hold up a needed directive authorizing supplies to a regiment besieging the Austrians in the Netherlands. In short, keep in your mind that time is of the essence when making decisions.

Finally, it goes without saying that you will be passing more than one resolution per topic. The entire war against Austria, Prussia and the other monarchist powers could not possibly be solved with a single resolution, no matter how grand in scope it may be. With this in mind, when voting bloc ends, debate will move to the next topic as per a normal committee. However, as soon as new information on the topic (usually a crisis update, but you may end up receiving information from other sources as the committee unfolds) is known to the committee, I will entertain a motion to table the current topic and reset the agenda to the former one. I may also entertain such a motion if there is an obvious issue on the current topic that needs to be addressed but was not by the current resolutions; however, barring such a motion, the committee will proceed according to regular parliamentary procedure.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE: PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COMMUNIQUES, DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS

In addition to fairly typical resolutions, which are formatted exactly like standard resolutions using perambulatory and operative clauses, as a committee and as individuals you have the power to vote on other kinds of documents that may function differently.

**Private Communique:** A private communique is an informal document submitted by one, and only one, delegate. They must be sent TO somebody. You can address it to virtually anyone you might have contact with, even enemy envoys if you wish to contact them for whatever reason\*. It can be used to ask a question or otherwise communicate to anyone. While they may contain orders or demands, no single member of the committee has direct command of the military, so they are not binding.

Your recipient will likely answer as quickly as they can, but remember that mail transportation is not instantaneous. Your communiques will not be purposely delayed for very long, but do not expect an instantaneous answer, either. Again, time is of the essence and you may well find that a communique has not arrived and you must act based on the information you currently have. To send a private communique, simply bring it to the dais and our couriers will send it on its way.

**Public Communique:** A public communique is an informal document that consists of a statement that the committee is making to the general public, including but not limited to the National Convention, the people of France, and potentially even our enemies. They are not to be used to make official recommendations; those must be put in a resolution. A public communique might express sympathy for the victims of a counterrevolutionary attack, but could not recommend a Revolutionary Tribunal investigation into the matter. They are roughly analogous to press releases. Public communiques are nonbinding, but people will likely take notice of them and may take action accordingly.

Public communiques, like resolutions, must have sponsors and signatories. They may have any number of sponsors. Due to their time-sensitive nature, public communiques do not need to be passed in voting bloc. To submit a public communique, motion for a formal caucus for the purpose of introducing your public communique. The sponsors will read the document aloud and then allow two to three minutes, at the chair’s discretion, for questions and answers. After this, the public communique will immediately be put to a vote without moving into voting bloc. A simple majority is required for it to pass. After this, the formal caucus ends and debate continues. If the public communique passed, it will be submitted to our couriers and read by the public at large.

**Directives:** A directive is a formal document that consists of only operative clauses. Directives, for this committee, are for the purpose of giving direct military orders to our generals in the field. For example, a document with operative clauses like “Orders the armies currently in the Netherlands supplies from Dutch civilians as you advance to ensure adequate supply lines” would be formatted as a directive; a document with operative clauses like “Recommends the Revolutionary Tribunal prosecute Charles Dumouriez for treason” would be formatted as a resolution. Due to their time-sensitive nature, directives may be passed in the same way as public communiques, though their more serious nature means that I will allow a longer question and answer session. Some of you may already be familiar with the concept of directives from serving on a Security Council committee in the past; these serve a slightly different purpose, but as you can see, they are for the same general idea.

Directives are binding, assuming our generals are loyal to the cause and do not display insubordination. There is no current reason to believe that they would do such a thing, but if a certain general’s loyalty comes into question, it might be wise to reconsider what they would do if presented with a directive they did not like. Again, we currently know our generals to be steadfastly loyal to the Republic, but this is yet another factor we must consider. To submit a directive, motion for a formal caucus for the purpose of introducing your draft directive. The rest of the procedure works just as it would for a public communique.

**Resolutions:** Resolutions on this committee function just as they would in any other committee. They are formal documents with sponsors and signatories that contain both perambulatory and operative clauses. Any nonmilitary binding recommendations or orders must be put in a resolution to have any effect.

Resolutions, as might be suspected, are binding. For purposes of this committee, you may put binding requests to bodies that we have influence over, such as the Revolutionary Tribunal. More detail on this can be found in the section “Committee Procedure: Executions and Other Nasty Business.” To submit a resolution, motion for a formal caucus to introduce it. The rest of the process works just like passing any other resolution.

\*: There is no guarantee that the National Convention or even the Revolutionary Tribunal will not find out about your communications with enemies if you choose to do so, but you may at your discretion.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE: EXECUTIONS AND OTHER SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

Given that these are desperate times for our republic, and given the old saying “desperate times call for desperate measures,” our committee has a great deal of power in the scope of resolutions that it may pass. Here are some operative clauses you may include in your resolutions that you may not habitually use:

**“Orders** the \_\_ (Committee of General Security, Revolutionary Tribunal, etc.) to…”

You can use this operative clause to instruct these committees to conduct an investigation of a given person for treason. The Tribunal is obliged to comply, but this is not a specific execution order. The Tribunal is a court of law, and it may well find the intended person innocent. If they are guilty, however, the punishment for treason is death. Should you have a reason to believe that one of our committee members is guilty of such a crime, you may introduce a resolution including this clause just like for anyone else. However, considering the serious nature of such a matter, the resolution must pass with a 2/3 majority **if and only if** the target of the investigation is a committee member.

“**Commands** the \_\_ (1st Army, 2nd Army, etc.) to…”

This operative can be included to place military orders into a broader resolution. While most military orders should be placed in directives, if a specific order needs to be issued with the context resolutions can provide and/or if it is a general doctrine change rather than a specific order to attack or focus forces, you may include it in a resolution with this operative clause.

“**Brands** \_\_ (a person) as an enemy of the state…”

This operative can be used when a strong condemnation of an individual is needed but the committee is unwilling or unable to directly investigate them for treason. Enemies of the state are individuals conspiring to damage the republic but for whatever reason cannot or be formally tried, such as an enemy commander or a leader of a spy operation within our own borders. Such an enemy will likely be shot on sight if the army encounters them, unless a specific order is made to take them alive. You may include supplementary operatives instructing the Committee of General Security and/or the Revolutionary Tribunal to pursue these individuals, or you may simply use this operative and wait to see if the army can capture them.

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE: PERSONAL AND COMMITTEE GOALS

Each of you has sworn to defend France until your final breaths. We will need such men to guide us to victory. However, each of you is a human being with their own goals. Thus, I will list common objectives that everyone in the committee would like to see accomplished. However, each of you will also likely have personal objectives you may wish to pursue. For example, Monsieur Robespierre is quite enamored with the deistic Cult of the Supreme Being; others among you argue for an elimination of all religious influence whatsoever. Please do research on these objectives and issues that your characters care about; they will help flesh out your policy positions. The Committee will not be a unanimous body by any means, so ensure you cannot just make smart decisions but decisions that would be on policy. With that, here are some common goals that each of you seek to accomplish:

* Ensuring the security of France from external enemies and preventing the monarchist powers from returning a vile king to rule over the land.
* Ensuring the security of France from internal enemies and eliminating counterrevolutionary and reactionary elements, including spies, domestic monarchists, and the influence of the Catholic Church. (There was disagreement about what each of these things entailed, but at the very least curbing its influence would be in the republic’s interests.)
* Ensuring personal survival.
* Ensuring that the Committee retains at least some degree of power so we can continue to guide the affairs of the nation in a benevolent fashion.
* Ensuring that the republic can prevent further rebellions, whether through ensuring our citizens can see the light of freedom by force or by showing them how wonderful it is to live in our republic, where all are free and equal.
* If the war goes well enough, extracting concessions from the monarchist powers that further ensure that France remains safe and secure.
* Instituting republics in nations liberated from the rule of a king.
* Instituting a framework for increased rights for all after the domestic and foreign turmoil dies down.

TOPIC ONE: THE VENDÉE CONFLICT AND ELIMINATING COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY INFLUENCE

Gentlemen, France is in crisis from traitors within our own borders. Counterrevolutionaries still permeate our society, despite all of the work that we have done to eliminate their corrupting influence. Our committee must play a large role in this task if we wish to have a fighting chance at survival.

Firstly, a costly rebellion near the west coast of our nation spills a great deal of blood and treasure daily. We cannot continue to allow this. We must find a way to put down these rebels for the safety and security of our republic. A band of reactionaries calling themselves the “Catholic Army,” has been rampaging through the Vendée area since earlier this year\*. We closed churches in the area and investigated the ties many of the clergy had with counterrevolutionary elements. Riots against our *levee en masse* have certainly not helped pacify the location, either. These actions angered many of these hooligans and motivated them to take up arms. They have had some success, taking several towns in the region out of our direct control, but have been bogged down in a siege of our city of Nantes. This means they are currently relatively controlled on the ground, or at the very least they a good deal of them are massed in one location. This is our chance to take action. There has been a great deal of discussion in our committee of a new tactic to pacify these rebels, which some have referred to as “scorched-earth” policies. Implementing such an act might give us an additional edge against the rebels so we can concentrate our forces elsewhere, but it would also be brutal and may further damage our reputation with the people. We could also continue to try more conventional tactics, but if this conflict goes on for too long it could truly undermine our republic’s security. There is also the problem that such a conflict undermines our legitimacy as a government. Of course, our mandate from the people is clear and eternal, but if a group of reactionary rioters could have success here, they may well have success anywhere. Come to the conference well-versed in the history of this conflict thus far, as the siege could break at any day and we would have to respond quickly to such an affair.

Another persistent, though less outwardly violent, problem we must combat is the continued elimination of counterrevolutionary influence in our society. We have done much in this regard, from adopting a new calendar cleansed of monarchist and church influence to abolishing Catholicism as a state religion, but there is much more we could do. Some of our committee members have repeatedly expressed their disgust with religion, notably Monsieur Hérault. They have expressed desires to totally replace Catholicism with either a “Cult of Reason” or simply eliminating religious behavior entirely, depending on the person. Others among us still believe that there is a place for religion in public life, though not of a Catholic or Protestant nature. Regardless, what we can all agree on is that the Church as an institution has had a grip on our nation for far too long. It supports authorities above those of mankind, a principle our Republic was partially founded to oppose. Kings use their gods as justification to oppress; men of god use kings as justification for authority over man. We stand firmly in opposition to both. Whatever face actions against religion end up taking, they must be swift and decisive to ensure the continued security of our republic.

TOPIC TWO: WAR AGAINST THE MONARCHIST POWERS

As all of you know, in 1792 we declared war against the monarchist Austria, which had previously threatened action against us. Other powers in Europe have since taken the opportunity to join the Austrian side. At the moment, we are currently at war with Austria, Prussia, Great Britain, Spain, Portugal, the Ottoman Empire, and the Dutch Republic. The forces arrayed against us are great, but far from insurmountable. Public opinion of our fair nation is quite low at the moment, due to the anger of the vile monarchists at our execution of the oppressive King Louis XVI. With this in mind, however, we have several advantages capable of turning the tide if we manage them wisely.

We are currently being blockaded on the sea by the British Royal Navy. We do not truly have the naval power to challenge them at the moment, but our land prospects against them look much better. We have intelligence suggesting that counterrevolutionary elements in the city of Toulon plot to turn the city over to the British and Spanish. If we act decisively now, we may be able to prevent this from happening.

Spanish troops have made attempts to cross the Pyrenees as of late, though we are beginning to push them back. General de Flers, just two short weeks ago, managed to push back the Spanish forces at the city of Niel. Once we can stabilize this front, it might be prudent to push into Spain proper to pacify it and bring it out of the war. Fortunately, we have few domestic issues in the area, so with enough manpower and supplies this front will hopefully go smoothly.

The bulk of our forces, however, are currently combatting the Austrians and the Dutch in the area of the Netherlands. Austria currently administers Wallonie and Flanders (modern-day Belgium,) while the Dutch are to the north. Before his defection, General Dumouriez defied orders to defend the lower Netherlands and embarked on invasion of the Dutch state. We managed to eventually force him to return to Belgium as ordered, but his strategy still may be a viable option if we wish. We could establish a republic in the Netherlands that might be more friendly towards us, for despite its name, the Dutch “Republic” is certainly our enemy. They mingle with royalists and are ruled by a corrupt elite. Some people in the area would certainly support us if we tried to do so. Even so, we must defend Belgium and the surrounding area first before we could think of such a thing.

Our republic is blessed with capable and loyal generals, so they will be managing most day-to-day combat decisions. We do not need to issue directives telling them to take a given fort, for example. That said, we do have ultimate authority over them; we can direct them to embark on a certain campaign or line of attack and they will be obliged to listen to us. You are also advised to ensure our generals remain loyal, and effectively dispatch those that are found to be disloyal. Of course, to help keep an effective army we must ensure they are well-supplied. The British naval blockade makes it difficult for even a nation as mighty as ours to have access to the supplies we need, so finding new and inventive ways to have access to supplies would be worth of our committee’s attention. In addition, while we are not trained military operatives, we certainly may have ideas that our generals have not considered in their tactics, and could certainly order them to try them out in a directive.

Our forces will need all the assistance they can get in fighting these wars, both from a domestic policy successful at controlling counterrevolutionary activity and effective management of conflict. In general, we will need a strong and effective military policy if our Republic is to succeed in these wars and emerge a strong, free and worthy model to the world.