Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

 Country: Belgium

 Topic: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Military Occupation of the Gaza Strip and Its Implications

 In the 19th century, increasing Arab nationalism also affected the Palestinian people. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Palestinian people declared their independence, believing that Britain would support them when they said that they would stand against the Ottoman Empire in World War I. In 1916, the secret Sykes-Picot agreement signed between Britain and France; ignored Palestine's desire for independence. In 1917, the Balfour Declaration stated the land of Palestine as a home for the Jews. The Holocaust during the Second World War strengthened the Jewish claim to the Palestinian settlements with the support of American Zionists.

 On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence and the first official elections were held in 1949. With the declaration of independence, the number of Jews reached to 740000. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing since 1948. The fact that Jerusalem is a holy city for both Muslims and Jews has been one of the main reasons for these conflicts. As a consequence of these conflicts, 85% of the Palestinian population was displaced from their homes by Israeli forces. The conflict, which stabilized after these events, erupted again in 1987. The Israeli state used tear gas, plastic bullets and live ammunition to suppress the Palestinian riots.

 The Belgian government's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict, now officially declared
a war, is that the killing of civilians must stop and that the destruction of a society is unacceptable. We try to maintain a neutral position, but it's not without contradictions. We stand for the end of the war and world peace.

 Thank you