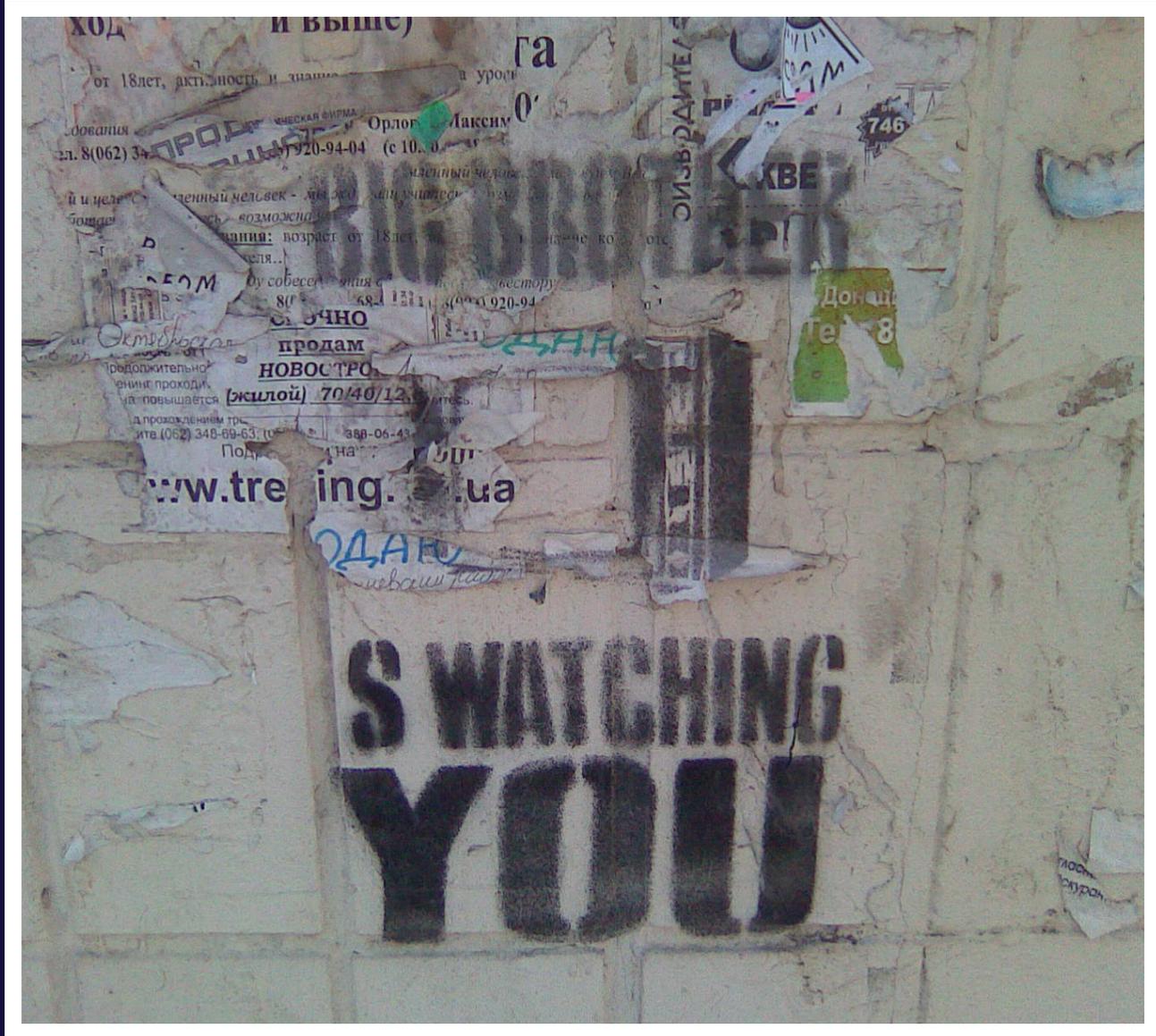


# VIRGINIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS



THE TURN OF THE TIDE:  
ORWELL'S OCEANIA 1984

Chair: Sean Rummage  
Crisis Director: Liam Kraft

Here you will find overviews of the roles and responsibilities for each position in this committee. It is your job to think critically about the following: **(1)** what your position can contribute to the committee at large's actions, policies, and directives, **(2)** how your position might relate to others in the committee and who might be natural partners on committee and crisis actions, **(3)** who in the committee might run against your interests, and **(4)** what kinds of actions you can individually take as part of fulfilling your responsibilities and advancing the Party's agenda. As we emphasized in the background guide, you will not be awarded for having an encyclopedic knowledge of Orwell's world or of *1984*. Rather, awards will be determined by your ability to work with the background we have given you, to govern, collaborate, react, adapt, and think critically and creatively. Delegates who have not read *1984*, thus, will be on an equal playing field with those who have.

### **1. Position 2: Minister of Technology**

As Minister of Technology, you are housed within the Ministry of Truth. Your role, in essence, is twofold. On one hand, you are singlehandedly responsible for carefully keeping tabs on and managing the proliferation of any sort of new technology within our society. Since our government must remain in full control of all sources of information reaching our populace at any time, this task is absolutely crucial. On the other side of things, you are in charge of the distribution and monitoring of the technologies we use in order to ensure that all members of the Party are keeping their toes in line. The strongest example of this is the telescreens installed not only in public spaces but also in the apartments of all Party comrades. Through these we are able to not only distribute information as we see fit, but also watch and hear the daily interactions of these individuals. While we cannot manage every telescreen at every single moment of the day, this still gives us the ability to stay knowledgeable about our Party and ensure we do not have thought-criminals in our midst.

### **2. Position 3: Director of Records Department**

A branch of the Ministry of Truth, the Records Department is essential to the maintenance of the Oceania regime, as its job is to revise records of the past to align with the Inner Party's current orthodoxy. For example, if the Inner Party opts to go to war with Eastasia instead of Eurasia, the Records Department scraps all known records of any mention of war with Eurasia, and forges documents to indicate otherwise. Similarly, the Party may promise that chocolate rations will not be reduced this year, but go back on this promise, and thus need to erase any evidence that they said chocolate rations would not be reduced. Once the evidence is revised, the people naturally convince themselves that they were mistaken to think the Party made any false promise. In this way, the Inner Party can keep its monopoly on thought and reality. The Records Department coordinates closely with the Ministry of Public Affairs, Fiction Department, and the Tele-programs Department to carry out its mission. In sum, you will oversee the effort to ensure history is written precisely as the Inner Party wants it to be written.

### **3. Position 4: Minister of Prole Affairs**

Though we consider the most important and most relevant part of our population to be our dear Party comrades, we cannot ignore the other 85% of our nation: the Proles. The Proles are simple beings, the lower class, and therefore they can be simply controlled.

Simply controlling them still requires great precision in action, however. As Minister of Prole Affairs, you are responsible

for ensuring that the Proles stay sentient, and therefore not a threat. We currently accomplish this goal in a variety of ways, most notably by allowing them to indulge in earthly pleasures we deny our noble comrades as well as instilling a constant fear of power in them. We also have stripped them of education and only allow the Party's word to be their law, not too differently from any normal Party member. It is your job to continue and to expand upon these efforts, making sure that the masses are always content beneath us and, ideally, do not even realize that a world could exist where that order is otherwise.

#### **4. Position 5: Minister of War Fever**

In our society, the idea of war is more important than the act itself, and as Marketing Master you are at the forefront of this battle. You are in charge of all communications, posters, banners, and special events promoting Oceania's prowess in battle as well as our opponent's absolute evil. You must simultaneously convince the public that we are on the brink of complete victory (to rally their nationalistic spirits) yet scare them into believing that if they are not faithful to our institutions then the world as they know it may come crashing down all around them. Maintaining this paradox is essential to our regime's ability to function. As a part of this job, you design and run the Two Minute Hate, our tried and tested ritual to instill a sense of patriotism within our populace. During this, we stream a series of increasingly nationalistic videos that lead to a climax of screaming and hatred from all loyal Party members. It's perhaps the most beautiful sight in the world.

#### **5. Position 6: Minister of Community Affairs**

While good comrades put in a lot of hours at work, there is inevitably an amount of time spent neither working nor sleeping, and it is of crucial importance that no outlandish thoughts or doubts creep into their minds during these periods. That's where you come in. As Minister of Community Affairs, you are in charge of overseeing the network of community activities we organize for our comrades. These range from hikes to bingo to anything you can imagine, so long as the activities accomplish the goal of fostering a community built upon the pillars of our society. You should note, of course, that enemies within the Party seem to always use these events as a way to escape detection for a few hours and potentially scheme, so you are responsible for ensuring that this practice is put to an end. After all, these events are for building community, not destroying it.

#### **6. Position 8: Minister of Public Affairs**

As Minister of Public Affairs you will have two main jobs, one being more responsive and the other more proactive. First and foremost, it is your role to communicate important updates from Party leadership to the rest of the Party as well as our population as a whole. The facts of these reports are of extreme importance, so be sure to include the details. In addition to being the spokesperson for the party, you also have the honor of paving the path for the future of our Party's language, Newspeak. While Proles couldn't tell you a thing about our tongue, this language in development is the poster child of efficiency. After all, why do we have so many weird ways to say no or make something negative when we can just add one simple prefix and be done with it? That is why in the

past we have enacted these types of changes to make life easier and simpler for everyone involved. This language will shape the way in which future (and current) Party members think, so it is perhaps the most important long-term project we have.

### **7. Position 12: Ambassador to Eastasia**

As Ambassador to Eastasia, you will play a key role in leading all negotiations, discussions, and agreements with the nation of Eastasia. Right now, Eastasia is our ally in our grand war against Eurasia, though we do not know for sure that Eastasia isn't the one promoting The Resistance in Alaska. Your task will be to navigate the bilateral relationship between Oceania and Eastasia, applying pressure and enlisting cooperation where needed to achieve our interests. At your disposal is a small team of researchers and analysts whose job is to collect information on and better understand the country of Eastasia. From time to time, you take trips abroad to Eastasia to negotiate with its diplomatic representative there; other times, you invite their representative to come to Oceania. Occasionally, there are summits between the three major countries to discuss matters of war only (since we have never traded with each other or cooperated on any issue other than war), which you can help to coordinate alongside your fellow Ambassador to Eurasia.

### **8. Position 13: Ambassador to Eurasia**

As Ambassador to Eurasia, you will play a key role in leading all negotiations, discussions, and agreements with the nation of Eurasia. Right now, Eurasia is our mortal enemy in a grand war (which is, in fact, quite limited), while we are allied with Eastasia. It seems highly possible that Eurasia is the nation propping up The Resistance in Alaska, though we are not sure. Your task will be to navigate the bilateral relationship between Oceania and Eurasia, managing the war effort from a diplomatic angle, and, should we find ourselves at peace with Eurasia again, enlisting cooperation where needed to achieve our interests. At your disposal is a small team of researchers and analysts whose job is to collect information on and better understand the country of Eurasia. From time to time, you take trips abroad to Eurasia to negotiate with its diplomatic representative there; other times, you invite their representative to come to Oceania. Occasionally, there are summits between the three major countries to discuss matters of war only (since we have never traded with each other or cooperated on any issue other than war), which you can help to coordinate alongside your fellow Ambassador to Eastasia.

### **9. Position 14: Ambassador to Neutral Independent States**

As Ambassador to the Neutral Independent States, you will play a key role in leading all negotiations, discussions, and agreements with the neutral independent states of the world. Comprising Northern Africa, the Middle East, India, and Southeast Asia, these states are disputed territories that are the subject of perpetual war among Oceania, Eastasia, and Eurasia (though Oceania and Eastasia are currently allied against Eurasia). The large region has ample resources and a large population, making it appealing to the three great nations. Your task will be to navigate the relationship between Oceania and the leaders of these neutral states. At your disposal is a small team of researchers and analysts whose job is to collect information on and better understand these territories. From time to time, you take trips abroad to these territories to converse with their diplomatic representatives there, though they rarely are invited to come to Oceania.

These territories make great spots for summits between the three major countries to discuss matters of war and distribution of resources.

#### **10. Position 16: Minister of the Army**

The Minister of the Army is in charge of all ground forces, technology, and equipment for the Oceania fighting force. The Army has bases scattered throughout Oceania and regularly deploys to the disputed territories to engage in battle with the forces of Eastasia and Eurasia (though we are currently at war with Eurasia -- and always have been!). While it is above your paygrade to decide who Oceania goes to war with, who Oceania makes peace with, and when, your job in this committee is to make recommendations on what conflicts and operations to pursue from an army standpoint. You exercise authority over tactical deployments and army strategy in fighting our wars. Given that it is the Army's job to occupy territories that Oceania absorbs, you also coordinate the Army's management of these territorial acquisitions, including the people who live there and the resources they have at their fingertips. It is important to note that our army is weak compared to the those of Eurasia and Eastasia, but with coordination from the other branches of our military, you will hopefully find great success.

#### **11. Minister of the Navy**

The Minister of the Navy is in charge of all sea-based forces, technology, and equipment for the Oceania fighting force. The Navy has bases along the coastal parts of Oceania and regularly deploys to the coasts surrounding the disputed territories to engage in battle with the forces of Eastasia and Eurasia (though we are currently at war with Eurasia – and always have been!). While it is above your paygrade to decide who Oceania goes to war with, who Oceania makes peace with, and when, your job in this committee is to make recommendations on what conflicts and operations to pursue from a naval standpoint. You exercise authority over tactical deployments and naval strategy in fighting our wars. You are also responsible for all of Oceania's shipping, meaning when we loot disputed territories of their resources, the Navy guards those resources on their way back to Oceania, amidst threats from the other two superstates. It is important to note that our navy is the strongest in the world, though coordination with the other branches of the military is always quite helpful.

#### **12. Minister of the Air Force**

The Minister of the Air Force is in charge of all air-based forces, technology, and equipment for the Oceania fighting force. The Air Force has bases scattered throughout Oceania and regularly deploys to conflict areas in the disputed territories to engage in battle with the land, air, and naval forces of Eastasia and Eurasia (though we are currently at war with Eurasia – and always have been!). While it is above your paygrade to decide who Oceania goes to war with, who Oceania makes peace with, and when, your job in this committee is to make recommendations on what conflicts and operations to pursue from an aerial standpoint. You exercise authority over tactical deployments and aerial strategy in fighting our wars. You are also responsible for sabotaging our enemies' attempts at commerce and management of their territorial acquisitions. The Air Force is a real asset in defending our troops on the ground and our ships at sea. It is important to note that our Air Force is stronger than that of Eurasia, though it is similar in strength to Eastasia's.

### **13. Minister of Resources**

Oceania, like any nation, is dependent upon resources to survive. While we have a lot of resources within our vast borders, it is your job to pretend we don't. For even though we could

be thriving, a thriving Oceania means a not thriving Inner Party. So therefore as Minister of Resources it is your responsibility to avoid depleting all these precious resources. You are very involved on the warfront since we take most of our resources (whether natural resources or human labor) from the contested zones – this strategy is vital to our mission. It is your job to ensure that we reap as much as we can from these resources while we can (or in other words, before we possibly lose the territory again). You are also charged with siphoning off a great deal of the more premium items (coffee, for example) and sending them the Inner Party's way – after all, how would we run a great state if we were living in discomfort? Finally, you are encouraged to discover and develop new resources that may be of benefit not only to the committee, but to yourself.

### **14. Director of Spies and Youth League**

Our future depends on our children, and for that reason it is absolutely vital that we ensure that they are strong supporters of the Oceanian ideology. To that end, we started a program to teach them our ways and even employ them in our mission to find all those adults who may not be unwavering in their devotion to our values. You are in charge of overseeing this program and the development of the youths generally speaking. As of now the program consists of a lot of basic classes and training – how to spot a thoughtcriminal, how to tell someone, and how to eavesdrop secretly, for example – and encourages the children to take what they learn out into the world and start making a difference in it. Most of the time, this program becomes a funnel for our most successful Party members; therefore, it is extremely important that it is continuously improved to maintain our supreme standing in the world. It may be of use to work with our nation's ambassadors in an attempt to understand potentially similar programs in the other nations of the world; while we are obviously greater than them, one must learn from their inferiors if they wish to remain on top.

### **15. Minister of Interrogation**

Sometimes, despite our best efforts, we fail to foster a true love for the Party in the hearts of our comrades. When this happens, we need to show them the light. That's where you come in. As commander of the interrogation unit within the Ministry of Love, it is your role to oversee this process and leave no doubt that our conversion rate is as high as can be. Using a combination of fear and emotional stimulation, we help them see that the Party and by extension Big Brother are worthy not only of their love but of their devotion. Most of the time, comrades leave the facility and become some of the most productive members of our society – but sometimes they do not. Your job is to create more of the former and less of the latter. It is recommended that you work closely with the Youth and Spies League in order to understand new thoughtcrime epidemics that may be spreading throughout the ranks.

### **16. Minister of Agriculture**

As Minister of Agriculture, you will be tasked with managing agricultural production, from distributing the means of production to regulating the output levels of Oceania's farmers. Additionally, you will oversee the distribution of agricultural products throughout the nation, which, given its size, it's a major task. Oceania is a command economy, so you have a lot of responsibility, given the large swaths of agriculture-focused territory in the country (from the Great Plains of Northern America to the rolling hills of Great Britain). Food supply is a great

asset for the nation of Oceania and we produce more than Eurasia or Eastasia. While this is advantageous in some ways, it is risky in others, in that the more well-fed our population is, the less they will concern themselves with their basic needs, thinking instead about social mobility, individual expression, and thought. Your job, in regulating distribution of food, is thus essential to our mission. Working with the Minister of Resources then, for example, you can ensure that our populace settles somewhere between being fed just enough and being fed too much.

### **17. Minister of Industry**

As Minister of Industry, you will be tasked with managing industrial production, from distributing the means of production to regulating the output levels of Oceania's workers. All enterprises in Oceania are overseen and managed by the state--this is your domain. You will oversee these enterprises, from the factories to the warehouses to the lumber mills to the computer labs. Additionally, you will coordinate the distribution of industrial products and consumer goods throughout Oceania, which is a hefty task. Though Oceania is more advantaged in the agriculture sector than in its industrial production, there are a number of key industrial centers in Oceania (e.g. London, Boston, Detroit, Toronto, Sao Paulo). Because of your sector's potential to change the way people live, work, and think, you will have to coordinate with the rest of the Inner Party administrators to determine what products can and should be made available to what segments of the Oceania population. You also have control the levers to push for more (or less) innovation within the products that our nation produces, so use that power judiciously.

### **18. Minister of Finance**

The role of the Minister of Finance is essential in managing the monetary and fiscal aspects of the Oceanian economy. From a fiscal standpoint, you will, along with the Inner Party focus on how much the Oceanian government should be spending in order to avoid bankruptcy. From a monetary standpoint, you will concentrate on how much. You will also be responsible for coming up with creative ways to find more funds for the use of our committee. You have considerable autonomy in how you plan to achieve that, just be careful you don't overstep your bounds. It is advised that you stay in close contact with those positions involved with the warfront so that you are able to keep tabs on our current financial standing and potential. It is important that you are keep our books balanced, since our tenuous relationships with the rest of the world mean we are not able to borrow to sustain ourselves. Unless you change that with the help of the ambassadors, of course.

### **19. Minister of Health**

The cost of purposeful mismanagement of a population is that undernutrition can very easily lead to disease. Thankfully, that's why we have you. It is your job to ensure that the degraded conditions in which a majority of our population lives does not lead to any major outbreaks that may threaten our Party's control or existence. This, of course, requires both preventative and responsive measures to stop diseases from occurring in the first place as well as halt them in their tracks if they still manage to pop up. It also goes without saying that, were a terrible disease to pop up, it fall under your purview as Minister of Health to direct its effects towards a specific (or in other words the least valuable) portion of our population. It is also important to

highlight that mental health is perhaps more vital to our operation than physical health, so to be successful you must pay careful attention to this facet of our society as well.

## **20. Director of Fiction Department**

Though in our world there is no true such thing as fiction (since everything we create is fact), our Fiction Department is still in charge of all written communication or entertainment that both the Party members and Proles consume (though specific entertainment is created for each group). This role is twofold. The first aspect is the deletion of all other existing written entertainment. After all, control means control of *all* things. And if things written by some weirdo named George Orwell, for example, are still floating around the population, that means that we do not hold power over all the words that these individuals are soaking in. Therefore, the second job is to produce content in line with the Party's vision and goals. This can come in many forms, whether Oceania magazines and books, but what's most important is the content, both in terms of the ideas and themes expressed within it. It is vital that you work with other members of the committee to determine what themes ought to be displayed in these works.

## **21. Director of Tele-programs Department**

Because of our wonderful telescreens located almost everywhere within our territory (at least the places inhabited by our Party members), we have the ability not only to listen to our citizens, but ensure that we are filling them with the content we want them to be hearing. Therefore, this position oversees the vital role of managing all of this content, from fictional programming to the Two Minute Hate, and ensuring that we are using this advantage to the best of our ability. While you are not in charge of the public affairs programming (war updates, for example), everything else on the telescreens is your domain, ranging from morning workout sessions to whatever else may come to mind. So long as these devices are being successfully used to bring our comrades deeper into the fold, the method does not matter greatly. It might be interesting if you collaborate with other members of the committee and trade time slots on the telescreens for other favors that may be in your interest.

## **22. Inspector General**

The role of Inspector General in the Oceania government is quite unlike all the others, and exercises a considerable amount of independence. Your role as Inspector General will be to act as a general auditor of the operations of the Inner Party to ensure members are operating in compliance with directives authorized by the government. Thus, while you are not given broad-sweeping authority to investigate all conduct of Inner Party members, you are given the authority to make audits to determine whether directives are

being carried out as they were enacted to. Some things you may look out for (among others) are misconduct, theft, inefficiencies, misuse or waste of funds, or criminal activity. Should the Inner Party decide to investigate one of its members or agencies, you will manage the investigation in coordination with the committee.

### **23. Director of Environment Management**

The Director of Environment Management plays a critical role in assessing the environmental threats Oceania faces and addressing them through policy. As part of your mission, you will have

to coordinate with the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Industry to ensure environmental stability and preservation. The Inner Party has long acknowledged that a changing climate and other environmental changes as a result of the massive human wars of old and present day pose challenges to the preservation of the regime. If the earth declines, so will the Party's ability to govern and maintain control. On one hand, you will work toward long-term environmental management (which includes nuclear cleanup, policies designed to limit climate change, among others), and on the other, you will be asked to deal with environmental crises that come our way, from increasingly severe droughts to hurricanes, tsunamis, and more.

### **24. Minister of Transportation**

Oceania is a vast stretch of area, and as Minister of Transportation it is your job to ensure that the linkage between each part of it is as minimal as possible. Even the idea that people in our territory may look different from one another can lead to doubt about our nation's guiding philosophy. Generally speaking, each territory is endowed with limited regional rail service, mostly just for the use of community activity groups. While we don't really monitor Prole activity on these rails, Party members deserve watching if they are ever attempting to travel more than three hours away from home. The air transportation we provide within Oceania is for necessary personnel only and there is absolutely no registered, legal travel allowed outside of our borders with the exception of approved military activities. In addition to physical transportation, this position requires special attention to the transportation of information as well, which ought to be limited even more than physical travel.

### **25. Minister of Infrastructure and Facilities**

As Minister of Infrastructure and Facilities, you will be tasked with supporting the critical operations of the Party as it sets forth in achieving its goals. In your oversight of infrastructure within Oceania, you will face the dilemma of ensuring our infrastructure is developed enough to support the Party's operations, while weak enough to avoid giving too much utility to the population. You will also have to confront any sort of attacks on the Party's infrastructure at large by The Resistance, as critical Party buildings and infrastructure undoubtedly will be targets in any insurrectionary scenario. Your tasks are closely related to the tasks of several others in the committee, such as the Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Resources, so you ought to work with them to better fulfil our mission. For instance, channeling adequate energy and power to the Party is a crucial responsibility of yours, but energy resources are, of course, needed to do that. Lastly, you are in charge of maintaining and updating existing facilities (including ministerial headquarters) and creating new ones for the use of the Party, as needed.

We appreciate your feedback about our conference. Please direct all inquiries and comments to our Secretary-General.

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