What is a Crisis Committee?

_Crisis Committee Definition_

A Crisis Committee is a body, with usually no more than twenty-five members, that deals with immediate and long-term crises. Topics can vary from a historical event, to present day, to futuristic, and from fiction to non-fiction.

_Crisis Committee Jargon_

**Moderated Caucus:** Debate style that focuses on a specific topic with a pre-determined amount of speaking time.

**Unmoderated Caucus:** A period of time in which delegates should use to walk around the room and speak with other delegates. This time does not have a specific topic.

**Directives:** Directives are the means in which the delegate can complete actions within committee. There are three types of directives used in committee: Committee Directives, Personal Directives, and Joint-Directives.

**Committee Directives:** Committee Directives are actions the committee as a whole wants to make. Committee Directives are written as succinct actions and answer the questions “Who?” “What?” “When?” “Where?” and “Why?”. They are passed by the whole committee by a simple majority. In order to be submitted to the dais, at least 1/3 of the committee members present must sign on as signatories or as a designated sponsor. When a Committee Directive has
enough signatures they are given to the dais.

**Personal Directives:** Personal Directives are actions you as a delegate wish to take under your role in committee. Personal Directives must address people and resources your character would realistically have access to and answer all the questions Committee Directives require. The Director highly recommends that each delegate maintain the integrity of their role with each action they take and keep to actions your character would reasonably take within the committee setting. Personal Directives are sent to the crisis staff as a crisis note.

**Joint-Directives:** Joint-Directives are actions two or more delegates seek to do outside of the committee setting. Joint-Directives are essentially Personal Directives written by two or more people. A Joint-Directive allows individuals to share their resources among one another and expands delegates’ opportunities within the crisis setting. Joint-Directives are sent to the crisis staff as a crisis note by one delegate.

**Communiques:** Communiques are personal messages you wish to convey to others. They are written in the form of letters and are used to communicate with characters and people who are not in committee. Communiques are not requests for actions, but rather a means of letting others know your actions and establish diplomatic ties through direct contact with a person not in committee. Communiques are sent to the crisis staff as a crisis note.

**Press Releases:** Press Releases are statements issued by the committee to the public or other entities. Individuals in charge of the press or other public relations
entities can issue these on behalf of the committee without the committee’s approval. Committee-wide Press Releases require the same amount of signatures as a Committee Directive and are given to the dais.

Crisis Notes: A crisis note is written as a means to preform personal action. They are passed to a designated spot in the room to be picked up by the crisis staff. The crisis staff will reply on the note and pass it back to the delegate.

What is a Joint Committee Crisis?

A Joint-Crisis Committee (abbreviated JCC) is a crisis committee which is split between two separate sides. Each side has its own committee room, chair, crisis director, awards, and dedicated crisis staff. While this may sound like two completely separate committees, the critical point of a JCC is that each side of the committee can interact with one another and take place in the same crisis arc. For example, a World War II committee might have an Axis side and an Allies side. On the Axis side, a German general might want to attempt to launch a coup to overthrow Hitler and thus messages the Allies side of committee in an attempt to get British and American support.

In a standard crisis committee, the delegates in the committee are often trying to deal with situations that the crisis staff throws at them, a Roman committee may need to deal with a rebellion of profligate soldiers, an invading barbarian horde, and a declaration of war from the Persian Empire, which are
all orchestrated by the crisis staff. In a JCC, most of the obstacles each side of
the committee will face are due to actions taken by the opposing side. To use
the previous example, if the Axis side succeeds in conquering Moscow from the
Allies, then a crisis update the Allies would receive is that Moscow has fallen and
thus they need to decide whether to try and recapture it or cut their losses and
move somewhere else. In a JCC, the crisis staff is more focused on serving as the
arbitrators whenever the two sides come into conflict (which is often) rather
than creating obstacles for the delegates to face.