# NorthMUNC IX

La Casa de Papel (Money Heist)



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### North Model United Nations Conference 2024

#### A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello delegates!

I am Agamya Singh, a senior at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, and I'm thrilled to serve as Crisis Director for this year's crisis committee, Money Heist. Participating in Model United Nations these past four years has been the experience of a lifetime—from crafting elaborate crisis arcs to joking with my fellow delegates, crisis simulations in particular have been some of the most competitive yet entertaining experiences I've had. Within NorthMUNC, I'm honored to be serving as Secretary-General. Outside of MUN, I'm involved with the Student Council, weightlifting, baking, and spending time with my family and friends.

Money Heist has the distinction of being NorthMUNC's only crisis committee, which stands out from the usual GA or Specialized committees in that it combines nuanced debate with political intrigue and unpredictable crisis updates that set the best delegates apart from the rest. This year our crisis is based on the popular show Money Heist. For those of you who have watched, you're in for many surprises, and for those who haven't, you're in for even more surprises. Regardless of prior exposure to the show, we will run the committee in a way in which everyone will be able to understand the flow of the committee equally as long as they have read the background guide. I invite you all to push your boundaries, experiment with creative crisis arcs, and—most importantly—enjoy yourselves! Crisis committees have easily made for some of my best experiences in MUN and I couldn't be more excited to share one with all of you!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at agamya.singh@gmail.com. Best of luck to all of you!

Best,

Agamya Singh

Crisis Director, Money Heist



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### North Model United Nations Conference 2024

#### A LETTER FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

Hi Delegates!

My name is Johnson Lin and I'll be your Crisis Chair for Money Heist, NorthMUNC IX.

As a current junior at WW-P High School North, I've had my fair share of experience with Model UN. The long research nights, intensive debate, and countless memories have contributed to the person I am today. MUN nights spent with my fellow delegates and friends have been some of the best memories anyone could ask for. Within MUN, I have the honor of serving as one of NorthMUN's Head Delegates. Outside of MUN, I'm involved in Student Council, and Model Congress. Reflecting on all my fun memories in MUN, I hope to offer you all the same valuable experiences at the conference.

Given the nature of this committee, I can't reveal much. However, I can assure you that Saturday will be a day full of subterfuge and an unparalleled level of debate. I encourage you all to step out of your comfort zone, not only in your speeches but in your arcs and backroom. Above all, Agamya and I value diplomacy and creativity — take this with you throughout the committee, but don't forget to have fun too!

See you guys on Saturday.

Best.

Johnson Lin

Crisis Chair, Money Heist

#### **Topic of Discussion: Navigating the Heist**

#### **Disclaimer**

Due to the fantastical nature of this committee, crisis staff will provide much freedom for creative and unique arcs that play into the story interestingly and pragmatically. Our committee sets its freeze date on the last episode of season 1. While delegates will be able to participate fully in committee without watching the show, we HIGHLY recommend watching season 1! Do keep in mind that although we based a large part of the committee off of the Money Heist show, we took many creative liberties in changing events, characters, and any other narrative elements to suit this committee better. For example, some characters such as Oslo are technically deceased at this point in the story, however, we have decided to omit those details in order to have a functioning committee with characters that will make the overall experience better for all of you. For any fans of the Money Heist franchise, remember that we are simulating a crisis committee, not a roleplay of the show. Expect us to stray away from the real narrative. Regardless, we highly recommend delegates watch the show Money Heist to further their understanding of the setting, characters, and potential issues of the committee.

#### **Introduction/Current Situation**

Money Heist is set in Spain's Federal Mint, also known as the or the Royal Mint. El Professor, the mastermind behind the heist, has spent months gathering and training criminals. He has been meticulously planning this heist since he was 10. Well prepared with a genius calling the shots and months of training, the robbers easily break into the Royal Mint. Their plan? Not to steal money, but time. Instead of robbing the Royal Mint reserves, the robbers' plan consists of printing money with the machines at the Royal Mint. As a result, they would be stealing 2.4 billion euros from nobody at

all. Immediately after the heist is initiated, the Royal Mint is surrounded by police forces and SWAT teams. They establish a perimeter, ensuring nobody gets in or out without their



knowledge. Expecting this response, the Professor robbed the Royal Mint on the day the British ambassador's daughter, Allison Parker, was visiting. In addition, the robbers forced every hostage to wear red jumpsuits, and Dali masks, making it impossible for the police to separate the hostages from the robbers. These two facts, along with the Professor's numerous plans have prevented a police breach into the Royal Mint so far, allowing the robbers to print more money. However, Flash forward to the current situation, the plan is falling apart. 16 hostages have just escaped and the professor is nowhere to be seen. Afterward, all the hostages were offered a choice: help the robbers and get a share of the money or leave. As a result, a majority of the members left in the committee, even hostages, are working to pull off the heist. Outlined below are the problems the committee must address to conduct a successful heist in order to escape with the 2.4 billion euros and their lives.

#### **El Professor**

As the brains of the heist, the Professor has been an essential piece in the robbery. While not physically in the Mint, he communicates with the robbers through an analog phone. He has been carefully instructing and protecting the gang in the heist through cameras in the bank and an analog phone. His role outside the bank is to counter the police's every move, and warn the heisters about it

as their "Guardian Angel". Yet in the gang's darkest hour, the Professor was nowhere to be found. The Professor did not provide any warning to the gang when 16 hostages escaped from the Royal Mint resulting in Oslo's death. In addition, the Professor failed to tell the gang the reason for his absence when they needed him: a date with Inspector Murillo.



The Professor with Inspector Murillo

Fast forward to the current situation, it has been almost 24 hours since Berlin last received word from the Professor. While Berlin continues to believe in the Professor, the situation in the Royal Mint is becoming more dire by the hour, and Berlin's leadership is slipping. In the event the Professor doesn't check in after 24 hours, the crew is to assume the police have captured the Professor. Without the Professor, they would be forced to initiate a last-ditch, unknown self-destruct plan known as Plan Chernobyl.

As questions about the Professor's reliability start to rise among the gang, there are even whispers of the Professor abandoning the robbers. Especially after the hostage incident, the robber's faith in the Professor is at an all-time low. Left with no outside help and an impending police breach, the committee must consider whether they wish to risk more time attempting to reestablish communication with the Professor or derive a plan to move forward without him.

#### **Printer Problems**

Everything is going great, right? No. The main crux of the heist, the money making machine of the heist has broken down. Further inspection by Moscow revealed the printer had been sabotaged. Someone in the Bank, either a hostage or even a robber, deliberately attempted to break down the printer. Luckily for the robbers, the master printer Fransisco Torres can fix the printer and replenish the ink. However, doing so will cost the robbers 12 hours, time they cannot afford to lose. Every minute wasted is one where the police catch on to their plan. The committee must derive solutions to buy more time to compensate for the broken printer. Furthermore, the committee must find out who sabotaged the printer in order to prevent further breakage from occurring.

#### Rising tensions in Berlin's Leadership

As the Heist goes astray, tensions are rising within the group of robbers inside the Royal Mint of Spain. At the heart of these tensions are leadership issues that arise among key members of the group, such as Tokyo, Nairobi, Berlin, and Professor. Tokyo's impulsive nature clashes with Berlin's authoritative behavior. Berlin's firm belief in the Professor's plan without deviation has caused tensions amongst the group as the Professor seems unavailable to carry out said plan. These differences in leadership styles often lead to debates and power struggles as each member seeks to assert their authority and influence over the group's decisions.

#### Tokyo vs. Berlin:

Tokyo, known for her impulsive decisions and emotional reactions, clashes with Berlin's authoritarian leadership. As a result, Tokyo tends to disregard Berlin's orders and takes matters into her own hands during critical moments of the heist, deviating from the Professor's plans. Tokyo's distrust in Berlin stems from her disdain for his personality. Tokyo is also aware of Berlin's terminal illness, leading her to believe he is not acting with the safety of the robbers in mind. As a result, she held a vote on disposing Berlin from leadership, however lost by one singular vote leading the robbers to polarize between the two. Tokyo represents deviation from the Professor's plan while Berlin represents faith in the Professor's plan no matter the circumstance. Expect to see tensions between the two continue to rise as the committee must decide which philosophy they wish to side with.

#### **Professor's Planning vs. Group's Actions:**

The Professor's logical planning and calculated strategies clash with the actions and gut instincts of his team inside the Mint. The professor's approach is evidently more thorough and carefully planned, step-by-step actions, however, certain group members may advocate for more spontaneous tactics, especially when faced with unexpected challenges. This miscommunication between the Professor's methodical approach and the group's desire for flexibility and adaptability can lead to dilemmas and power struggles over the best course of action.

#### **Berlin's Leadership**

Berlin's leadership can be characterized by his intelligence, and ruthlessness, which both proposed and hindered the success of the heist. Berlin demonstrates strong strategic thinking and planning skills, allowing him to carefully unfold the heist and anticipate potential obstacles. His ability to

think many steps ahead contributes to the group's success in executing the heists. Berlin is decisive in making tough decisions, often making bold actions to maintain control and achieve the group's goals. He is willing to make difficult choices, even if they are at times questionable, however, it is this decision-making that helps drive the heist forward.

Although Berlin is conveyed as a good leader many aspects of his leadership can be seen as arrogant. For example, Berlin's arrogance and ego sometimes lead him to overestimate his abilities. His overconfidence can blind him to potential risks and vulnerabilities, putting the group in jeopardy. One such moment occurs during the negotiation with the police, where Berlin's manipulation skills are on display as he navigates a tense standoff with the investigators. His ability to control the situation showcases his leadership but also reveals his darker, more ruthless side. Additionally, Berlin's complex relationship with the hostages, particularly with Ariadna, the director's daughter, adds personality to his character. His interactions with Ariadna destroys the line between captor and captive, making it seem that the unempathetic Berlin may after all have feelings.



#### **Police Intensity**

Amidst the escalating standoff between law enforcement and the robbers, police officials found themselves grappling with the puzzling strategies of the Professor, who appeared to be deliberately prolonging the siege to maintain his stronghold within the Bank of Spain. Despite the repeated attempts of peaceful negotiation with the robbers, it became increasingly evident to Raquel, the head inspector, that the robbers harbored ulterior motives beyond a simple bank robbery. Careful footage analysis of the initial interaction between the robbers and the police unveiled a startling revelation: the robbers' intentions were not focused on escaping with the money, but rather centered around a more elaborate agenda — the printing of their own currency.

This discovery, along with the various games of the professor, intensified the urgency and complexity of the police operation, as law enforcement scrambled to devise strategies that can effectively address this threat and bring on justice, while at the same time prioritizing the safety of hostages within the building. As tensions mounted and the stakes grew ever higher, the battle pushed both sides to their limits in a high-stakes game of cat and mouse.

With every pursuit of the police, the robbers deployed cunning tactics and emerged multiple steps ahead. In a daring move, Raquel devised a plan to infiltrate the building through a ventilation tunnel, sending two cops to infiltrate the building. However, their efforts had gone in vain when the robbers executed a strategic ruse, swapping the masks of all individuals, to guarantee the failure of Raquel's plan. This maneuver not only highlighted robbers' meticulous planning but also the highlighted their commitment to preserving the success of their plan which only added to the existing frustration of Raquel and the government in its entirety.

The police aren't even the only enemy of the crew. The hostages that they worked so hard to contain were able to escape by breaking through one of the vault doors. One of the main escapees,

Jacinto, told police everything he remembers about the inside of the mint. This includes the layout of their operation. The police currently know that the robbers are printing money however don't know any of the problems the team is experiencing like the printers running out of ink or the professor being missing. Additionally, during the escape, Jacinto assaults Oslo thus knocking him out.

The committee must prepare to devise more plans to hold off a police breach, as their position becomes more vulnerable by the second. A police breach would almost certainly end the Heist and potentially cost the committee their lives.



#### **Control Of Hostages**

While the robbers face their own set of challenges, the hostages also face their own crises. Following the heist, they have been locked inside of the Mint without any opportunities for a proper escape.

Despite the fact that they have been provided with proper resources such as food and medication, the psychological trauma faced by many of the hostages continues to haunt them. The Robbers also feel a need to control the hostages and make them their money printers, creating a gruesome work environment inside the mint.

Recently a group of 16 hostages, led by Security guard Jacinto, was able to escape through the basement of the Mint. Upon reaching the police, they provided them with key information on the heist as well as the identities of some of the robbers. In the aftermath of this escape, tensions between the two groups only escalated, as trust and cooperation was lost. The robbers enforced an even stricter policy on the hostages, which included forcing them into separate areas and locking the doors. They also had a plan for revenge for the perpetrator of the escape, who was discovered to be the mint's Director of operations- Arturo Roman.

Furthermore, tensions between the two groups worsened when gunshots were fired into the ceiling by the robbers When the Robbers first invaded the mint, they promised to play a clean game without much violence, however, this promise was not kept in the eyes of the hostages. These gunshots traumatized the hostages, who felt the need to make a decision on their stance about the hostages.

These events led to the hostages picking two sides, either siding with the robbers or fighting against them. A few members sided with the hostages out of fear, hoping that they were able to make it out alive by completing the tasks given to them. On the other hand, others believed to revolt and escape the trap they were stuck in.

Realizing their relationship with the hostages was in jeopardy, the robbers gave the hostages a choice: Money or Freedom. When the robbers ask the hostages if they would want their freedom or 1 million euros, some hostages choose freedom while others choose a million euros. The ones choosing a million euros are now also a part of the robbery and in this committee, however, all tensions between the hostages and robbers still have not been resolved.

#### **Questions to Consider**

- 1. How does the committee wish to proceed without the help of the Professor? Can he be trusted to return to helping the committee or must they plan a way out of the heist without the Professor?
- 2. With the Printing press temporarily broken, how can the committee compensate for the lost time and find the saboteur?
- 3. With a police breach imminent, how can the committee continue to buy time to both print money and execute their escape plan?
- 4. As the police close in on the real identities and plans of the robbers, what plans can the committee come up with to throw off the police investigation?
- 5. With tensions rising within the heist gang, should the power system amongst the robbers be restructured or kept as is?
- 6. While everyone on the committee chose to stay back to assist the heist in return for a share, not everyone is loyal to the Heist. How can the committee address further revolts and uprisings?
- 7. For those in the committee who are hostages, what plan of action should be taken regarding a potential second revolt in order to escape?

#### **Characters**

#### **Berlin (Head Robber)**

Berlin serves as the Professor's half-brother and the head of the operation, being the leader of the robbers present in the mint. Known for his strict discipline and gruesome tactics, Berlin is not fearful of violence and bloodshed being present in the robbery and would be willing to not obey the

Professor's orders if it meant success. Berlin's bold leadership skills allow him to be an authoritative force to the other robbers, commanding their respect to fulfill the overall goal. However, Berlin harbors a dark second life in which he suffers from a terminal illness and only has a few months to live.

#### Tokyo (Robber)

Serving as the narrator of the show, Tokyo is highlighted as the robber with the most emotions, whether it be anger or love. Following the death of her partner in a previous heist, she is recruited by the Professor for her cunning attitude and smart skills. She has the most fiery attitude out of all the robbers, enabling her to be intimidating yet also letting her temper get the best of her. Throughout her journey, her love for Rio serves as a complex barrier in a meticulous heist.

#### Moscow (Robber)

Being the oldest of all the robbers, Moscow serves as a "father figure" towards many of the robbers. He is also the biological father of Robber Denver. His career started with him digging mines, which helped him perfect his craft in the use of Industrial Tools. His skills allowed him to dig upwards for prized possessions. He specializes in the ability to excavate underground tunnels and serves as a key component in the robber's plan to escape. By being able to use mechanical tools, he is recruited to create a pathway for escape.

#### **Denver (Robber)**

Denver is the son of Moscow, who was recruited in the heist by his father to save himself from the troubles of the outside world. Like Tokyo, Denver has a fierce personality of intimidation and violence. He is often seen as one of the weak links in the group, serving no real skills besides being Moscow's son. However, Denver has shown loyalty to those he loves and a strong sense of morality. After Berlin orders Denver to execute hostage Monica Gatzambide for stealing a phone, he shoots her in the leg to fake her death, ultimately saving her life. In the past, he would constantly get into fights, showing his brutal attitude. However, his tough personality only serves his outside, as his empathy and love towards hostage Monica Gaztambide represent his inner emotions.

#### Rio (Robber)

Rio is the youngest of all the robbers, and this is shown through his childlike personality. Rio fell in love with fellow robber Tokyo, despite the Professor's strict ban on romantic relationships. He is the master of technology and is able to alter security cameras, computers, and other devices to help the heist to function. Rio's aptitude with technology makes him a valuable member of the team in any plans of escape. Despite his technical abilities, he can oftentimes make mistakes due to his youth, and sometimes believes that the heist is not as serious as it is. When trying to get a robber to take a plea deal, the police targeted Rio believing he was the weakest link. While Rio ultimately rejected the Plea offer, he was quoted telling Tokyo he considered taking it.

#### Nairobi (Robber)

Nairobi is a prideful leader, as she was willing to step up when the group decided that Berlin's actions went too far. Nairobi is seen as the heart of the robbery, with her emotional intelligence and connection to other robbers. While Nairobi is still trying to plan a perfect heist, she shows more empathy towards the hostages, and rather believes the money is the larger opportunity. She wants to

visit her son who is in Foster Care, and hopes that the money will allow her to do that.

#### Helsinki (Robber)

Helsinki was born in Serbia, where his family still lives. He was a soldier in the Yugoslav Wars with his cousin Oslo, where he developed both proficiency and knowledge of weapons. Helsinki cares deeply for the part of his family still in Serbia, and he sends whatever money he can to them. One would also have to describe him as nearly identical to Oslo.

#### Oslo (Robber)

Oslo was born in Serbia, where his family still lives. He was a soldier in the Yugoslav Wars with his cousin Helsinki, where he developed both proficiency and knowledge of weapons. Oslo cares deeply for the part of his family still in Serbia, and he sends whatever money he can to them. One would also have to describe him as nearly identical to Helsinki.

### Arturo Román (General Director of the Mint)

As General Director of the Royal Mint of Spain, Arturo (unaffectionately called "Arturito") is generally respected for his position. Some, however, know him for what he really is: a philanderer who takes advantage of his position to make advances on women working under him. Although he's only one of many hostages, many of the hostages are still willing to follow Román's lead given his position. His anger against the robbers is the greatest amongst the hostages after his mistress, Monica Gaztambide, fell in love with Denver.

## Mónica Gaztambide (Secretary of the Royal Mint of Spain)

Mónica is the secretary of the bank, giving her access to certain places in the bank which no one does. Right before the heist started, Mónica had a falling out with Arturo Román when he refused to acknowledge their affair after Mónica revealed she was pregnant. After Denver saved her life, Monica fell in love with him. She is now aiding the robbers

# Alison Parker (Daughter of the British Ambassador to Spain)

Alison Parker is key to the plan to rob the Royal Mint of Spain, since it's only her presence as a hostage that's stopping the police from entering the Mint. Her father is the ambassador to Spain from the U.K., which means she's lived a worldly life—though it hasn't cured her of her shyness. As the daughter of an ambassador, she carries great negotiation weight.

#### Julia Martínez (the ace)

Julia is the ace of the heist. She is on the robbers side but is disguised as one of the hostages and goes to the "bathroom" to inform the robbers of important developments. She is a close friend of Denver and her father is close with Moscow. Unfortunately, her usefulness is limited given that she failed to spoil the breakout plan of the hostages but has promised she will be more useful..

#### **Ariadna Cascales**

Ariadna is viewed as one of the quieter and innocent hostages who does not often speak out. Her innocence leads Berlin to take Ariadna under his wing, oftentimes spending lots of alone time with her and giving her key information. She is fearful of what Berlin may do, so she often listens and follows his sometimes impulsive orders. She believes that forming a romantic relationship with Berlin is her best chance of survival

#### Fransisco Torres (Master Printer)

Francisco is the Master Printer, giving him intimate knowledge of operating the printer. He is in support of the Robbers' cause, and believes that they are treating him in an Ethical Manner. He often sets the speed in which the money is printed, making him vital to the robbery.

#### Pablo Ruiz

Pablo Ruiz is one of the students from the school that was visiting the Mint. Being the captain of the Track team, he is the leader amongst many of the students visiting the Mint. Furthermore, he is recruited by Moscow in order to dig a hole underground for the robbers eventual escape.

#### **Mercedes Colomar**

Mercedes is the main teacher who was conducting the field trip inside of the Mint. She is known for being very supportive of her students, putting their interests over the robbers. She hopes the robbers can recognize the children as being innocent and wanting their release.

#### Miguel Russello

Miguel is the richest person present in the Mint, as he planned to have a meeting with Arturo about a specific business negotiation. He is almost a Billionaire, and his generational wealth leads robbers to consider him a key hostage. He proposes the robbers with large amounts of money in order for his freedom.

#### Salvador Iglesias

Salvador is one of the many janitors inside of the Mint, and is considered to not be a key hostage. However, being a janitor he knows many unknown places found in the Mint, which could be used as potential hiding spots. As well as this, he has access to many of the sewer systems in and around the bank, which may be key in the robbers escape plan.