

Dear delegates,

My name is Jordan Phillips and I am the Undersecretary General of the Specialized Agencies within the MeDMUN organization. I recently graduated with a degree in Education from Wayne State University and I am ecstatic to be running a Harry Potter simulation for MeDSeC II this year.

While I love all of the characters and the fantasy of the Harry Potter series, there are a number of parallels from the world that J.K Rowling created to our world today. This committee will be taking place before the time of Harry Potter, when darkness was spreading across the world as Voldemort rose to power for the first time. There are many themes that can be seen in both the wizarding world and in the international community-- such as terrorism, social inequity, political corruption, and bigotry, to name a few.

As you debate the threat of a wizarding war in this committee, keep in mind that many facets of the debate are analogous to events and attitudes we see today throughout the world.

I look forward to seeing how you address these issues in the wizarding world and I implore you to reflect on how these solutions and ideas can be applied to society today.

**Jordan Phillips**

Undersecretary General of the Specialized Agencies

# Assessing and Addressing the Threat of a Wizarding War

## Committee Information

This committee begins in 1970 in the wizarding universe set in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series. While the universe is the same, the events in the background guide and the events occurring in committee and crisis do not follow the Harry Potter storyline. This committee focuses on the situation occurring in the wizarding world at the onset of Voldemort's rise and reign of terror.

The Order of the Phoenix is a new organization that has only recently been established. This Order committee session, called by Albus Dumbledore, is occurring amidst the first indications of a wizarding war. It is of the utmost importance to note that the information provided in this background guide is up-to-date as of the commencement of the Order meeting. The information is provided as accurately as possible to reflect the current knowledge of the Order. Some of this information may be public knowledge and some of it may have been obtained in secret. Throughout this committee, please be conscious that you are remaining true to the information known at this time and not using information that has yet to be discovered on this timeline.

## The Current Situation

Lord Voldemort is persecuting Muggle-born wizards, attempting to take over the Ministry of Magic, and bring terror to the Muggle world. The Order of the Phoenix is working in secret to prevent this from occurring and to protect the Muggle and wizarding worlds. There is widespread panic and fear at the threat of Lord Voldemort.<sup>1</sup> The Ministry is scrambling with what to do and their response has been slow and minimal, despite a declaration of war against them. Death Eaters and other allies of Voldemort have begun to openly attack Muggles for sport. Muggles and wizards, alike, can feel the darkness descending.



### The Order of the Phoenix

The Order of the Phoenix was founded by Albus Dumbledore in 1970 to address the growing threat of Lord Voldemort and his Death Eaters. Many Aurors joined The Order because they wanted to combat the growing threat of Voldemort's power in a faster, more

direct way. Despite many members of the Order being of pure-blood, they are still targeted by Voldemort for being blood traitors. The Order is struggling to address the growing threat because recent reports indicate they are outnumbered 20 to 1. Thanks to proactive measures taken by Albus

<sup>1</sup> "First Wizarding War. *Harry Potter Wiki*, [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/First\\_Wizarding\\_War](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/First_Wizarding_War).

Dumbledore, a method of sending messages using the Patronus Charm was created so Order members could communicate covertly.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Ministry of Magic**

The Ministry is the main governing body of Great Britain's magical community and their purpose is to preserve magical law. The Ministry is headed by an elected Minister and has seven primary departments--The Department of Magical Law Enforcement, the Department of Magical Accidents and Catastrophes, the Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures, Department of International Magical Cooperation, Department of Magical Transportation, Department of Magical Games and Sports, and the Department of Mysteries.<sup>3</sup>

Recently, Voldemort proclaimed himself the Dark Lord and launched a full revolution against the Ministry. His intent is to overthrow the Ministry of Magic and create a new, pure-blood ran world order that enslaves Muggles. Multiple reports indicate that Death Eaters occupy crucial positions within the Ministry and they are currently using blackmail and the Imperius Curse to further their goals and destabilize the government.<sup>4</sup>

### **The Current Threat**

#### **Voldemort**

Voldemort goes by many names including Lord Voldemort, He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named, and the Dark Lord but he began his life with the name Tom Marvolo Riddle. He was born in 1926 to a bewitched Muggle father and a poor, disowned pure-blood mother. His maternal side is referred to as the House of Gaunt and is a pure-blood supremacist family known for generations of inbreeding. Riddle's mother died during childbirth resulting in his upbringing taking place in a Muggle orphanage. Before he even knew about his wizarding heritage, he was showing psychopathic tendencies. When he turned 11, Albus Dumbledore brought Tom Riddle into the wizarding world where he became a student at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and was sorted into Slytherin House. Riddle became a brilliant student, rose to become Head Boy, and was considered very charming and charismatic. He used this charm to surround himself with a group of pure-blooded Slytherin boys, his first followers.<sup>5</sup>



Riddle continued to excel at Hogwarts and when he graduated, he asked for the position of professor for Defense Against the Dark Arts. He was denied on the basis of being too young for the position and was invited to reapply in a few years. Riddle traveled for a short time and upon his return to Britain, he began working at an antique shop, Borgin and Burkes, despite multiple job offers within the Ministry of Magic.

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<sup>2</sup> "Order of the Phoenix." *Harry Potter Wiki*, [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Order\\_of\\_the\\_Phoenix](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Order_of_the_Phoenix).

<sup>3</sup> "British Ministry of Magic." *Harry Potter Wiki*, [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/British\\_Ministry\\_of\\_Magic](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/British_Ministry_of_Magic).

<sup>4</sup> "Tom Riddle." *Harry Potter Wiki*, [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Tom\\_Riddle](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Tom_Riddle).

<sup>5</sup> "Death Eaters." *Harry Potter Wiki*, [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Death\\_Eaters](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Death_Eaters).

At this point, Riddle went off the grid for ten years and was rumored to be out of the country. When he finally reemerged, he solely went by Voldemort, his appearance was distorted and he had a gathering of dark witches and wizards--Death Eaters--following him. Since his reappearance, Voldemort has been tormenting muggle and wizard communities. Order reports indicate that he has used all three Unforgivable Curses and is very dangerous.<sup>6</sup>

### **Death Eaters**

The group, now known as Death Eaters, has been around since Voldemort was a student at Hogwarts. Originally, this group was a gang of Slytherin students who did Riddle's bidding by often participating in nasty incidents that usually targeted Muggle-born students. They have been dubbed his inner circle and his most trusted followers. These individuals are pure-blood supremacists and their goals include exposing magic and taking over the world instead of letting Muggles rule



themselves, purifying the Wizarding race by killing Muggles, Muggle-borns, and blood traitors. They wear dark robes and masks so they cannot be identified and practice the Dark Acts with no regard to consequence or the law.

It has been rumored that Voldemort can summon his Death Eaters by pressing his wand on a tattoo they all share and in other ways. At this time, it is not known exactly what those ways include or who has these tattoos. Additionally, it is speculated that this group severely outnumbers the size of the Order of the Phoenix. Similarly, there are multiple claims that many wealthy wizards or high-class Ministry officials are members of this group. Some of his notable followers include the fanatically loyal Barty Crouch Jr. and Bellatrix Lestrange. Also, members of the Death Eaters who eagerly promote pure-blood supremacy

include Lucius Malfoy and Regulus Black.<sup>7</sup>

### **Magical Creatures**

With Voldemort's revolts against the Ministry beginning, it is speculated that he is interested in recruiting outcast beings and creatures to join his ranks. Some of the major groups he has his eyes on include giants, werewolves, and goblins. There are extreme concerns that he will grow more powerful and dangerous if these beings join his ranks.

#### *Giants*

Giants are slightly less intelligent than humans. They are usually around 20-25 feet tall and are fond of magic when it isn't being used against them. They are known for having extremely short patience and often resort to simplifying matters by violence instead of settling disputes verbally. Giants are incredibly



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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

dangerous because they have overwhelmingly strong and most spells have little to no effect on them. Reports show that Giants have allied with Voldemort and may begin to target Muggle communities to incite terror and death.<sup>8</sup>



### *Werewolves*

Werewolves are humans that become werewolves during the full moon. Werewolves can't choose whether or not to transform and they lose all sense of who they are. Werewolves target humans almost exclusively and are often perceived with fear and disgust. Due to oppression and discrimination that werewolves face, many openly hate the wizarding world and have created their own society that is working to infect as many people as possible to one day take over the wizarding world.<sup>9</sup>

### *Goblins*

Goblins are extremely intelligent and coexist with the wizard world. They have their own type of magic and do not need wands. Goblins are known for their financial skills so they control the wizarding economy to a large extent. They are considered inferior by many wizards.<sup>10</sup>

## Questions to consider

How can the Order prevent the rise of Voldemort and his followers?

Is there a way to best protect Muggles without risking revealing magic?

Can the Order, and the wizarding world, rely on the Ministry to combat Voldemort?

How can anyone be sure of who to trust?

What will happen if Voldemort's movement gains momentum in the wizarding community?

How can we protect the secrecy of magic?

What would the impact be of magical creatures allying with Voldemort?

## Glossary

Muggle--a non-magic person

Muggle-born--a witch or wizard who was born to Muggle parents; did not become a part of the wizarding community until they were older

Blood traitor--term used by Voldemort's followers to describe witches and wizards who sympathized with the Muggle community

Unforgivable Curses--Imperius (control curse), Cruciatius (excruciating pain curse), Avada Kedavra (killing curse)

Auror--works for the Ministry of Magic's Law Enforcement Department; dark wizard catcher

<sup>8</sup> "Giant." *Harry Potter Wiki*, <https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Giant>.

<sup>9</sup> "Werewolf." *Harry Potter Wiki*, <https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Werewolf>.

<sup>10</sup> "Goblin." *Harry Potter Wiki*, <https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Goblin>.