

Closer Ties

By Kathy Liu



United States Ambassador in China, Terry Branstad, giving an opening speech to the delegates

The United States has undergone a series of dramatic foreign policy changes in the last three years. The Trump administration has made a concerted effort to garner public support for America First international trade policies and the strengthening of immigration and border controls. There are certain issues, however, that have not mustered the same amount of media attention but are especially important in shaping the contours of America's complex relationship with China. For U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad, four priority issues stand out:

1. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula
2. Intellectual theft and technology sharing
3. Chinese exports of Fentanyl (synthetic opioids that have led to a surge in U.S. drug-related deaths)
4. Rights issues

As Ambassador, Branstad is closely involved in American policy making decisions surrounding these issues. The International School of Beijing had the honor of hosting him for a brief talk on Friday when he shared his thoughts and took questions from delegates eager to learn from someone with a front row perspective to history.

“Watching second-graders jump around on pogo sticks and try not to run into each other reminded me a little about diplomacy.”

Addressing conference themes of sovereignty, security, and globalization, the Ambassador began with an anecdote regarding his previous visit to the

International School of Beijing where he witnessed a group of children performing on stage. “Watching second-graders jump around on pogo sticks and try not to run into each other reminded me a little about diplomacy,” he said, drawing laughter from the audience. He compared this scene to the political arena in which he and other world leaders operate, and emphasized the importance of the issues being discussed in committee. He commended conference participants for their willingness to engage these complex issues through Model United Nations.

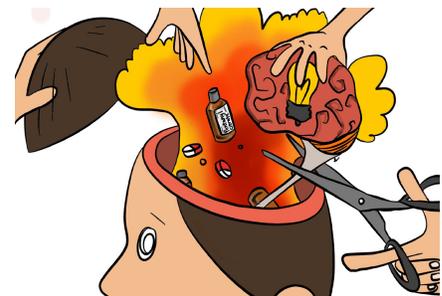
Delegates had the opportunity to ask Ambassador Branstad questions which covered a range of topics from the United States alignment with the United Nations’ goal of globalization to the projected status of Sino-US relationships over the next ten years. When asked about how, and whether, the United States’ new “America First” policy and growing nationalism aligned with the BEIMUN and UN goal of “globalization and interconnectedness”, the Ambassador detailed new trade agreements that will hopefully rectify what he sees as the unfair “technology sharing and intellectual theft” that has occurred over the past decade due to “America being taken advantage of” as a result of American failure to impose tariffs when there was precedent to do so. He also expressed his hope that Congress will ratify the new USMCA trade deal signed in November 2018. President Trump has described the deal as “one of the most important, and largest, Trade Deals in U.S. and World History”

In response to a question about the effectiveness of President Trump’s tariffs in light of the U.S.’s record \$800 billion -plus trade deficit in 2018, Ambassador Branstad shared his beliefs that new tariffs - despite their role in increasing deficits - have



been successful because they have “finally brought China to the bargaining table for serious discussion.” The Ambassador continued by briefly detailing the shortcomings of previous trade deals and voiced his optimism about a future trade deal being negotiated by Vice Premier Liu He of China and his American counterparts, United States Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin. The ambassador was hopeful that they would be able to put an end to intellectual theft and stymie the flow of Fentanyl between the US and China which American representatives see as being illegal.

Despite the role trade has played in escalating tensions between China and the US, Ambassador Branstad remained optimistic about the future, calling Chairman Xi Jinping a “friend” - having met him in the 1980s when Chairman Xi visited Iowa - and sharing his hopes of continued cultural exchange between the two countries. He stated that the United States “doesn’t want to contain China, [they] want China to continue to grow,” but the Ambassador reiterated the importance of respecting international agreements concerning technology transfer and intellectual property rights. Ambassador Branstad remains committed to fostering a harmonious and productive relationship between the US and China for years to come, and is hopeful that the leaders of tomorrow will discuss these issues with grace, tact, and urgency.



Intellectual property theft

Tom Henderschedt

By William Zhou

It was three o' clock and delegates filled the seats in the front half of the theater, waiting eagerly. Everyone was fatigued from a long, drawn-out day of ceaseless lobbying, writing, and in some cases, debating. Their fatigue, however, did not quell their excitement for their guest speaker – Mr. Thomas Henderschedt.

Mr. Henderschedt, Naval Attaché to the US Embassy in Beijing, returned to the BEIMUN conference for a second consecutive year to speak with General Assembly One and the Disarmament Commission. Initially expecting another disarmament speech, delegates were surprised, and intrigued, when Mr. Henderschedt shared an anecdote about serving in the navy. Mr. Henderschedt, since a young age, dreamed of joining the navy to pursue “something big.” Upon entering, he was told to “focus on China,” which set the stage for the rest of his career, as well as his speech to the delegates.

While the discussion initially revolved around disarmament, the speech predominantly focused on International Maritime Law. Mr. Henderschedt described how inter-state disputes arise due to their respective exclusive economic zones – sea territory where a state's government has special rights regarding scientific research and the area's marine resources. International Maritime Law provides two hundred nautical miles of territorial sea from their shoreline; however, when these borders overlap, the likelihood of conflict increases. This is the case with the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait. Mr. Henderschedt emphasized that to avert naval conflict, it is imperative for countries to reach a consensus regarding international law on sea borders and passage of commercial and military vessels between states.

Furthermore, Mr. Henderschedt spoke on biochemical weapons and private military companies (PMC). Citing the Black Water incident, when private military contractors fired upon and killed civilians in Baghdad in 2007, Mr. Henderschedt discussed how PMC's do not abide by the Law of Armed Conflict, making them dangerously unpredictable. Similarly, the relative accessibility of biochemical weapons, otherwise known as “poor man's



Thomas Henderschedt, Naval Attaché to the US Embassy in Beijing, giving speech to the General Assembly One
(Photo from XXV BEIMUN 2018)

nuclear weapons,” have the capacity to be alarmingly destructive.

Mr. Henderschedt concluded by stating, “I believe I have the best job in the world.” By observing

military and economic development of different countries around the world, especially China and the US, he believes that by passing non-proliferation acts, we can achieve peace and security globally.

TRYM OUST SONSTAD

By Frank Cui

As delegates from the General Assembly gathered to merge clauses, Mr. Trym Oust Sonstad, the Second Secretary at the political section of the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Beijing, stood before the General Assembly to speak about the UN's *raison d'être*, its emphasis on formality and its unsung merits given its historical context.

Mr. Sonstad studied Political Sociology at the London School of Economics and was a part of the Norwegian permanent mission to the UN for six years. He is well-experienced in the diplomatic negotiations of the UN and understands the essential “multilateral world order” central to UN's founding principles. Inviting the delegates to consider the negative perception of UN failures, Mr. Sonstad quoted the third Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld:

“The UN was not created to bring us to heaven, but to save us from hell.” He stresses that while the UN rarely receives credit for its success in averting conflict, it will always be lambasted for its failures. “No news is good news,” and such a feat is difficult in a room of “hungry, angry and sometimes hangry men,” some of whom are not pleased to have “the ash trays replaced with phone chargers.”

Mr. Sonstad raised two personal examples to demonstrate the success of tactful diplomacy. The first, the millennium development goals, has eight goals in total, many of which are somewhat vague. The second, the sustainable development goal, has 17 goals in total which Mr. Sonstad has personally helped to negotiate. It is an example of successful diplomacy where details are not sacrificed for consen-

sus, allowed by painstaking formality.

In addition, the UN is often misconceived as a single entity, when in actuality it is an assembly of 159 countries. While some dislike the UN's “over-formality,” he said mutual respect of formality helps avert conflict when disagreement is the norm. “There is a certain beauty and art to [the formality],” asserted Mr. Sonstad, albeit at a cost to speedy decision-making.

Mr. Sonstad conceded that there is great difficulty in international diplomacy, but the UN exists to rise to these challenges. “Each step is a small step, yet in the long run, it is a big leap” — quoting again from Dag Hammarskjöld. Mr. Sonstad concluded his speech by inviting the delegates to seek a diplomatic career in the UN.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PROFILES



(Top Left to right) Deputy Secretary General *Leo Cheng*, Secretary General *Samuel Soh*, Secretary General *Victoria Seo*, Deputy Secretary General *Andrew Liu* and Deputy Secretary General *Minhye Kwon*

By Isa Pan

Secretary General: Victoria Seo

My role in BEIMUN XXVI focuses on organizing the guests and performances for our conference. I have been in MUN since 10th grade. Small conferences like BEIMUN-Y helped me develop skills for this role, but I think being responsible in general is very important. Although you can't control everything, it is important to remember that simple mistakes can have unexpected consequences. Planning is important.

I was not very interested in applying for Secretary General prior to BEIMUN 2018. However, during that conference, I had an amazing experience chairing and facilitating debates in my committee. Inspired, I wanted to run the conference so that I could help contribute and improve the BEIMUN experience for others. This year's BEIMUN is very well organized, but I admit there could have been more detailed planning to make the conferences run smoother. I think that reflection is key to making improvements next year. With the change of MUN directors next year, I hope that the tradition of BEIMUN can be passed on smoothly.

Secretary General: Samuel Soh

This is my third BEIMUN conference. I joined MUN in seventh grade at my previous school. My biggest hope is that people will genuinely enjoy this conference and get something out of it. As I mentioned during the opening ceremony, I think a major problem is that people our age do not recognize the importance of some global issues. They talk about statistics and crack jokes about serious matters that should not be laughed about. Something that they

should get out of this conference is that they should genuinely care about genuine issues.

Next year, everything is changing. We are overhauling the PR. Every ten years or so, we create some major changes; there is a now a 200-page handbook because we want to ensure that all the information is ready for next year's group.

Deputy Secretary General: Leo Cheng

My role in BEIMUN this year is coordinating with BEIWATCH, admins, and the guest speakers. I was attracted to this club because it seemed very prestigious. There were around a hundred members when I first joined, though that has changed due to the increasing number of extracurricular clubs at ISB. Nevertheless, I am truly inspired by the guest speakers at this year's conference, particularly Mr. Matthew Yamatin, who is also ISB's sustainability coordinator who has already made multiple changes to make ISB more sustainable (including making ISB plastic straw-free).

I am impressed by everyone's level of dedication and responsibility this year; they are the reason why the conference is proceeding very smoothly. Nevertheless, I am hoping that there will be more opportunities for delegates coming from different communities to interact with each other.

Deputy Secretary General: Andrew Liu

As an executive student officer, I help plan out the logistics of the conference and coordinate with relevant parties to make sure everything is set up and runs smoothly. I am also responsible for the technological aspects of the conference. I joined MUN in

seventh grade, and this is my third BEIMUN conference.

BEIMUN has been an outstanding medium for cultivating empathy, helping me realize that the welfare of the world is everyone's responsibility. I look forward to using this opportunity as an executive student leader to help offer other delegates an equally rewarding experience. I think we can eventually expand our reach to incorporate more schools from different countries around the world to cultivate greater diversity. BEIMUN will continue to inspire delegates for generations to come, teaching young minds the qualities of being global-minded, empathetic towards other point of views, and effective communication.

Deputy Secretary General: Minhye Kwon

As a Deputy Secretary General, I was mainly tasked with conference setup this year. I have been involved in MUN for five years now. Prior to BEIMUN, I helped organize smaller conferences such as BEIMUN-Y and miniMUN at ISB. I gained insight into the work behind organizing a conference; I am now prepared to face the never-ending to-do lists.

BEIMUN is a conference hosted by our school, so I want to ensure the conference runs as smooth as possible. Running around the school, I keep thinking "we should have done this!" or "we should do that next year!" As always, I think reflecting on possible improvements is how we can organize a better conference next year. I hope that we can have a smooth transition period with Director Maloney in organizing BEIMUN 2020. I hope the BEIMUN conference can continue to inspire its participants, just as it has inspired me.

COMMITTEE RECAP

ECOSOC
By Sally Kim



Emma Liu, Deputy Assistant President from International School of Beijing (ECOSOC)

On a tense Saturday afternoon, the delegates representing nations from all over the world assembled to debate, discuss and hopefully resolve pressing issues of the world. IN BEIMUN XXV's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) debate, the delegates were eagerly raising their placards to propose their resolutions on the issues of debt problems of developing countries, speculation of cryptocurrency, and questions on the role of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Followed by Friday's fruitful debate on a resolution submitted by the delegate of India, Nick Tadych, all delegates had chances to share their views. Tadych once again rose to the podium and argued that "the cryptocurrency has never gone down," and people already have lost money. He added that the resolution, which claims to track the cryptocurrency, will not solve the issue but only worsen it. His controversial speech had encouraged many to wave their placards in the air, once again beginning an insightful debate on the speculation of cryptocurrency.

Emma Liu, the Deputy Assistant President, believes that their committee has been "displaying passion towards all topics throughout yesterday and today's debate," and wishes to see more through the next few days. She particularly pointed out Ellen Thomas, the delegate of Cote d'Ivoire, for her remarkable speaking skills, economics knowledge, and diplomatic manners.



Nick Tadych, Delegate of India (ECOSOC)

GA 2
By William Zhou

Over the past two decades, the world's top economic powerhouses have seen rapid socioeconomic progress. Such development has pushed scientific research to new frontiers. For countries such as the US and China, access to basic human necessities—healthcare, food, water—are taken for granted by many of its citizens. However, in third world countries, a stark contrast and seemingly separate reality exists. In war-torn, underdeveloped countries, civilians often find themselves struggling to survive day to day. The second committee of the General Assembly (GA2) exists to address this issue – to bridge the widening socioeconomic gap between nations.

Following a productive first day of lobbying and passing resolutions, GA2 commenced their second day of BEIMUN XXVI by listening to guest speaker RJ Simonds address on the issues of universal healthcare and health coverage. While Mr. Simonds discussed recent Ebola outbreaks in West Africa, he put forth the idea that countries, developed or underdeveloped, continually face the threat of disease. As evidenced by the 'anti-vaccination' controversy, previously eradicated diseases such as measles have seen re-emergence.

In vehement discussions and debates that will be led by Xia Yi Qing, President of GA2; Sang Young Lee, Assistant President of GA2; and Daniel Choi, Deputy Assistant President of GA2, the delegates prepare their resolutions focusing on alleviating poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and measures to improve regulation of mosquito-borne diseases in South America.



Guest Speaker RJ Simonds, country director in China of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, talking about disease predictions

GA 5
By Sally Kim

As one of the main committees of the United Nations, the fifth committee of the General Assembly (GA5) promotes coherent development in administrative and budgetary affairs. BEIMUN's GA5 debated issues on elimination the global wage gap, establishment of framework against corruption in Economically Less Developed Countries (ELDCs), and protection of the rights to access of information in the Korean Peninsula.



Clarence Lee from Sha Tin College, representing Bangladesh (GA5)

Following a successful day of lobbying and debating, the delegates continued to pass resolutions and discuss these issues. They were actively engaged in the debate, all vigorously raising their placards to take the floor.

Yasmin Ho, the delegate of Angola, strongly refuted the resolution submitted by Clarence Lee, the delegate of Bangladesh. Lee's resolution primarily aimed to establish framework against corruption in ELDCs by educating students in school. Ho emphasized the importance of sovereignty in each nation, thus arguing that the countries were not obliged to ratify a new legally binding framework. She also stated that "the target audience of the education system was purely incorrect," as there are insufficient educational facilities in most ELDCs. Instead, she recommended educating the public with community-friendly conferences that could inform about corruption.

Though there were many conflicting opinions, the delegates were all discussing the issues of corruption in ELDCs with motivation. Despite these continued efforts, the resolution didn't pass, as most delegates considered the resolution to be excessively centered on minor issues.



Noah Murray, Delegate of Mexico from International School of Beijing (GA2)

COMMITTEE RECAP (CONTINUED)

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION

By Hyoree Kim

Prior to Saturday, heated conversations could be heard through the walls of the Disarmament Commission's conference room as delegates researched, lobbied, and debated actively. They gathered in small groups, all proactively contributing to form ideas and reach a consensus as to how the world could effectively tackle issues concerning the reduction of weapons. Delegates voiced their strong opinions concerning the security and safety of the world around us. Their passion and determination was both visible and palpable. It could be seen on the faces of participants and felt in moments of intentional debate and meaningful discussion.

Led by Davy Zeng, President of the Disarmament Commission; Jennifer Oh, Assistant President; and Yoon Hur, Deputy Assistant President; delegates of the committee had a successful day of lobbying and debating. Followed by the discussion with Mr. Thomas Henderschedt, Naval Attaché to the US Embassy in Beijing who spoke as a guest speaker, delegates passionately debated the issues of mitigating tensions in the Taiwan strait, combatting maritime piracy in the Gulf of Aden, and addressing issues related to the use of biochemical weapons.



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION 2

By Hyoree Kim

On the second day of this year's BEIMUN conference, the delegates of the Environmental Commission sub-commission two convened to discuss pressing environmental issues, exhilarated with confidence in their resolutions. Voices filled with laughter can be heard from the conference rooms, and it once again reminds us that BEIMUN has always been a time for a passionate and heated debate that generates life-long connections and friendships.

Delegates gathered in small groups to proactively contribute to form ideas to approach these topics effectively. Inspired by Mr. Matthew Yamatin, the guest speaker Friday who spoke about the impact of climate change and recycling, the delegates are looking forward to working together to form resolutions that tackle sustainability issues.

After a successful day of lobbying, the delegates commenced passing resolutions that could combat their three main concerns: rapid deforestation in the Amazons, sustainable development of agriculture in Economically Less Developed Countries (ELDCs), and illegal poaching of endangered species in Africa. Delegates from various countries had clashed over measures that could resolve the problems, having a heated debate on multiple issues. Evelyn Li, Assistant President of Environmental Commission sub-commission two; Ishita Pillai, Deputy Assistant President; and Sunggyeom Rain Kim, Deputy Assistant President; look forward to hearing the eloquent speeches of their delegates after seeing the variety of takes on possible resolutions yesterday.



(Left to right) Student Officers of the Environment Commission 2: Deputy Assistant President Ishita Pillai, Assistant President Evelyn Li, Deputy Assistant President Sunggyeom Rain Kim

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 2

By Isa Pan

Following the rousing speeches of Mr. Trym Oust Sonstad, Ambassador Terry Branstad, and Mr. Thomas Henderschedt, the second sub-commission of Human Rights Commission diligently researched, lobbied, and debated on gender-based global crises, emphatically asserting opinions on the improvement of equal access to healthcare as well as the support and reintegration of victims of sexual crime and gender-based violence. Despite returning from a bustling first day of heated debates and discussions, delegates of HRC sub-commission two, led by Andie Kim, Assistant President, and Annie Kim and Karen Chen, Deputy Assistant Presidents of the committee, continued to engage diplomatically in critical discussions regarding gender-abuse issues in the Middle East and India.

The discourse in HRC sub-commission one on Friday appeared to center around the logistics of cyber sovereignty and internet freedom in relation to addressing human-rights issues in the politically insecure regions of Myanmar, North Korea, and terrorist-plagued regions of Europe. Contrarily, the second sub-commission demonstrated emphasis on the inequalities in the Middle East, where the female labor force participation rate is at a global low. Suggested strides to achieving the goals of reintegrating the sexually-abused included the increase in aid agencies, especially in conflicted areas as this is where sexual assault is the most prevalent, including the availability and viability of hospitals which offer medical and psychological help to the victims, and education of the public of the consequences of unprotected sex.

TEL AVIV TARGETED ONCE AGAIN

By Harry Xiao

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the longest-running global disputes, with political tensions showing no sign of abating any time soon. On March 14th, two long-range rockets were fired from Gaza towards Tel Aviv, one of Israel's largest cities, in the first such attack since the war between Israel and Hamas in 2014. For the first time in nearly five years, red alert sirens sounded throughout the city, indicating an imminent attack and that citizens should find cover. Tel Aviv has opened bomb shelters for citizens to seek protection, and the Israeli military stated that its missile defense system, the Iron Dome, was deployed to intercept the rockets. Rocket strikes from Gaza are not new, as hundreds of projectiles have

been fired into the surrounding region, but rarely is Tel Aviv targeted.

Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamist fundamentalist organization that is the de facto leader of the Gaza Strip and is widely considered a terrorist organization. It has fought several conflicts against Israel.

Although no casualties or property damage was reported after the attack, the Israeli government responded with force. In retaliation, Israel has reportedly struck about one hundred Hamas targets in Gaza, such as an underground rocket factory, a training facility, and a logistics headquarters, using fighter jets, attack helicopters, and other aircraft.

No fatalities were reported in Gaza, but in response to the strikes, Gaza militants launched nine short-range missiles into Israel, with no casualties having been reported.

The spokesman for Islamic Jihad, Dawood Shebab, mentioned that militant Palestinian forces were willing to restore calm as long as Israel was committed as well. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad is a nationalist organization that violently opposes the existence of Israel and is also considered a terrorist organization that attacks Israeli citizens and military personnel. This is a sign that both sides are looking to avoid further escalating tensions in the region.

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NEW ZEALAND MOURNS FOLLOWING WORST MASS SHOOTING

By Evelyn Chen



On what Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern labelled "one of New Zealand's darkest days," 49 people were killed in shootings at two mosques in the city of Christchurch. The shooting was the worst act of violence in the country in nearly three decades.

On March 14, 2019, at 12:50 am, at the time of Friday noon prayer, two shootings took place at two separate mosques in the city, one at Masjid Al Noor

mosque on Deans Avenue that resulted in 40 fatalities, followed by another at Masjid Mosque on Linwood Avenue, where nine worshippers were killed. Officers first responded to reports of shots fired in central Christchurch at about 1:10 pm local time, and after 13 minutes four suspects were taken into custody. Police said they also defused a number of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) found on vehi-

cles after the shootings. Around 48 wounded victims were treated in Christchurch Hospital, with injuries ranging from minor to critical.

"What has happened here is an extraordinary and unprecedented act of violence," the prime minister said in New Plymouth on Friday afternoon, describing the shooting as "an act that has absolutely no place in New Zealand." Ardern pressed that New Zealand embodies "diversity and compassion, a home for those who share our values, a refuge for those who need it. And those values will not and cannot be shaken by this attack." At the same conference, Ardern also vowed to tighten gun regulation.

On Saturday morning, twenty-eight-year-old Brenton Harrison Tarrant appeared in court charged with murder. Wearing handcuffs and a white shirt, the Australian-born former fitness instructor and self-professed fascist sat impassively as the judge read the charges against him. Mr. Tarrant allegedly published a racist manifesto on social media before the attack, featuring conspiracy theories regarding Europeans being displaced by refugees as well as details of two years of preparation and radicalization leading up to the shootings.

The shootings prompted Iman Abouta of Tell MAMA, a British organization that supports victims of anti-Muslim prejudice, to say: "Anti-Muslim hatred is fast becoming a global issue and a binding factor for extremist far right groups and individuals. It is a threat that needs to be taken seriously."

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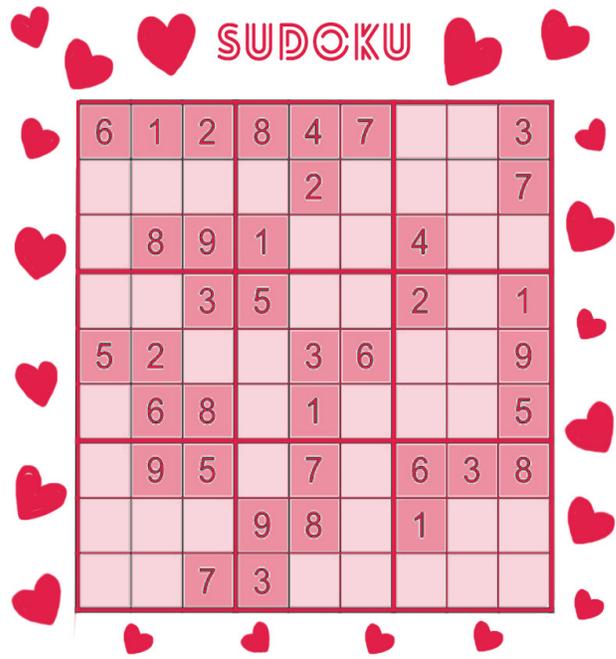
WORD SEARCH

D E H M T B Y L U D M D J Y O
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| BEIWATCH | DELEGATE | MULTICULTURAL |
| BREXIT | DISARMAMENT | SCANDAL |
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