CONWAY — The shaggyhaired delegates stood when the secretary-general entered the United Nations Security Council chamber to give a briefing on an international crisis.

A mock terrorist attack in a hotel in Jakarta had killed more than 500 people - including diplomats from China and Russia. The secretary-general, University of Central Arkansas senior Tim Hurley, offered his sympathies to the countries involved and promised rapid aid.

"We hope that the member states who are affected by this terrorist attack would please exercise restraint in their response to this action," Hurley said Saturday at the 42nd annual Arkansas Model United Nations conference at UCA. "We hope that the delegates here will act in good-faith diplomatic efforts to help resolve this conflict quickly."

Council members applauded and returned to their work at the two-day conference coordinated by UCA's Department of Political Science.

Hurley and other college students from Hendrix College, University of Arkansas at Little Rock and UCA presided as Model UN officers over some 400 high school students from Arkansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Mississippi.

The delegates participated in simulated debates of topics including the crisis in Sudan, children infected with HIV/AIDS and reformation of the global monetary system.

The security council delegates were crafting a resolution in response to the mock attack, but first they had to come to agreement. That involved convincing others to consider their nations' positions, which they had studied for months.

"In reference to what the secretary-general said, we should not be fighting amongst ourselves," said the delegate from Ghana, Brandon Cuilty of Russellville High School. "We need to focus on terrorist factions because they are the enemy."

Complicating the response were accusations that the Russian Federation didn't prevent the proliferation of its nuclear materials including the "dirty bomb" used in the terrorist attack. Also, Chinese delegates wanted to impose economic sanctions on Indonesia.

"Russia would like to remind the committee that there is no proof that any of this material has even come from Russia," said John Banks of West Fork High School, the delegate from Russia.

"To reflect on what the secretary-general said, the nations involved should keep a cool head, so to speak," the Indonesian delegate, Jim McCormack of Valley View High School in Jonesboro, said. "The sanctions that China is threatening my nation with are very irrational."

The Ghanian delegate reminded the committee that no one blamed the United States for the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, so the attack in Indonesia should not be blamed on that country.

"Italy would like to remind the council that imposing economic sanctions on any country, especially one with an active terrorist cell, could actually increase the likelihood that another terrorist act could occur," said the Italian delegate, Jack DeLoach of Little Rock Central High School. "It limits the governments' ability to fight terrorism when they don't have enough money to do so."
The Indonesian delegate agreed, then sat down after forgetting his train of thought.

The Chinese delegate, Keyana Sandridge of Little Rock’s Parkview Magnet High School, disagreed. Economic sanctions would limit the flow of money and weapons to terrorist cells within the nation.

“The U.S. would like to remind China that we have to look at this through the terrorists’ eyes,” said the delegate from the United States of America, Walt Wright of Greenwood High School. “They want the international community to start attacking each other. By imposing meaningless sanctions on innocent countries such as Indonesia, who have been victimized by these terrorist organizations, we would only be facilitating the problem.”

The delegates moved to a fiveminute unmoderated caucus to hash out the final clauses of the resolution.

They huddled around the laptop of the Kingdom of Belgium’s delegate, Justin Kits of Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa.

There was a sense of urgency as the lunch break approached.

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