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REVIEW OF THE WORKING MODULE III DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE

Lecturers under WM III: dr. Spencer Mawby, dr. Svjetlan Berković, mr. Richard Linning, ms. Irena Zubčević, prof. Nenad Prelog, dr. Stanko Nick, mr. Theo Postma, sir Stanley Martin, dr. Mario Nobilo i dr. Raymon Saner

The last of the Working Modules included lectures, seminars and simulation workshops related to diplomatic history, role of the media in regard to the diplomatic practice, diplomatic protocol, role of ambassador and leadership and management in diplomacy.

Simulation workshop on Skills for Multilateral Diplomacy, which originally was planned to be a part of Module II, was also included in Module III, due to certain organisational problems.

At the beginning of Module III, students were given CVs of the lecturers and outlines of their presentations, which were found to be helpful in attending the substance of the lectures.

Monday, 10 September 2001

1. Dr. Spencer Mawby - lecture I "International History since 1945"

The first lecture dealt with the development of international relations since World War II (emergence of nation states in Asia, Cold War, emergence of US dominated economic system, the processes of European retreat and American advance on the global political scene, Non-alignment movement, «the new world disorder», Fukuyama thesis, future of the African continent.

Though the content as well as the analysis of the aforementioned were highly stimulating, the style of the lecturer contributed to the prevailing lack of interest for the lecture and the discussion that followed which affected the level of participation in the second half of the lecture.

2. Dr. Svjetlan Berković - lecture on "Diplomatic and Consular Law".

The lecture dealt with the origins of international law, its codification and legislation, types of diplomatic relations and missions, diplomatic privileges and immunities and gave insight to the every day business activity of the diplomatic service and various issues encountered in the process.

3. Mr. Richard Linning and Mrs. Irena Zubčević – simulation workshop on "Diplomacy and Media".

The students were divided into separate groups, which individually discussed the issue of diplomacy and media. At a later stage, the groups were reunited to cross-reference the issues; the students simulated interviews with ambassadors emerging from a «real-life situation», creating and delivering press releases. The simulations were video taped and later discussed.

Highly interesting and stimulating workshop that could have consisted of only one particular simulation rather than two; the attention of the participants in the second simulation somewhat decreased, which affected the final outcome.

Tuesday, 11 September 2001

4. Proffesor Nenad Prelog – lecture on «Information and Communication Technology in Diplomacy».

The lecture dealt with the influence of new ways of communication and technologies on diplomatic practice, eventual changes in diplomatic practice due to the technological development, as well as the use of new technologies in diplomacy with the aim of improving its efficiency. A phenomenon of E-diplomacy was discussed and how it could facilitate the traditional notion of a diplomatic service.

This, what was apparently intended to be a multi-media presentation of the subject, gave away a highly technical aspect that could have hardly been related to the original subject. Preferably, the audience could have been provided with an elaborate insight into a direct connection of diplomacy AND the technological advances, which was briefly tackled at the very end of the second part of the lecture.

5. Dr. Spencer Mawby - lecture II: "Current Issues in World Politics".

The second lesson mainly dealt with Hungtinton's theory, difference between nations and cultures, different concepts of security.

The outcome of the first lecture influenced the interest of the participants in the second lecture. The attention of the participants could have been raised by, for instance, advanced use of various technological means (e.g. PowerPoint presentation) that would assist in keeping the interest of the participants. However, the discussion initiated afterwards proved to have been more intense than at the first lecture due to the interesting subject.

6. Dr. Stanko Nick - lecture on "Role of Ambassador".

Lecture dealt with qualities an ambassador should have, his position and role in Foreign Service and duties in performing his/her function.

Highly structured and organized lecture that caught the interest of the participants and initiated a discussion afterwards.

Wednesday, 12 September 2001

7. Mr. Theo Postma – simulation workshop I on "Skills for Multilateral Negotiations".

After an introduction, four levels of analysis were presented that are used in regard to negotiations; students were divided into pairs of two and were given tasks where distributive and integrative negotiations were simulated.

An excellent workshop that had an equivalent combination of both theory and practice; not a traditional ex cathedra lecture. The interest and the enthusiasm of the lecturer himself were transmitted to the participants who were additionally stimulated to take an active part in all the simulations provided. Extremely useful for the future work of participants and conduct of the negotiations.

8. Sir Stanley Martin – lecture on "Diplomatic Protocol: Past, Present and Future".

The lecture dealt with the history of diplomatic protocol, protocol ceremonial and its changing nature, different examples from the practice, privileges and immunities, as well as possible future changes dependant on the future of the nation state itself.

Thursday, 13 September 2001

9. Mr. Theo Postma – simulation work shop II on "Skills for Multilateral Negotiations".

The continuation of the previous lecture, involved practical insight into multilateral negotiations; students were divided into two groups having been given identical tasks. After the simulation, both groups were asked to present, compare and discuss the results.

Again, an extremely high quality workshop that gave the participants an opportunity to use the theory previously learnt in combination with the "real-life situation". The efficiency proved to be high when the participants continued discussing the subject even after the workshop ended. An example how to set forth the objective to be accomplished which is to give the participants the "taste" of the result of what they have learnt.

10. Dr. Mario Nobilo – lecture on "Diplomatic Service in Multilateral Centres".

The lecture dealt with the nature of diplomatic mission to an international organisation, different aspects of work in those missions, comparing to the work in «traditional» embassies.

Friday, 14 September 2001

11. Dr. Raymon Saner – seminar on "Diplomacy: Leadership and Management".

The seminar dealt with the management theory, differences between leaders and managers, various theories on leadership, as well as cross-cultural differences regarding the role of a leader and the leadership requisites for the New Century.

The participants were divided into several groups with various tasks in order to observe and comment on group thought and group behaviour in the process of creativity. An excellent lecture that combined theory with the emphasis on the importance of the knowledge of psychology and group reaction.