

22. One primary concern at External Affairs is surely the ongoing Yugoslav crisis. An interesting testing of our argumentation would be, for example, to use Tsebelis's and Ramet's frameworks of analysis and draw the appropriate conclusions and then confront them with the conclusion arrived at by policy planners, taking into account the rationale of their policy formulations. Considering the goals and principles by which the Department operates, the usefulness of some formalized methodologies could thereafter be deduced. No matter what the result of an empirical verification of our argument, a formal structure of thoughts in formulating policy options is fundamental to achieve optimal policy outcomes, that is, we consider that it is essential to somehow let aside the "what" and to give priority to the "how" and "why" of primarily intrapolitics phenomena in order to maximize the output of the policy planning function in the department. It is our opinion that policy planners can make better use of available comparative politics methodologies. We have discussed some of those big approaches in a very selective way. However, we hope to have generated a sufficient interest to further develop our thoughts on the matter. On the other hand, we believe to have somehow linked the world of comparative politics and academia, however imperfectly and with bias, to the real world of political practitioners.