

From: Martha Gallahue <marlalar@mindspring.com>
Subject: **Rebuilding Hope - 2002, DPI Conference**
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To: Martha Gallahue <marlalar@mindspring.com>

“Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility” captivated the 2700 participants from 85 countries at the Annual NGO (non-governmental organization) Conference at The United Nations sponsored by The Department of Public Information. The final two speakers Vojislav Kostunica, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Jose Luis Guterres, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of East Timor, riveted the group by their and stunning peace building achievements. They brought home both the mammoth challenge and opportunity that lay before them in their own countries. For example, about one-third East Timorese people died in their 20 years of strife, yet today more than 200,000 Indonesian civilians live peacefully together in East Timor. The United Nations Transitional Administration had established a Serious Crimes Unit and the Commission of reception, truth and reconciliation to deal with human rights violations committed in the country since 1975. Fundamental values of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been incorporated into East Timor’s Constitution and just three month after its independence, the country deposited its instruments of accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

President Kostunica, pointed out that despite the horribly violent attempt at ethnic cleansing, virtually all of the Balkan States remained very much a multi-ethnic, multicultural, and multiconfessional country. He urged the non-governmental sector in Europe and in the United States to concentrate on the development of institutions needed in a democratic State ruled by law. Only such a State could guarantee human, ethnic, cultural, religious, political and other rights and liberties. The NGO sector should also help to bridge the gap between the developed and underdeveloped parts of

Europe and to impress upon the relevant organizations that Europe could not be “single and free’ until it encompassed the countries of South-East Europe.

On Tuesday, September 10, during a Panel called “Restoring Social Services: Identifying Priorities”, Thoraya Obaid, Executive Director of The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) offered a suggestion. Following the decision of George W. Bush not to meet the US commitment to contribute 34 million dollars this year to the UNFPA, an idea to help support the Fund is now being circulated through the US. Americans are asked to send one dollar each to help the Fund continue its invaluable work and at the same time confirm that providing family is a humanitarian issue not a political one. Anyone interested is asked to put a dollar bill, wrapped in a plain sheet of paper, in an envelope marked, ‘34 million Friends’ and send it to Chief Resource Mobilization Branch, UNFPA, 220 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017.

Seven AEU members were registered through The National Service Conference of the AEU: Rose L Walker, President, Ellen and Richard McBride, Elliot Gruenberg, Lucile Kleiman, David Sutcliffe, and Martha Gallahue, main representative at the UN for the NSC. Martha also co-facilitated a side event called “Rebuilding Societies: A New Approach” sponsored by a coalition of NGO’s including The

National Service Conference. She appreciated the supportive presence of all the NSC participants at the Conference.
