



UNITE !

**FREEDOM
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PEACE
FOLLOWS**

Association to Unite the Democracies ~ Quarterly Newsletter~ Summer 2003

“WAGING PEACE!”

“Waging Peace!” Thinking of this phrase used by Dr. Robert Muller in a recent speech in San Francisco, CA (see article page 8), there is no better time than now for a global dialogue about world peace. It is essential for both international and domestic leaders to bridge our community closer and not farther apart. Such a global “mind set” would motivate citizens to encourage their governments to place world peace as their top priority, even if it means a reduction in their immediate individual and national self interests. An essential element to a cohesive global community is to remove conditions that lead to the insecurities which self-serving dictatorships and global corporations thrive on.

Therefore, AUD’s role as an organization promoting international integration of democracies has never been more relevant, important, and promising than today. To further empower our global community and to help establish a global community of peace, AUD now has

the capability of adding a piece to the puzzle. Our partnership with the Anglo-American University in Prague and Global Education Motivators in Philadelphia as well as our active involvement in the Global Education Tele-Communities Initiative have given our organization new potential for fulfilling our mission of international integration. Through distant learning and modern communication technology, we bring together the people of the world, thus fostering intercultural exchange, promoting dialogue and mutual understanding, and opening new paths on the road towards peace. We have proven that this medium works well globally and every day we learn from our counterparts around the world that there is a commonality of shared values that, if properly nurtured, can lead to a harmonious world. Let’s use our resources to raise the level of global civility!

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

-Bob Frantz, President and CEO

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION vs. AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

In February 2003, the common Western stand against the Iraqi dictator collapsed, thus endangering the health of the Atlantic alliance, the United Nations, and the European Union. The question that arises now is: whom should the Western countries blame for this? Most commentators argue that the West has only itself to blame.

Everything started when France openly declared that it would use its veto power to oppose any new UN resolution that would mean the invasion of Iraq. To appease France and Germany, the EU insisted on giving the UN weapons inspectors “the time and resources”. In a nod to the Spanish-British position, the statement added that “inspections could not continue indefinitely”.

Cont. p.2

DILLEMA REMAINS:

Ukraine’s Hesitations at the Outskirts of European Unity

Proudly staying at the crossroads of neighboring cultures, religions and conceptions of state building, Ukraine has been generating its own original ideas and beliefs for centuries, integrating them with numerous external influences and challenges. People and territory, which have experienced the influence of European values of humanity and law, ideas of Renaissance, and expansions of Catholicism combined with centuries of Orthodoxy and Authoritarianism as well as dec-

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION vs. AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP

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Although both sides claimed some satisfaction, the already wide division appeared obvious.

The victim of this rift among the West is the EU itself. Donald Rumsfeld's famous division of Europe into a "new Europe" of pro-American Central European countries and an "old Europe" represented by France and Germany entails danger to the future of the union. The solidarity with the American position expressed by the leaders of Spain, Portugal, Italy, Denmark, Hungary and Poland was strengthened by other ten European countries which were at that time certain to join the EU in the near future. That support was followed by French President Jacques Chirac's hints that France might veto the applications by former communist countries to join the EU. Chirac asked Central Europeans to "shut up" in order not to jeopardize the accession to the EU membership. "They have not been very well behaved", he said, "and have been rather reckless of the danger of aligning themselves too rapidly with the American position". As for Romania and Bulgaria, whose membership is still to be negotiated, he added that, "if they wanted to diminish their chances of joining the EU, they could not have chosen a better way."

Is the French president's position irrational? Not at all, considering the fact that, in his view, Europe should be a counterweight to the United States. If the EU candidate countries side with the United States over Iraq, it is to be pre-

dicted that their presence in the enlarged EU will lessen French influence and turn the Union into a NATO look-alike alliance, Atlanticist by conviction and Anglophone by language.

As a result, the Eastern Europeans found themselves to be sandwiched between the French-German and the US-British camps. Eastern European governments supported the Americans in their war campaign, but at the same time opinion polls in these countries indicated that a large majority of the population was against the war. While Western-European politicians are under great pressure from their electorates, the opposite is observed in the East. Therefore, East European governments remained determined to support the US.

The attitude of Eastern European countries towards the U.S. can be better explained by two basic needs for the existence of these countries: security and economic development. Only Washington can provide security, that is, protection against the traditional aggressors in the region. The joint position of Russia, France and Germany over the war in Iraq provides less assurance that Western Europe can guarantee the security to the post-Communist countries. While Eastern Europeans seek the security support from the U.S., the European Union is the most credible economic support for them. There is a mutual dependence between the EU and the ten new members: the need for investment and financial aid of the East is balanced by the EU's need of

Eastern European markets and labor. At the same time, people in Eastern Europe feel strongly European.

Staying "between the devil and the deep blue sea" is not the best way of building the necessary trust for successful cooperation. The internal conflict in which Eastern European countries find themselves will not entail serious short-term consequences regarding their EU membership. The long-term consequences, however, seem to be much more important. The internal rift within Europe moves Germany away from supporting the EU enlargement to the East, and isolates France. As a result, Europe splits on almost any foreign policy issue. This rift endangers the existence of such international institutions as the United Nations and nobody can be sure that the UN will not have the same fate as the League of Nations. During the first decade of its existence, the League of Nations solved at least thirty disputes, but those disputes involved mostly small and middle powers. Once major powers became involved in the 1930s, the League showed its ineffectiveness and was dismissed. Similarly, during the Cold War, the UN had never been seriously tested as a collective security apparatus; only the future will show the full impacts of the Iraqi crisis on the viability of the United Nations.

The difficulty today is that current arguments within Europe were and are not really about Iraq, weapons of mass destruction, or new members of the European Union. They are about attitudes towards the US, its pre-eminence and its unilateralism. Such differences of opinion are always likely to re-emerge. The antiwar coalition of Russia, Germany and France as well as the Eastern European countries are not hostile to the US goal of instituting more democratic structures in the Arab world. They agree with Americans on the final goal, but argue that the final goal cannot excuse the means. "Democracy cannot be imposed on a People by force". American tactics are not considered acceptable for Europe.

-Maksym Kovalov, Muskie Fellow



The European Union is preparing for its most ambitious enlargement ever. Reuniting the European continent will not only consolidate peace and democracy, but will also enable the peoples of Europe to share the benefits of progress and welfare generated by European integration.

Thirteen countries have applied to become the EU members, and 10 of them have officially been admitted to join in 2004. So far, Malta, Slovenia, Hungary, Lithuania and Slovakia have ratified the EU accession on the basis of referendum.

PRAGUE, AUD's DOOR TO EUROPE

Prague, the "Golden City", is easily one of the most engaging cities in Europe. Through the centuries it has acquired an unrivalled richness of architectural treasures which now belong to UNESCO's world cultural heritage. Its unique aesthetic blend of roman, gothic, renaissance, and baroque styles all reflect the successive phases of Czech history. Since the Velvet Revolution peacefully ended 60 years of oppression –by the Nazis from 1939 to 1945, then by the Communist Party from 1948 to 1989-, Prague has slowly healed political and cultural wounds. Today, this thriving city at the crossroads of Western and Eastern European culture harmoniously combines modernity and historical legacy.

Despite some criticism, the Czech Republic is often cited as a model of successful transition from an authoritarian regime to a stable and vigorous

democratic system symbolized by former Head of State Vaclav Havel, main leader of the dissident movement in the communist era and internationally recognized as a symbol of the end of the Cold War. Today, the country is at the forefront of EU integration.

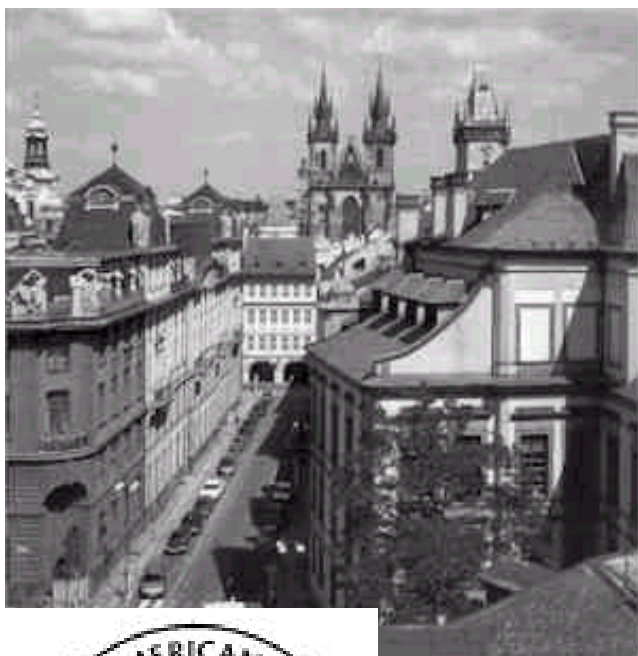
Therefore, at AUD, we are proud and enthusiastic about new opportunities for reinforcing the Euro-Atlantic link and facilitating the spread of democracy and freedom in Prague.

Our partnership with the Anglo American University in Prague (www.aac.edu) has proved solid and worthwhile. As outlined in our last issue of UNITE!, we are organizing a conference on political party platform building for EU candidate countries in the Fall. The project is moving forward and already benefits from the administrative and financial support of the British Council and of the Prague Institute for Global Urban Development.

We are also exploring the possibility of opening a

European office for AUD in Prague, which would be located in the beautiful Maltese Square section of Mala Strana, across from the Embassy of France and alongside the Lennon Wall. This office would enable us to expand our existing programs to Europe, sponsor a unique Master's degree program in World Federalism, and have students do research on democracy and international integration right on our premises. One of the most exciting developments is the opportunity to host the Vaclav Havel Library on Democracy, the Czech Republic's most distinguished collection of samizdat and other dissident literature from the Communist era.

We look forward to AUD's presence in Prague, which opens doors for more partnerships throughout Europe and better fulfillment of our mission of facilitating Transatlantic relations.



GLOBAL EDUCATION TELE-COMMUNITY INITIATIVE MOVING ON

In our last issue of UNITE! we announced that AUD had become one of 14 International Education HUBs of the Global Education Tele-community Initiative (GEI), an international model project whose mission is to end education, gender, and cultural divides. GEI's objectives are to increase the economic base of youth and family in economically disadvantaged communities and to foster global collaboration. Both objectives are accomplished through increased access to real-world, project-based education programs using advanced multimedia and communication technologies.

GEI now operates through a global learning community of 24-30 networked International Education hubs across the United States and in developing countries.

Using modern telecommunication technology, GEI will direct and manage this global learning enterprise by connecting youth and adults in each hub with one another and with professional mentors located at leading educational institutions, science and history museums, and major corporations. The telecommunication technology includes interactive video-conferencing and computer to computer web-casting. It enables distance learning through live video, voice and data interaction among youth, adults, leading educators, scientists, engineers, and executives worldwide who team teach with local site teachers and

facilitators. Internet Technology serves as the linchpin to inter-connect GEI's 5 core components: International Education HUBs; project-based training programs; advanced multimedia network; local consortia of instructors, mentoring teams, education institutions, museums, corporations, public-, private-, and independent-sector entities; and an evaluation infrastructure.

Each International HUB establishes local partnerships comprised of one or more local education agencies; schools serving grades pre-K to 12, consortia of universities and colleges, museums, and corporations.

AUD has already negotiated partnerships with the Smithsonian Institution as well as the Consortium of Universities of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area. In turn, GEI's multimedia network and real-world-based education programs will connect the International Education HUBs and their local partnerships with one another.

GEI's curricula and pedagogy focuses primarily on real-world science, engineering, and technology projects. In Washington, D.C., AUD will first act as a facilitator between educational institutions and students worldwide. In the future, we will design and implement courses on democracy and peace issues.

UKRAINIAN AND AMERICAN STUDENTS DISCUSS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROLIFERATION

On May 12, 2003 high school students from Ukraine and the United States along with Democratic Senator Robert E. Andrews all gathered to discuss primarily the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. However, this event was held in a different fashion in that the participants were in their home countries and were able to connect to each other via video-conferencing technology.

The Ukrainian students had a personal experience to the discussion as the Ukraine has played a very notable role as one of the first nations to abandon its weapons of mass destruction.

Such an international youth event was possible thanks to the technology of video-conferencing, which unites the images and voices of people from different parts of the world. The idea, originally developed by Global Education Motivators (GEM), a UN non-profit organization focusing on developing global education programs while "bringing the world into the classroom", has united educators, intellectuals, and non-profit organizations, which all dedicate their efforts to peace, the development of democracy, and weapons non-proliferation.

On this occasion the Association to Unite the Democracies was presented as an observer, though it has had a long-standing relationship with friends from Ukraine and other Eastern European states. As GEM's partner in Washington, D.C., AUD will use the video-conferencing technology to foster dialogue between students all over the world. Elected officials, academics from leading institutions, and international personnel have already been invited to our studio. Using our video-conferencing equipment, they will integrate classrooms in different countries to discuss international peace issues. We believe in education and intercultural exchange as a means of facilitating the spread of democracy and freedom.

DILLEMA REMAINS: Ukraine's hesitations at the outskirts of European unity

(cont. from p.1)

Despite the fact that, since it has become independent, Ukraine has made considerable progress in the various aspects of its domestic policy and has substantially outlined its role in the international sphere, there are still puzzles, which significantly impede its further development. In the pre-enlarged Europe, every country has to decide whether or not it supports European integration and shares European values and joint perspectives. Ukraine's elite and society as a whole still question the idea of further international development and European integration, although there are not many other options to choose from. In spite of loud declarations and endless rhetoric, Ukraine's European aspirations have not been strong enough, domestic political activities not transparent enough, and economic development not vivid enough to persuade both EU members and Ukrainian society of a strong need for such an action. Ukrainian authorities have already been pushing for European and Euro-Atlantic cooperation and integration for a decade, yet hardly believe that it could happen soon.

The ongoing European integration has demonstrated an entire set of problems which can occur in the countries endeavoring further integration – political stability, economic development, compatibility, and democracy. Being Euro-optimistic in today's Ukraine is to believe that Ukraine will be able to enter all-European structures no sooner than 2010-2015. Ukraine's hopes of the early 1990s of "catching the last car of the Central European train" to join the European Union gradually disappeared when neither Ukraine nor EU members showed any desire and interest in deepening cooperation and strengthening mutual interdependence. At the same time, political, economic, cultural, and geopolitical issues are to be taken into consideration.

The importance of the both old and new question "Quo vadis Ukraino?" is currently growing in intensity. Among the Ukrainian elite there is no consensus yet on whether European integration or stronger relations with other post-Soviet countries are the right paths to improve its economic indicators, reach the desirable consensus inside the society and stabilize the political situation. Divisions arise between political, economic and cultural elites of various scales and influences, which present mainly regional interests and support different -sometimes opposite- directions for the country's internal and external policies. Traditionally, Ukrainians from the West of the country look to Europe for inspiration, directions and ideas, while the population in the East, much more tied to Russian influences and culture and more ethnically mixed with a substantial portion of ethnic Russians, finds its way in Russia.

In today's Ukraine, there are two basic ideas of integration, development, and prosperity. Interestingly enough, both of them are separate and combined, directed in two opposite ways yet united simultaneously. Some politicians, authorities and intellectuals support the conception, which leads to

European and Euro-Atlantic cooperation and further integration. On the contrary, for others, who are predominantly connected to regional, specifically Eastern-Ukrainian political, economic and cultural interest, the solution is to cultivate the relationship with the Russian Federation as well as with other post-Soviet countries.

In November 2002, the election of Prime-minister Viktor Yanukovich, who mainly stands for Eastern Ukraine's interests tightly connected to Russian business and politics, has given the lead to the second approach. This situation firmly indicates that the period of Ukraine's historic hesitations is not yet over.

In recent years the supporters of Ukraine's eastern path have come up with a new concept of nation-building and international development – "To Europe together with Russia!" Such a concept might appear fraudulent, yet to some extent it is able to consolidate a disunited and disappointed Ukrainian society. Furthermore, it draws a pessimistic Ukrainian society into hoping that their country is moving at last. The recent quadripartite meeting of the presidents of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine and the idea of creating a Joint Commission on Tariffs and Trade prove that the protagonists of the Eastern path of the Ukrainian external policy are gaining in power. It also firmly indicates that the final aim of the Commission is to establish a regional integrated organization and create a joint economic entity.

Despite this situation, there is still room for Euro-optimism with the belief that the long time anticipated agreement on an association between Ukraine and the EU can be reached soon. This situation helps mark out the new format of relations, not only between Ukraine and the EU, but also within an all-European context, as well as to create the prerequisites for obtaining full-scaled EU membership in a foreseeable future.

The idea of European integration has not yet penetrated all strata of Ukrainian society, which keeps choosing between Communists and Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives, Euro-optimists and Euro-pessimists, - without overall consensus within Ukrainian society. This is the reason why we cannot predict the perspectives for Ukraine towards European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration. The most important question of Ukraine's history and society, that has been sound and vivid for centuries, still stands: either with Russia or with Europe. The dilemma remains!

-Vitaliy Motsok



An old man wearing a typical Ukrainian shirt and waving the national flag, argues with the police standing in line.

The most important question of Ukraine's history still stands – either with Russia or with Europe.

UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Promoting Democracy Through Globalizing Education

By Piotr F. Kaznacheev¹

There are several processes in international development which are normally attributed to the phenomenon of globalization: the opening to free trade and multinational capital, the increasing migration and new security threats, the changing definition of state sovereignty, and the growing influence of international organizations. Rarely if at all does internationalization of education methods and standards become part of the globalization debate. As many believe, one of the major dilemmas of globalization is the persisting gap between rapid world economic and trade liberalization and sluggish democratization in developing states. Although little attention is given to trans-national higher education and growing harmonization in the education market, it is possibly the most effective way to foster democratic institutions in the developing world and to build cross-cultural understanding between nations.

One of the major questions arising with the opening of labor markets and increasing labor mobility is the harmonization of education standards and validation of degrees. This is a very old problem, and national governments as well as international institutions have taken different approaches to this issue. Europe has achieved the most significant progress in this field compared to other regions. As early as in the 1950s, the Council of Europe established several conventions and information networks in order to ease boundaries to labor mobility. Besides negotiated governmental agreements, transparency and harmonization in education require a highly sophisticated information network. The largest system of information centers in the European Union today is the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC), which was created in 1987. The database ORTELIUS established by the European Commission and operational since 1996 is located in Florence. It provides all kinds of information on higher education systems of the EU countries.

The Bologna Declaration of June 19th, 1999 signed at a large meeting of European rectors and education ministers, was an amazing step towards multilateral recognition of degrees and harmonization of higher education. It contains a plea to work jointly towards a common "European area of higher education". This common framework and transparency approach to education in Europe so far have no analogies in the global arena. The only international organization supporting internationalization of higher education is UNESCO via its Centre for Higher Education in Bucharest and the International Association of Universities (IAU). The Convention on the Recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the European region, adopted in Lisbon in April 1997 as a result of collaboration between the Council of Europe and UNESCO, represents a revolutionary change in the very logic of trans-national educational development. The Lisbon Convention has replaced the concept of equivalence of educational standards and diplomas with the idea of multilateral recognition, thus acknowledging diversification in the education market. It is a great misunderstanding to interpret attempts to harmonize higher education as a process of reducing it to a common standard denominator and refusing cultural diversity. To the con-

trary, globalization of education brings about more diversity and allows more exchange between previously isolated national educational traditions.

Globalization of higher education is supplemented with another important trend, which could be described as deconstruction of the classic academic tradition and overall pragmatization of education. It has been closely related to the emergence of MBA programs and the concept of business education. The classic academic tradition has always relied on the transfer of fundamental knowledge in the form of memorizing and systematization. But in the modern world, especially in the world of business, one cannot rely on purely formalized knowledge. What becomes more important is the ability of an effective decision-making especially in a cross-cultural environment. That is why contemporary education programs attach greater importance than ever to interactive teaching methods, case studies, outdoor training, assessment programs, and academic exchanges.

The pragmatic approach to trans-national education relies on academic exchanges, joint programs and international universities consortia. The largest and most successful example of a transnational exchange initiative is the ERASMUS program in Europe. It allows any student from a EU country to study at a university of his or her choice in another EU country normally for the period of a full academic year.

It is unfortunate that, at a time when trans-national education has become an important tool for promoting democracy worldwide, it has become more difficult for many students to travel abroad. Since September 11, 2001 the US has seriously tightened its visa policies for foreign students. Some would support such measures by referring to the 9/11 suicide bombers who have entered the US with student visas. But nothing could be more harmful for the process of global democratization in the long run than punishing one and all students from developing countries for a single though horrible bureaucratic mistake.

Nevertheless, whatever bureaucratic policies will be applied to foreign students in developed countries, they cannot prevent the spread of global education by means of Internet, video-conferencing and other modern information technologies. Today, the eleven most important open universities in the world together enrol about 3 million students. The corporate sector is also becoming very active in this sphere, with multinational corporations such as Microsoft, News Corporation and numerous others. In addition, the non-governmental sector is also effectively exploring this field by launching such programs as the Global Education Tele-community Initiative started by the Ford Program and Global Education Motivators (GEM) in cooperation with the Association to Unite the Democracies. The various Open Universities have done pioneering work not only in the developed world but also in countries such as Turkey, India, Indonesia, Brazil, etc. The rapid expansion of distance learning has created a situation in which new education programs and methods are being developed beyond bureaucratic boundaries.

¹ Piotr F. Kaznacheev, PhD is a member of the Board of Directors of the Association to Unite the Democracies residing in Moscow.

AUD's SUMMER TEAM

Far from surrendering to the heat, our Nation's Capital always seems to thrive in the summer, when interns invade governmental, non-governmental, profit, and non-profit institutions.

AUD's office is no exception to this rule. This summer, two Ukrainian students and one American student have already joined our team.

Ms. **Christina Bache**, a graduate student in Conflict Resolution at American University, will be in charge of our Public Relations and Marketing. We are

confident that her outstanding personality, organization, communication, and advocacy skills will contribute to the development of our organization.

Mr. **Maksym Kovalov**, a Muskie Fellow currently pursuing a Master's degree in International Affairs at Oklahoma State University, and Mr. **Vitaliy Motsok**, a Junior Faculty Development Program Fellow from the Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine, are working full time in our office. Their cultural and academic backgrounds bring to AUD

a fresh prospective on Euro-Atlantic issues. Vitaliy and Maksym will also help us strengthen our relations with Ukrainian schools as part of our Global Education Initiative.

Our interns are considered to be a part of AUD. We are happy to provide them with an interesting work experience while introducing them to the concepts of Clarence Streit. In addition, they bring new ideas, dynamism, and enthusiasm to our organization.

For more information on our internship program, please contact our office:

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In our video-conferencing studio at the Hall of States, from left to right, Vitaliy Motsok, Christina Bache, Maksym Kovalov.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR AUD DIRECTORS

We are particularly proud to share with our readers the academic achievements of three of our most active Board Members.

Ms. **Danja Therecka**, a 22 year old Albanian student, recently graduated from American University with a BA in International Relations and Affairs. Danja first joined the AUD family as an intern in the summer of 2002, when she proved her skills and commitment to AUD's mission. She was elected to the Board of Directors in October 2002 and has been very active working in our headquarters.

Mrs. **Irma Foley**, a young woman from Bosnia who recently acquired American citizenship graduated from American University Law School,

and will take the bar exam this summer. Irma is a two time Frank Education Fund scholar and a member of our Frank Fund Scholarship Committee.

Mr. **John Willard**, a professional environmental consultant and a father of three graduated from the University of Maryland with a Master's degree in History. John has been involved with AUD since 2002, when he expressed his interest in the spread of democratic values around the world. His expertise in the historical arena, management system experience, and organizational development skills are undeniable assets to AUD.

Congratulations to our Graduates for their outstanding academic achievements!

Join the Association to Unite the Democracies in promoting the integration of the experienced democracies towards a new world of freedom and peace.



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This issue of UNITE! has been prepared by Marielle Reiss, Christina Bache, Maksym Kovalov and Vitaliy Motsok.

THE WORLD AT PEACE?

Dr. Robert Muller, former United Nations assistant Secretary General, Chancellor emeritus of the University of Peace in Costa-Rica, and long time AUD supporter was one of the people who witnessed the founding of the United Nations and has worked in support of it ever since. Shortly before the war broke out in Iraq last February, he was in San Francisco to be honored for his service to the world through the UN and through his writings and teach-



ings for peace.

At a time when the United Nations is more often criticized for its diplomatic failure and laborious administrative process than praised for its efforts to preserve world peace, we could not help but share with our members Dr. Muller's optimistic vision on global security, public participation, and the role of the UN. We are thankful to Ms. Judith Richardson for her original recording of his speech.

Dr. Muller surprised many of the audience that day with his most positive assessment of where the world stands now regarding war and peace. "I am so honored to be here", he said. "I am so honored to be alive at such a miraculous time in history. I am so moved by what's going on in our world today! Never before in the history of the world has there been a global, visible, public, viable, open dialogue about the very legitimacy of war. The whole world is now having this critical and historic dialogue – listening to all kinds of points of view and positions about going to war or not going to war. In a huge global public conversation the world is asking – is war legitimate? Is it illegitimate? Is there enough evidence to warrant an attack? What will be the consequence? The costs? What will happen after the war? How will this set off other conflicts? What might be peaceful alternatives? What kind of negotiations are we not thinking of? What are the real intentions for declaring war?"

All of this, he noted, is taking place in the context of the United Nations Security Council, the body that was established in 1949 for exactly this purpose. He pointed out that it has taken us more than fifty years to realize that function, the real function of the UN. And at this moment of history – the United Nations is at the center of the stage. It is the place where these conversations are happening, and it has become in these last months the most powerful container for the world's effort to wage peace rather than war.

Dr. Muller was almost in tears in recognition of the fulfillment of this dream. "We are not at war", he kept saying. "We, the world community, are WAGING peace. It's difficult, hard work. It's constant and we must not let up. It's working and it's a historic milestone of immense proportions. It has never happened before – never in human history – and it's happening now, every day, and every hour, waging peace through a global conversation. This has never happened before on this scale – not before WWI, WWII, not before Vietnam or Korea, this is new and it is a stunning new era of global listening, speaking, and responsibility.

Most peace demonstrations in recent history took place when a war was already waging, sometimes for years, as in the case of Vietnam. "So this" – he said, "is a miracle". This is what "waging peace" looks like. No matter what happens, history will record that it is a new era. And that the 21st century has been initiated with the world in a global dialogue looking deeply, profoundly and responsibly as a global community at the legitimacy of the actions of a nation that is desperate to go to war. Through these global peace-waging efforts, the leaders of that nation are being engaged in further dialogue forcing them to rethink, and allowing all nations to participate in the serious and horrific decisions to go to war or not.

All around the world, people are waging peace. To Robert Muller, one of the great advocates of the United Nations, it is nothing short of a Miracle and it is working!



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Address Correction Requested