

VISIT TO CHINA

Since I was familiar with all the different Chinas - Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore - but had never been to 'Red China', I decided to travel there to form my own impressions of the country, and could see during my visit that the process of change was also under way over there.

INTERNATIONAL TRAGEDIES: RWANDA

As we learned more and more of the details, we were overwhelmed by a real sense of powerlessness. That Belgian troops stood by while people that they were supposed to be protecting were butchered right in front of them made it plain to us just how powerless the European Community and the European Parliament were.

EX-YUGOSLAVIA

Some really terrible things happened. For instance, the Parliament sent a delegation led by Ms Veil - one of my predecessors - to Bosnia to look into the rape of women, and they came back with a harrowing report. Throughout the whole period we did everything within our power to boost efforts to stop the endless killing, which were finally successful thanks to the USA. I think the European Community really showed itself to be too weak to enter into a military conflict alone.