



Franz Deutsch

**Peace Leaflets
A Starting point for Dialogue**

CONFLICTS

"Friends of peace are using conflicts for winning friends, because they have the courage for discussion..."
--Franz Deutsch

The above statement may sound paradoxical, but it has been tested and proven in practice. This introduces questions: How do we find the courage and insight to avoid escalating conflict? How do we create strong personal foundations instead of hiding behind such smug sayings as: "The best cannot live in peace if it does not please the bad neighbor?"

In the Wolfsegg Peace Museum there is a display of a drawing by an elementary school child. In it, a girl offers a handshake to a boy as a gesture of reconciliation and says, "Let's make up again!" The boy replies, "OK, I was silly anyway."

If only the adults understood what the two children are demonstrating. Life without conflicts is unimaginable. Maybe conflicts are the salt of human coexistence. But how we manage conflicts indicates what stage of evolution we have reached.