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Peace Leaflets A Starting point for Dialogue

DIPLOMACY

We have no knowledge of how Neanderthal man communicated with others on anything beyond the most primitive of subjects. But at a certain stage of human development, man must have concluded that it is possible to achieve one's goals without resorting to intimidation and force. This may have been the birth of diplomacy.

In our time, there is no longer any doubt that diplomatic conduct is the way to maintain good relations with the "other side" and at the same time achieve one's goals. Sometimes one's personal convictions have to be set aside in order to obtain the desired results.

One of the themes of Franz Lehar's operetta "The Land of Smiles" is "Keep smiling, how you really feel is nobody's business." To a large extent, this is a sensible idea. The notion that success can be achieved by diplomatic behavior must have a powerful foundation. Anybody who does not play this diplomatic game will not be successful in the long run.

On the other hand, can we openly and without argument accept another principle, that of 'the greatest success is success itself'? In the age of the very American way of 'positive thinking,' can we not also see that material successes have a seamy side?

I hope I have not taken the reader on a gloomy trail. Anybody who has read my "Peace Leaflets" knows that it is not my intention to encourage pessimism or fatalism. But sometimes it is useful to be contrarian, even if it is wearisome.

Human relationships based on honest opinion and conviction...Where can you still find them?