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Peace Leaflets A Starting point for Dialogue

GETTING RID OF PREJUDICE AND DISTRUST

In a contribution to the Comparative Science of Education, Professor Solterer of Georgetown University states, "It is important to cultivate personal international contacts. From my own experience I know that one can think all kinds of nonsense about others, if one does not know them personally." Who among us has not felt the same way?

Such practices as the one mentioned above can be started with school-age children. Youngsters are not burdened with distrust, prejudices and generalizations about people. Anybody who has grappled with the phenomenon of prejudice, its origins and its deep-seatedness, might be skeptical about any proposed solutions to the problem. That is why it makes sense to start early with children, and to closely examine the nature of prejudice.

It would be naive to expect that brief encounters during travels and vacations, international sporting events, student exchanges and similar activities would be sufficient to solve this problem. What is needed are forums for continuing meetings where a sense of community and cooperation beyond national boundaries may be developed. Insight is gained by knowledge, and more so by shared experience.

All of this leads us to the conclusion that the establishment of international schools is a necessity. Schools with an international curriculum devoted to studying and solving crises might give us hope for the future.