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**Peace Leaflets
A starting point for Dialogue**

HISTORY -- A SCHOOLMARM ?

While discussing the 50 years of peace which have followed the end of World War II in Austria, the former governor of Upper Austria, Dr. Josef Ratzenboeck, made the following statement: "History is a schoolmarm to whom nobody has listened to."

In his "Cyclical Theory of History" written around 430 B.C., the Greek philosopher Thucidides wrote, "I shall be satisfied, if my words will be of use to those who want to clearly understand the events of the past, because given human nature, these events will repeat themselves, at one time or another, in a similar way." We have to ask ourselves why we have not listened to this admonition. Has man learned any of the lessons of history?

It is an unquestionable fact that crime novels, crime movies, and even crime museums, enjoy great popularity among the general public. The real crime however, the one which occurred during the first half of the 20th century, is mostly ignored.

Why are so few interested in these things? Are fictional stories more interesting than history? Does man feel more comfortable in a world of fiction, which is often centered on emotions and wishful thinking? Does he prefer it to the world of reality, with its moral issues, its need, duties and sacrifices? Many questions remain unanswered.