



Israelis and Palestinians

Terrorism cannot be fought with wars. An attempt to cut off the head of Hydra will result in two new ones growing in its place. It is rather odd that this idea has not yet sunk into the heads of responsible leaders, politicians and their supporters.

This endless spiral of violence is building up so much hatred that it becomes increasingly difficult to solve the problems it creates. As a result, peaceful coexistence, not to mention peaceful cooperation, become ever more distant possibilities. However, we should not lose faith in the idea of conciliation, in this, the era of potential mass destruction.* What can we do to achieve a more peaceful future? How we prevent this hatred from being passed on to coming generations?

One way out of this dilemma can be found in establishing cross-border kindergartens and common schools, ** meeting places to further dialogue, and international cooperation on meaningful projects. Certainly, a long and stony path! But doesn't the call of the hour demand that we think not only of tomorrow but also of the day after tomorrow?

Which other courses of action are still available to us? My first thought is to strengthen the peace movements in Israel, Palestine and around the world. Since all political leaders depend on their voters, the influence of a growing number of "Friends of Peace" should not be underestimated. We have seen such beginnings in a demonstration in Tel Aviv, where a withdrawal from occupied territories and a call to peaceful coexistence was put forth as a counterweight to the present policy of confrontation.

In conclusion, may I remind you of what the Austrian writer Peter Rosegger said in 1892 before a gathering of "Friends of Peace": "If all friends of peace joined a club for peace, we would be the biggest club on earth." *** "The "Biggest Club on Earth" could not easily be ignored by the mighty of this world.

* See peace pamphlet "Conciliation"

** Foundation of International Schools- a Chance for the future.

*** See peace pamphlet "The Biggest Club on Earth."