



PEACE LEAFLETS and contemporary COMMENTARIES

The FIRST AUSTRIAN PEACE MUSEUM in Wolfsegg is an attempt to promote an "intellectual world", an exchange of ideas, however constricted this may be by the limited space available in an old public school building dating from imperial times. In order to Supplement this attempt, the Initiator of the Peace Museum has turned to writing "PEACE LEAFLETS", designed to promote dialogue. Furthermore, prompted by the events of September 11-2001, the FIRST AUSTRIAN PEACE MUSEUM has made it its business to comment on public and political affairs. Like the "PEACE LEAFLETS" these commentaries may also serve as an impulse for rounds of discussions.

Today's COMMENTARY: EU-membership for Turkey.

Turkey's geographical location between the Arab world and Western Europe has given her a bridge building function. If Turkey were to become a full member of the European Union, she could no longer perform this task satisfactorily, as it would increase tensions.

Turkey, a model of a laical state, would lose its influence and its credibility. As love of freedom and self reliance are distinct features of the turkish psyche, Subordination to resolutions from Brüssel could cause disagreements and possibly impair the solidification of the European Union. On the other hand, a simple partnership of Turkey with the European Union would benefit Turkey in economic terms and give her political independence as well.

If we think of the day after tomorrow and not just tomorrow, it becomes clear that the future belongs to the "bridge builders", who will lay the foundation of a peaceful world.

Austria's veto of Turkey's full membership in the EU may have been based on the above reasons.