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## IN THE NEW YEAR

### NOTE BY THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

*Originally the editorial committee of the Pedagogical Bulletin decided not to publish the following article because it considered that the content did not correspond to the normal pattern of articles appearing regularly in the pages of the Pedagogical Bulletin. The article in question simply presented the personal convictions of the author, and did not make clear to the reader the pedagogical aims pursued.*

*The author approached the editorial committee and expressed astonishment at its refusal to publish his article, explaining that it had been used with great success by the religion teachers at the European School in Culham.*

*In a desire to allow all the schools to acquaint themselves with the contribution which the author of the article wishes to make to religion teaching, the editorial committee has agreed to publish the original article by Mr Hannaford together with the results of the survey which he has carried out at Culham on the subject dealt with.*

On new Year's Eve, between the years of 1983 and 84, I was in Lich, in Oberhessen, practically in the centre of West Germany, and therefore practically in the heart of Europe. Lich is known for its great square tower, the only remnant of the town's encircling wall, and beside the tower is the Marienstiftskirche, where I went for the evening service. The young priest spoke a long sermon. So long that most of the candles on the two trees either side of the altar had burnt out by the time he had finished. I could not follow much of it, to be truthful, but one phrase was clear : he spoke of the walls between people. This therefore was in my thoughts on Sylvester Abend.

Driving through Germany one is struck as well by slogans more fierce and strident than in England. They are about people's fear of war, an anxiety which must be the most common of our times. Paradoxically, after almost forty years of peace in Europe, people are more afraid than ever before, and this fear - however misguided it may be - in some way seems to increase the risk. This also was in my thoughts.

And finally, coming back to England, I feel a need as well to express my impatience with our education, which teaches so much which is never useful, and, seemingly, has nothing to say to young people who do not want a war and who are disgracefully misrepresented because of this as weak-spirited, ignorant and cowardly. If they are, what of the value of their education ?