PREFACE

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the Editor
PEACE IN THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This article presents an analysis of the ecumenical thinking on the issue of war and peace since the Second World War. It will mainly focus on documents from the World Council of Churches (WCC), while some attention will also be given to regional ecumenical bodies, and to individual members of the WCC, such as the German Evangelical Church and the Netherlands Reformed Church. In order to sketch the historical background the first chapter will be devoted to the ecumenical thinking on war and peace between the two World Wars. After the analysis in Ch.II a comparison with recent Roman Catholic thinking on war and peace will be attempted (Ch. III). (For a collection of ecumenical statements on the issue of peace, see: A.J. van der Bent, Vital Ecumenical Concerns, 1986, 116-146).

Throughout the article some attention will be given to the theological dimension of the churches' thinking on peace and war. Taking the view that theological ideas on war and peace generally have a motivational function, some basic insights from motivation psychology will be used for arranging these ideas. The cognitive process of motivation can be analyzed according to three aspects: perception, conception and attribution; theological ideas about war and peace can be arranged accordingly.

- **Perception** has to do with an actor's assessment of the situation relevant to him, from a guiding cognitive frame of reference. Religious ideas can provide elements of such a perception-orientated framework.

- **Conception** has to do with the ideals and aims for which an actor is striving. Having a conceptional picture of some sort is a necessary condition to motivation. Religious ideas can contribute to making up such a picture.

- **Attribution** has to do with an actor's subjective assessment of his ability to change the perceived situation into the one conceived. Some