

CD/PV.421
11, 12

(Mr. Nguyen Di Nien, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)

On the threshold of the third millennium, we are faced with options for the future: the survival of mankind or its destruction. And the answer is not simple. To our dissatisfaction, a tense and complicated international situation still prevails. In their continued search for military superiority, some forces are accelerating the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race, attempting to spread it to outer space. While it needs only one per cent of the existing nuclear arsenals to make our Earth a dead and frozen planet forever, more nuclear weapons and various other types of weapons of mass destruction are being stockpiled. With the very high pace of development of military technology, it is leaving less and less time for peoples, States and politicians to become aware of the real danger and the limits of mankind's possibilities for stopping the slide towards the nuclear abyss. The choice for the future, therefore, must be made boldly and responsibly by all States together, regardless of their social systems and levels of economic development. The time has come for us all to make jointly the greatest possible efforts towards ridding the world of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

...

Facing the serious challenges constituted by the continued nuclear arms race, an ever broader and stronger movement is developing the world over for peace, against nuclear war and against the militarization of outer space. A clear expression of this may be found in the Mexico Declaration of the leaders of the six countries representing four continents, in the Political Declaration of the Eighth Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries and in the New Delhi Joint Statement by the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Prime Minister of India on a nuclear-free world with non-violence in international relations. The trend towards the establishment of nuclear-free zones developing in many parts of our globe such as South East Asia, Africa, Northern Europe, Central Europe and the Balkans displays the desire and determination of the majority of countries to strive for a nuclear-free world.