

In the last days, in the days of the destruction of the Philistines, many people shall go to the mountains to be taught the ways of God "and He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they [emphasis added] shall beat their swords into ploughshares..."²² While those rebuked and out of favour shall be disarmed, God shall not disarm those in favour. On the contrary, in those last days "when I have bent Judah for me, filled the bow with Ephraim and raised up thy sons, O Zion, against thy sons, O Greece, and made them as a sword of a mighty man ...and they shall be as mighty men, which tread down their enemies in the mire of the streets of battle: and they shall fight, because the Lord is with them and the riders on horses shall be confounded."²³

It is worth reflecting on this larger message. It reveals not only the questions about who disarms and when, but also suggests the other questions that enter into the relationship between disarmament and development. Are military spending and armament legitimate? What should they be used for? What provides security: disarmament or military strength? Who can judge these issues, and how? In the absence of some clear message, and a clear choice among peoples and nations by God, the United Nations has provided a forum for the discussion and debate about these and other disarmament-development questions. The United Nations has also tried to answer some of these questions through its own studies and efforts.

UN interest in establishing a relationship between military spending and underdevelopment goes back at least to the 1950s when Prime Minister Edgar Faure of France proposed the creation of a Fund that would transfer money from disarmament of the major military powers to development in the poorer countries. Some have argued that the UN Charter refers to the relationship between armament and underdevelopment.

Article 26 of the United Nations Charter calls for the "least diversion of resources to arms" and refers to the economic and social needs of humanity. It should be noted, however, that division of opinion is so strong on the existence and nature of any link between armament and underdevelopment that in 1987 Britain and other Western European

²² Ibid.

²³ Zachariah, Chapter 9:13 and Chapter 10:5 Holy Bible, King James Version.