

(Mr. Herder, German Democratic Republic)

Unfortunately, some States are not following such a course of action, even if one has tried in recent days in this Committee to make us believe the opposite. But how can a policy of superarmament and confrontation be reconciled with the search for peace and disarmament? We heard dramatic words about the danger for civilization stemming -- as we were told -- from the alleged use of chemical weapons, an assertion based only on lies and distortions. Does that mean that we should forget about the sword of Damocles, i.e. the danger of nuclear war, hanging over us? Recent events show that these are real dangers we are facing.

The "Defence Guidelines" of one nuclear-weapon State for 1984 to 1988 have become known. They are said to contain plans for a "protracted nuclear war". They project a nuclear first strike against targets on the territories of the USSR and the other countries of the Warsaw Treaty, including the use of nuclear medium-range systems. The so-called decapitation strike is a main pillar of this strategy. Outer space has been fully integrated in these war plans.

To back up such plans, armament programmes are being implemented which include all categories of weapons: nuclear and chemical as well as conventional weapons. The representative of a Western nuclear-weapon State who some days ago explained to us the so-called arms control policy of his country declared already in 1981 in this regard: "One has to have a weapons potential which inflicts more damage on the other side than they can do to us. That exactly is the way to victory in a nuclear war."