

As far as the United States is concerned, the world has not forgotten that during the years of the American aggression in Indo-China, tens of thousands of tons of chemical agents were rained upon Viet Nam, Laos and Kampuchea, killing vast numbers of people and causing irreparable damage to the natural environment in that region. Nor is it a secret where the chemical agents being used against the peaceful population of Afghanistan by gangs of bandits came from - these agents were manufactured in the United States of America.

On a par with the barbarousness of these weapons, which Washington is now engaged in modernizing and accumulating, is the perfidy of the plans being nurtured there for their use.

The United States does not conceal the fact that in its scheme of things chemical warfare would be conducted in the densely populated areas of Europe and other continents. The same criminal purpose lies behind the plans under discussion in the United States to put the new chemical charges in cruise missiles, bombs and artillery shells, a large number of which it is intended to deploy in European countries as part of the United States' forward-based weapons.

Speaking in the United States Congress on 15 September 1981, the representative of the Pentagon openly admitted that the equipment of the American army with the new chemical warfare agents was intended to make it possible to wage a large-scale chemical war in Europe - just one more demonstration of the "Atlantic solidarity" of Washington with regard to its allies!

The plans now being hatched with cold-blooded cynicism for turning entire continents into gas chambers also show once again the real value of Washington's hypocritical babblings about "human rights".

It is the clear duty of all peoples, of all honest persons on the face of the earth, not to permit the accomplishment of this monstrous crime that is being plotted against peace and humanity.

An aggressor, whatever weapons he may use to unleash a war - nuclear, neutron, chemical or any other - will not escape retribution.

The reckless piling up of armaments, including chemical weapons, will bring no dividends to its initiators and will strengthen no one's security. International security can only be secured through negotiations, through a search for solutions aimed at the achievement of real measures of disarmament, including the prohibition of chemical weapons.

The Soviet Union decisively favours this course.