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Why the Soviet Union thinks It could fight and win a nuclear war

Quadrant

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Pipes, Richard

Abstract: In a recent interview, Paul Warnke, the newly appointed head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, responded as follows to the question of how the United States ought to react to indications that the Soviet leadership thinks it possible

to fight and win a nuclear war. He replied: In my view, this kind of thinking is on a level of abstraction which is unrealistic. It seems to me that instead of talking in those terms, which would indulge what I regard as the primitive aspects of Soviet nuclear doctrine, we ought to be trying to educate them into the real world of strategic nuclear weapons, which is that nobody could possibly win.



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