

STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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THE SECURITY COUNCIL: REGULATION OF ARMAMENTS
AND SUPPLY OF FORCES

Text of an address by General A.G.L. McNaughton, to the Institute for Annual Review of United Nations Affairs, conducted by New York University in co-operation with the UN Department of Public Information, at Lake Success, on Wednesday July 20, 1949.

It is for me a great pleasure to have this opportunity of addressing the New York University Seminar on the subject of "The Security Council; Regulation of Armaments and Supply of Forces".

I welcome this topic, for it has been my good fortune, as Canada's permanent delegate to the United Nations, to participate in the work which has been and is being done in the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Atomic Energy Commission, and the Commission for Conventional Armaments, in this field of endeavour.

In preparing this paper I have attempted to present in an objective manner an account of the work which has been accomplished in this field through the medium of the United Nations. Although I realize that much of what I am to say is common knowledge, I hope it may serve as a useful summary in your studies of this important and controversial subject.

HISTORICAL

Before entering upon an examination of the efforts which are presently being made toward the regulation and reduction of armaments (or as it is commonly called "disarmament"), it might be well to review briefly a few historical facts about disarmament. I say briefly, as time does not permit the marshalling of the mass of detail necessary to give any comprehensive account of the intensive efforts previously made in this field.

The first real efforts toward world disarmament were made in the latter part of the 19th century when, in 1898, the Czar of Russia taking the initiative, invited the leading world powers to join in a conference to discuss "the most effective means of assuring to all peoples the blessings of real and lasting peace, and above all to limit the progressive development of existing armaments".

The Czar's proposals, as later enlarged, led to the convoking at The Hague in 1899 of a conference to discuss disarmament. This first conference achieved little by way of concrete results, but it is interesting to note that it led to the creation of a Court of judges titled The Hague Court, to which questions could be submitted for mediation and arbitration.

A second conference was held at The Hague in 1907 to continue with the work of the first, but it too did not achieve a signal success.