

question of the demilitarization of Kashmir and the creation of conditions within the State to make possible the holding of a free and impartial plebiscite. In his proposals General McNaughton did not depart from the agreed truce procedure, but aimed at finding a simple, and practical plan for the demilitarization of the State. McNaughton's proposals called for the progressive withdrawal or disarmament and disbandment of all forces in Kashmir, including the regular forces of India and Pakistan, the Azad Kashmir forces and the armed forces and militia of Jammu and Kashmir, the only exception being certain Indian regular forces in Indian-occupied Kashmir required for the maintenance of law and order. The McNaughton proposals likewise provided for agreement on the definition of minimum forces required for law and order and on the phasing of the withdrawal. Finally the appointment of a United Nations representative was proposed, to supervise and direct the execution of the progressive reduction and re-distribution of the armed forces.

When General McNaughton tabled his proposals on December 29 at the Security Council's 458th meeting he explained that difficulties of communication with the sub-continent had not permitted sufficient time for the replies of the two Governments to his proposals to be studied and exchanged.

The United States, United Kingdom, France, Norway and China expressed general approval of the President's proposals. The Representative of Norway suggested further that negotiations be continued under the General's mediation, if necessary after the expiration of his term as President of the Security Council. The representatives of France and China expressed their approval of this suggestion, but the Soviet representative registered an objection, on the grounds that the Charter of the United Nations and the Rules of Procedure did not recognize an arrangement of this kind.

General McNaughton stated that before accepting a suggestion of this kind he would have to satisfy himself that it was entirely necessary for him to do so. His services as a mediator would be available to the Security Council as long as his term of office lasted. The talks would be continued without sticking too much to formality and it would then be up to the Security Council in its new composition after January 1, 1950, to decide when and in what capacity he should appear and report to the Council.

The Security Council did not consider the Kashmir Dispute during the month of January of this year and at the end of that month General McNaughton had still to make his final report.