

PRESS RELEASE



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The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Howard Green, has welcomed the agreement reached at the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Conference in Geneva on a declaration against war propaganda.

The subject of war propaganda was the first item under consideration by a special Committee of the Whole established by the Eighteen-Nation Conference to examine collateral measures designed to lessen international tension, improve confidence among states, and facilitate the achievement of general disarmament. In commenting on the draft declaration, the Secretary of State for External Affairs took note that the Canadian Delegation had played an active part in its consideration in the Committee of the Whole, and that Canadian views were fully reflected in the text as eventually agreed.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs emphasized that the understanding reached on this subject among all participants in the Eighteen-Nation Conference represented an important first step in their efforts to diminish the sources of international tension contributing to the armament race. He expressed the belief that the present accord would also assist materially in the further work of the Conference.

Mr. Green also welcomed the agreement which has been reached on the next two topics to be discussed concurrently in the Committee of the Whole - measures to prevent war by accident; and the prevention of the wider dissemination of nuclear weapons - both of which were among the seven subjects which Canada had originally proposed for priority consideration.

He underlined the need for rapid progress in the consideration of these topics, agreement on which would constitute a major contribution toward the reduction of the risks of war and the improvement of international confidence.