



UN FACT-FINDING SUBCOMMITTEE

The United Nations fact-finding subcommittee on Laos at Bangkok en route to Laos. From left to right are shown Ambassador Habib Bourquiba, (Tunisia); Ambassador Shinichi Shibuzawa (Japan), Chairman; Brigadier General Heriberto Ahrens (Argentina); and Mr. Ludovico Barattieri di San Pietro (Italy).

this Sub-Committee to examine the statements made before the Security Council concerning Laos, to receive further statements and documents, and to conduct such enquiries as it may deem necessary and to report to the Security Council as soon as possible". All the members of the Council except the Soviet Union spoke in favour of the three-powers resolution, stating that the Laotian appeal could not be ignored by the United Nations and that more facts were needed before consideration could usefully be given to the substance of the question. The Canadian Representative concurred in these views. He stressed particularly that, while Canada was prepared to consider any step which would help to reduce tension in the area, it had been the consistent position of his Government "that the principles of the Geneva settlement be maintained in Laos as elsewhere in Indochina and that the obligations arising out of that settlement rest on all the parties who participated in it".

The U.S.S.R. Representative, for his part, concentrated almost entirely on developments within Laos, placing the blame for the present situation on alleged violation of the Geneva Agreements and the Vientiane Agreement by the Royal Laotian Government. The main burden of his argument was that strict adherence to these agreements and the use of the International Com-