

August 14, it was announced that Laos was sending a special envoy to New York to request the Secretary-General to suggest ways of achieving a peaceful settlement between Laos and Communist China and North Vietnam.

In a press release issued on August 27, the Secretary-General noted that he had on occasion sent a personal representative to assist in resolving a conflict at the joint request of the countries concerned. He had also, in problems concerning only one member country, acted on the invitation of that country. He could not, however, arrange a mission to Laos without prior decision by the General Assembly or the Security Council, or an invitation from Laos and the other country concerned. He stated that an alternative might be a joint initiative by the two Co-Chairmen of the Geneva Conference. He could, of course, send a representative to Laos only, with terms of reference limiting his task to developments proper to Laos itself, but this would not seem to serve the intended purpose.

### **Appeal for UN Emergency Force**

It was against this background and a reported deteriorating military situation that Laos appealed for a United Nations emergency force on September 4. On September 7, at the suggestion of the Secretary-General (he cut short a South American tour and flew to New York upon receipt of this appeal), a meeting of the Security Council was called by its current President, Aegidio Ortona of Italy, to take up the Laotian complaint. The Soviet Delegate, Mr. Sobolev, objected strongly to the holding of this meeting and to the adoption of its agenda on the ground that the Government of Laos had not appealed to the Security Council itself, and that the Secretary-General was not doing so under the powers that are granted to him by Article 99 of the Charter. The agenda, however, was adopted by a vote of 10 to 1 (U.S.S.R.) under the heading "Report by the Secretary-General on the Letter Received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Royal Government of Laos, Transmitted by a Note from the Permanent Mission of Laos to the United Nations September 4, 1959".

The Secretary-General was then given the floor to present his report in which he reviewed briefly the story of his consultation with interested parties up to the last Laotian Note of September 4. In the course of the first half of the year, he went on to say, various communications on the difficulties encountered by Laos were received by the United Nations and he himself had consultations with interested people in this connection. These consultations and communications provided him with the background necessary for informal studies "regarding the possibilities open to the organization to be of assistance, obviously without impairing the Geneva Agreements or interfering with the arrangements which are based on them". The main aim of these studies was "to help towards an agreement on procedures which might be applied in an effort to overcome the difficulties Laos was facing".

### **Proposal for Fact-Finding Mission**

Following this introduction, the United States Representative presented a draft resolution sponsored by the U.S.A., France, and the United Kingdom, which read as follows: "The Security Council decides to appoint a Sub-Committee consisting of Argentina, Italy, Japan and Tunisia and instructs