

essential basic information and, leaving behind the alternative representatives to supply any additional information required or to report any material change in the situation, it returned to New York to prepare its report.

This report, which included information available up to October 26, was made public on November 5. In summarizing its findings, the sub-committee stated that the opposition to the Laotian Government consisted of former members of the Pathet-Lao and troops who had deserted in May 1959, as well as minority groups living in the border areas. It noted that, while some witnesses reported the participation on the side of the Pathet-Lao of forces possessing North Vietnamese ethnic characteristics, it was not clearly established whether regular North Vietnamese troops had actually crossed the frontier into Laos. The report stated, however, that the rebels had received support from North Vietnam in equipment, arms, ammunition, supplies and "the help of political cadres".

Reactions to the report were varied. The U.S.S.R., in line with the views it expressed during the discussion in the Security Council on the resolution setting up the sub-committee, issued a press release referring to the lack of evidence of direct intervention by regular North Vietnamese troops and accusing "certain quarters" of attempting to use the United Nations to undermine the Geneva Agreements. It reiterated its stand that the establishment of the sub-committee was illegal and that the solution to the disturbed situation in Laos was the reactivation of the International Commission or, alternatively, the convening of a new Geneva Conference to consider the situation. The Communist Chinese press accused the United States of attempting to aggravate the tension in Laos and implied that the sub-committee had been returned to New York so that it would be brought under American influence in compiling its report. North Vietnamese comment was much the same. The United States, on the other hand, noted that there had been various degrees and kinds of support given by the North Vietnamese and stated that the presence of the sub-committee in Laos apparently had had a tranquillizing effect on the situation. It further pointed out that, because of the nature of the terrain, it could not be expected that any units of the regular North Vietnamese Army could be easily identified but that this did not preclude such participation.

Following the publication of the sub-committee's report, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Hammarskjold, decided to accept an invitation of the Laotian Government to visit Laos. Before his departure on November 10 he made it clear that his visit had no link with the sub-committee's report but was based on the general responsibilities of the Secretary-General and his administrative authority under the United Nations Charter. The Secretary-General believed that it would be desirable to obtain a first-hand impression of conditions and developments in Laos and stated that, if it seemed warranted and the Laotian Government favoured the idea, he would temporarily station a personal representative in Vientiane to maintain contact with the Laotian Government after