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Conflict in Laos

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of satellite photography, discussing limitations and quality of satellite photo images, and having illustrations of a number of simulated satellite photographs. Thereafter are offerings by other participants, providing good descriptions of satellite orbits, vehicles and sensors, and the problems of satellite observation. Professor William R. Kintner of the University of Pennsylvania then discusses peaceful space cooperation between the United States and the U.S.S.R. as it relates to the problem of opening the Soviet system. The essay by Yuan-li Wu considers the interesting possibility of using satellite reconnaissance against mainland China as a means of recording prominent objects which relate to China's economic growth. The problems of neutrals and open space are recounted by Albert R. Hibbs and Russell Rhyne, and the implementation of space programs in concert with various alliance partners is treated by Leon Sloss and John Morse, Jr. Edward E. Smith describes unilateral space observation by the U.S.S.R. and presents a hypothetical analysis of motives and consequences. 'Space Problems for Lawyers' by Allan N. Littman and James F. Kirkham considers legal precedents and contains the record of a dialogue which includes an interesting argument between the advocates of precedent and the advocates of control as governing jurisdiction. Edward Teller then speculates on space exploration and utilization and the test ban. Charles L. Gould, a San Francisco newspaper publisher, editorializes on the conference subject, and the book closes with a discussion of the practicality of UN surveillance. Unfortunately, the absence of a bibliography and the limited number of footnotes, do not allow the reader to dig more deeply into any given area of interest.

H. GLAZER
Chair of Physical Sciences

Dommen, Arthur J. *Conflict in Laos*. New York: Praeger, 1964.
338 p.

The situation in Laos is frequently referred to as a 'can of worms.' Arthur J. Dommen not only tries to clarify this by pointing out the threat in Laos, but, more importantly, he attempts to develop the cause behind the threat. He feels that there are many lessons for the future in the study of our mistakes in Laos. The author traces the buildup of the Pathet Lao forces from a small group of poorly equipped guerrillas supported by North Vietnam, to a well-equipped military force of several thousand. He covers the interplay between the Soviet Union, Red China, North Vietnam, and the United States. This had many confusing and unanticipated

results. For instance, many of the enemy were outfitted with American equipment, and, in some cases, funds provided by the United States were used to pay for Russian aid to the opposition. The Royal Lao government initially had many advantages over the insurgents that the government forces failed to develop, but Hanoi gradually overcame these advantages by the successful use of infiltration and subversion. The author thinks that Laos now is involved so deeply in a 'people's war' that her only possible chance for survival is through an effective neutralization by international consent. This book provides a good insight into a very complex situation that is closely tied to the Vietnamese problem.

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