

Officially, the Vietnamese leaders are delighted by the improvement in Sino-Soviet relations. As early as 1982 the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach, said in Bangkok: "We welcome detente between China and the Soviet Union because this shows that the policy of collusion between the US and China has failed."⁶⁸ This official optimism was repeated many times in the course of various interviews in Hanoi. Sometimes, however, those interviewed spoke of the Soviet Union as having little room for manoeuvre if it did not want to give up the strategic advantages acquired so painstakingly in Vietnam. This realism on the part of the Vietnamese was confirmed by the Director of the Institute for Oriental Studies in Moscow who said: "Vietnam is as important to us as West Germany is to the United States."⁶⁹

Nonetheless the Vietnamese continue to be somewhat perplexed, and their traditional feelings of resentment toward the Soviet Union have not entirely disappeared despite official Socialist "brotherhood." The Vietnamese are afraid of any Sino-Soviet collusion on a solution to the problem in Kampuchea which would be more of an advantage to China and the Soviet Union than to Vietnam. Vietnam has never forgotten the alliance between the Soviet Union and China during the Geneva Conference of 1954.

⁶⁸ Leszek Buszynski, *op.cit.*, page 192.

⁶⁹ Thai Quang Trung in *Indochina Report*, *op.cit.*, page 30.