

Vietnam can loosen its ties with Cambodia and Laos which it considers as a part of the buffer zone required to ensure its security? How can one believe that China and its allies in ASEAN will be easily satisfied with whatever promises or assurances they receive from Hanoi?

The difficulty of answering these questions should not, however, necessarily be a cause for despair. Wider negotiations may lead to agreement on certain points. It might well be possible, for instance, to agree to guarantee the survival of Cambodia as a neutral or non-aligned country. In order to achieve this objective, which is absolutely basic to any settlement, the Western countries will have to adjust their policies in the light of current events. Canada could easily combine both firmness and flexibility by adopting a policy towards Indochina which is more in line with its traditional foreign policy, a policy concerned with making a positive contribution to peace rather than maintaining sanctions which are not in its own immediate interests.