

decided to establish diplomatic relations with the provisional government of the Republic of South Vietnam. The reunification of Vietnam took place the following year and Canada did not need to recognize the new state officially, since its relations with it were a continuation of those already established with the previous governments of North and South Vietnam respectively. In Laos, the coming to power of the Pathet Lao in August 1975 had not led to any change in Canada's position, since it simply carried on with the new government the relationship which it had established with its predecessor on 15 June 1974; the Canadian ambassador in Thailand remained accredited to the government of Laos.

From 1975 to the end of 1978, Canada's relations with Vietnam were more or less normal. While Canada continued to have considerable reservations about the government in Hanoi it nonetheless maintained commercial relations with Vietnam and continued to provide it with development assistance, including a significant quantity of food. Several projects sponsored by non-governmental organizations continued to receive funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This was the case with the Canadian Save the Children Fund, the Canadian Council of Churches, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Quebec, and the Canadian Lutheran World Relief.⁶

It might have been expected that Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea at the end of December 1978 would have provoked strong reactions. In fact, however, as Kim Nossal demonstrates most convincingly, this did not happen; the Canadian government made little comment on these developments. Surprisingly enough it was equally discreet in bringing to an end its development assistance programme the following February.⁷ A Canadian election was in progress at this time and the situation in Indochina was far from being uppermost in the minds of either ministers or members of parliament. It was only at the Security Council meeting of 24 February 1979 that the Canadian representative joined his Australian

⁶ *Ibid.*, page 127.

⁷ For an account of Canada's attitude since 1978 see Kim Richard Nossal's stimulating article, "Les sanctions économiques et les petits Etats: le cas de la 'punition' du Vietnam par le Canada," *Etudes Internationales*, vol. XVIII, no. 3, September 1987, pages 523-544.