

that time will tell against the Vietnamese. The Chinese leaders are using — and will continue to use — the improvement in their relations with the Soviet Union to embarrass Vietnam. In going so far as to accept the Soviet military presence in Cam Ranh Bay and Danang, China, as we will see later, has reduced the game to its essentials, namely: “Vietnam must put an end to the invasion and withdraw all its troops from Kampuchea as quickly as possible; that is the key to the problem in Kampuchea”.<sup>47</sup> This demand, repeated many times, that there be a complete and immediate withdrawal of Vietnamese forces, is not negotiable. As far as China is concerned, what is at stake is its credibility in the eyes of all of Southeast Asia; it is inconceivable that China would be willing to lose face by making any compromise on this point.

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<sup>47</sup> *Beijing Information*, no. 40, 5 October 1987, page 18.