

## FRESH HOPES FOR PEACE

Perhaps it is illusory to believe that one can achieve a real state of peace in the peninsula of Indochina. It might be fairer, and certainly more realistic, to envisage a solution to the present conflict which would involve shaky compromises but could never succeed in eliminating all the fighting or calming all the passions.

The situation has changed recently, and the great flurry of diplomatic activity going on is an indication of the fact that present circumstances are more propitious for reaching a settlement than ever before. Before concluding, however, that this process is irreversible it is necessary to recognize that from now on any such settlement is likely to depend on the progress of the rapprochement between the Soviet Union and China. Vietnam is undeniably in an increasingly delicate situation, even if it officially welcomes this process, for the change which is taking place will force it to develop policies towards Moscow and Beijing which are firm and yet conciliatory. The ambiguity and caution implicit in Vietnam's relations with these two capitals are nothing new. The current situation differs from any previous one, however, because Vietnam is much more dependent on Moscow, and its relations with China are much more strained as a result of the humiliations China suffered — humiliations for which it is not willing to forgive Hanoi unless the latter makes some concessions.

### **THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION**

In April 1985 the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach,