

If the exclusion of Pol Pot and his associates no longer seems to be an insurmountable difficulty there is still, nonetheless, considerable suspicion concerning the tolerance which will be required for this process of "national reconciliation." Even more serious is the refusal of the Khmers to disarm once they are allowed back into Cambodia. Kieu Samphan declared that on this point "Vietnam is trying to achieve by diplomatic means what it failed to obtain by military means: to disarm the main land force in the area which is opposed to it. We don't want to fall into that trap."¹²⁸

There are still many other difficulties since it is hard to imagine how one would set up even a provisional government composed of four factions. When this quadripartite coalition was first proposed, Hanoi, in fact, ridiculed it by pointing out that those who had nothing to offer wanted to give Heng Samrin "a quarter of the cake."¹²⁹ It is true, however, that this comment was made in the spring of 1986.

Finally, one cannot ignore a still more serious source of concern, which would persist even if an agreement is reached concerning the holding of "free elections." This concern has been expressed by various sources¹³⁰ and was summed up by Prince Sihanouk when he said:

... the Vietnamese leaders can well afford the luxury of saying that they will leave Cambodia in 1990. By then they will have achieved a two-fold success: first of all, the number of Vietnamese colonists will have reached a million — a million people who will have acquired Cambodian nationality and the right to vote; second, the so-called army of the 'People's Republic of Cambodia' under the authority of Heng Samrin will have become a second Vietnamese army.¹³¹

¹²⁸ Interview with Khieu Samphan "Cambodge : l'Union sacrée?" *Politique internationale*, no. 34, Winter 1986-1987, page 333.

¹²⁹ Nayan Chanda, "Cambodia in 1986," *op.cit.*, page 122.

¹³⁰ See especially the article by Al Santoli "Endless Insurgency: Cambodia," *The Washington Quarterly*, vol. 8, no. 2, Spring 1985, pages 61-73.

¹³¹ Interview with Norodom Sihanouk "Libérer le Cambodge," in *Politique internationale*, no. 31, Spring 1986, page 257.