

It persists in its belief that by preserving a show of solidarity with the other members of the coalition opposed to the Vietnamese presence in Kampuchea, it will help to weaken Vietnam and bring about a solution to the problem; in the meantime it reaps the benefits of this policy with its friends in ASEAN, and with China and the United States.

It is worth noting, however, that Canada's policy has not had the impact which was hoped for because it has played a very passive role in support of its allies; in addition, there is no reason to suppose that Canada would lose anything in its relations with China, the United States or the ASEAN countries, if it were to adopt a more substantive and independent approach to Vietnam and Kampuchea. It is worth remembering that some of the Asian countries which are most opposed to Communism have embarked on commercial relations with Vietnam; Japan was the first non-communist state to trade with Vietnam and it has been followed by Singapore which is one of the coalition states most vigorously opposed to Vietnam. It is also significant that South Korea and even Thailand, despite the fact that the latter is involved in clashes with Vietnamese troops on the Cambodian border, have begun to trade indirectly with Hanoi. Why should Canada be more rigid in its approach than some of the Asian countries most strongly opposed to Communism?

One should not contemplate any radical change in Canadian policy to Vietnam, however, without considering the risks this might involve. First of all, it is important to avoid having any positive action interpreted by Hanoi as a sign of weakness on the part of the coalition opposed to it, since this would encourage the acceptance of the situation in Kampuchea as permanent; in the second place Canada should try to avoid the errors involved in previous interventions, particularly in the case of Australia, by making it crystal clear to its "allies" (ASEAN, China, and the United States) exactly what is intended.

Thus any appropriate Canadian policy *vis-à-vis* Vietnam should make it quite clear that Canada continues to attach importance to the security and stability of Southeast Asia. Ottawa could, for example, go beyond the mere expression of good intentions by showing unambiguously that it is willing to contribute, if only symbolically, to protecting the security of