



The author of the accompanying article, David van Praagh, carried his camera on a recent visit to Asia. The above photographs illustrate his theme of the changing face of Asia. On the left is a scene from the morning market-place in Vientiane under Communist rule, while on the right is the famous Bullet Train in Tokyo.

*China seeks to restrain expansionism by Hanoi*

The fact that events in Asia are no longer strained through the prism of massive U.S. involvement in a small part of the continent permits Asians as well as Americans to see more clearly. The double shock of the collapse in Indochina and the dwindling of the U.S. presence in Asia was salutary in a sense. Part of the new Asian realism is recognition of North Vietnamese expansionism. The changing Chinese leadership is keenly aware of it and is moving to restrain Hanoi in Laos, Cambodia and Thailand.

### Three parts

Southeast Asia is divided now into three parts: Communist-led authoritarian governments in Vietnam (which will be formally reunified on or soon after the first anniversary of Saigon's fall on April 30, 1975), Cambodia and Laos; military-led or -supported authoritarian governments in Indonesia, the Philippines and Burma; and governments making their own way towards economic and political reforms in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

This does not present an encouraging picture. But trends in the non-Communist country on the "front line" in Southeast Asia, Thailand, are positive, if still uncertain. If the Thais succeed in making constitutional democracy and rural development work in the next few years, a turnaround in the region could come about, depending on constructive economic co-

operation in Asia by China, Japan and Western nations.

The story may be apocryphal, but Chairman Mao is said to have told Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj in June 1975: "Don't shoot your Communist insurgents, they'll become better at it; don't fight them, they'll come back." His implied message was only effective counter-insurgency: distribution of wealth to peasants.

In the view of some, the Chinese are pulling the wool over the eyes of Communist Asians like Kukrit and they will come to terms with Peking after the end of the war in Indochina. But China has its own period of transition stands firm against further war or from depression. Instead of developing Asian markets, a shrewd journalist, and Singapore Minister Lee Kuan Yew, a hard-line Chinese noted for putting the region in a broad perspective, have both advocated articles of faith the importance of sharing of economic benefits and that China will extend "familial" interests to countries where such sharing is in their interests. If the Association of Southeast Asian Nations becomes an economic and political force, it will not be through "neutralization" or adding Communist members, as Malaysia advocates, but through developing a free-trade zone, taking into account of Thailand's exposed