

points. These included the following provisions: negotiations between the CGDK and Vietnam with a view to having the Vietnamese troops withdraw in two stages; a ceasefire to permit this withdrawal to take place; the creation of a group of UN observers to observe the ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Vietnamese; the setting up, after the first phase of the withdrawal had taken place, of a four-part government which would include the three members of the CGDK and the Heng Samrin faction, with Sihanouk as president and Son Sann as prime minister; general elections under the supervision of UN observers, and a guarantee of Cambodian neutrality with the UN observers remaining in place for three years; the acceptance of foreign aid to promote the reconstruction of the country and its economy; and the signing of a treaty of non-aggression and peaceful co-existence with Vietnam.¹⁰⁸ Despite the fact that this proposal was swiftly rejected by both Vietnam and the Soviet Union it has remained a point of reference in one way or another for the various belligerents.

The process of rapprochement between China and the Soviet Union seemed to pick up speed after Gorbachev's important speech in Vladivostok on 28 July 1986. Meetings between representatives of the two countries became more frequent and both Moscow and Beijing judged it necessary to reaffirm their respective positions so as not to alarm their "allies." The Soviet Union reassured Vietnam about its intentions regarding China, and on the other hand the Secretary General of the Chinese Communist Party confirmed to Prince Sihanouk that Beijing was still in favour of the eight-point plan put forward by the CGDK.¹⁰⁹ It only remained for Igor Rogatchev, when he arrived in Beijing at the beginning of October for the ninth round of the Sino-Soviet negotiations, to declare that Moscow was ready to discuss any question of interest to both sides (in other words Cambodia); this represented a break with the tradition that the Soviets did not discuss matters affecting third parties.¹¹⁰ Oddly enough it was learnt a little later that there had

¹⁰⁸ *ASEAN Newsletter*, March-April 1986, page 2.

¹⁰⁹ "Hu Yaobang and Sihanouk discuss Cambodia; Relations with Vietnam," *SWB*, 11 September 1986, page A3/2.

¹¹⁰ Robert C. Horn, "Vietnam and Sino-Soviet Relations. What Price Rapprochement?" *Asian Survey*, vol. XXVII, no. 7, July 1987, page 742.