

wider acceptance since the formula for the "Finlandization" of Cambodia seems based on a similar logic.¹²⁰ This "Finlandization" as a type of settlement would take account of Vietnam's strategic interests in Cambodia while letting it be ruled by a new government which would be different from both the present regime and the previous one of the Khmer Rouge.

China, which certainly drew up the eight-point proposal put forward by the CGDK, has declared itself in favour of this kind of neutrality for Cambodia and it has maintained at the United Nations that "Kampuchea should become an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned state."¹²¹ The Vietnamese have also recently added the word "neutral" to the adjectives "peaceful, independent and non-aligned." Questioned about this by *Le Monde*, the General Secretary of the Vietnamese Communist Party, Nguyen Van Linh, refused to agree that there had been any change from the earlier position: "I do not think there is any real difference. Perhaps Hun Sen and Sihanouk want to make the matter a little clearer," he said. "In any event, if Cambodia is part of a group in which Sihanouk would occupy an important post it will be the friend of Vietnam."¹²² This is a key phrase which echoes what was said to me in various interviews in Vietnam and confirms Vietnam's determination that it will only accept a Cambodia on which it can continue to rely.

Prince Sihanouk seemed to disregard the wishes of Hanoi on this basic point, however, when he spoke of a new Cambodia as being "neither popular, nor democratic, nor communist, nor socialist,"¹²³ but rather a country with a parliamentary system rather like that of France, which would be multi-party and entirely independent. The future state of Cambodia would get on all the better, in his opinion, if it had good relations with its two big neighbors (Thailand and Vietnam) and with the three superpowers, the Soviet Union, the United States and China.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ See Justus Van der Kroef's studies on this subject and particularly his article "Kampuchea: The Road to Finlandization," *op.cit.*, pages 221-241.

¹²¹ *Beijing Information*, no. 40, 5 October 1987, page 18.

¹²² *Le Monde*, 8 December 1987, page 8.

¹²³ *Le Monde*, 4 December 1987, page 2.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*