with the Pol Pot regime in a peaceful manner. In the midst of the Carter Administration's duplicitous accusations of "aggression" against Vietnam, it is an easily forgotten fact that border claims against the whole of the Mekong delta region of Vietnam made by the Pol Pot regime were the source of the border conflict between the two countries. As the Vietnamese representatives at the United Nations often repeated, Hanoi tried on numerous occasions to have this border dispute discussed at the United Nations, but China and its Pol Pot puppets repeatedly refused.

Provided China can be kept on the diplomatic "defensive," and prevented from launching an invasion against Vietnam, the formation of a new government in Cambodia last week has opened the way for the achievement of great regional stability through economic cooperation. The Mekong River development plans, which have been under discussion for many years, provide the best potential for regional cooperation, and could easily be integrated into already existing plans among the ASEAN countries for industrial development.

The United States has by no means lost the possibility of participating in these regional development plans, provided the Carter Administration ends its policy of promoting a Chinese "sphere of influence" in Asia, and quickly normalizes relations with Vietnam. Hanoi has made every effort to accomodate the American demand that there by no preconditions to negotiations, a fact recognized by Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke on numerous occasions. In fact, it is now Washington which has placed preconditions on Vietnam: that Hanoi sacrifice its independence, and recognize Chinese hegemony in Asia. As long as the Carter Administration maintains this policy, it will continue to suffer such strategic setbacks in the region as the recent Cambodia events.

—Peter Ennis

The China menace: then and now

China's response to the Cambodia crisis is nothing new. In fact it is the second time in this decade that Peking has supported a brutal dictatorship in Asia and then tried to get the U.S. to save it for them. It is useful to compare the events of 1978-79 in Cambodia with the very similar events in South Asia in 1971 which resulted in the creation of a new government in the independent nation of Bangladesh.

In 1971, the military junta of Pakistan imposed a brutal military campaign on East Pakistan, ruthlessly suppressing the movement for the creation of an independent Bangladesh, led by Sheik Mujib. This movement had in the elections of a year earlier received the almost unanimous support of the people of East Pakistan. The junta of Gen. Yahya Khan, after refusing moderate demands for autonomy, carried out systematic butchery of intellectuals by the thousands, burning villages — an all out war on the people. An armed struggle of the Bangladesh liberation movement was created to fight this brutal dictatorship.

Just as in the case of Cambodia, the U.S. had almost nothing to say about the destruction of human rights in East Pakistan. Along with the Peking regime, whose ties to Pakistan were extensive, they instead proclaimed their only interest to be the preservation of the territorial integrity of Pakistan.

Kissinger and U.S. Policy
In 1971, as in 1978, the main visible interest of the U.S. administration under Henry Kissinger's direction, was to seek favors of China. This was the time of the Nixon visit, of American pursuit of the China alliance and normalization. Pakistan, like Cambodia, was a stepping stone to that alliance, considered only as it served in a geopolitical game.

In 1971 the government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was deeply concerned about the events in East Pakistan and expressed this concern repeatedly to the world. Similarly, if we examine the record of the past year, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has repeatedly tried to seek normal relations with the U.S., to look for American economic assistance and trade, and to commit itself to the stability of Southeast Asia.

In 1971 the Indian government, after repeated efforts, moved to support the liberation struggle in Bangladesh. In the early part of that year, India signed a Peace and Friendship Treaty with the Soviet Union, a crucial strategic act which both reaffirmed the friendly ties of the two countries and provided Soviet support against the U.S.-China-Pakistan axis which threatened the security of the subcontinent. In 1978 Vietnam signed a similar treaty, and did so to affirm its friendship ties and to provide strategic support against a building campaign of threatened and actual Chinese aggression against Vietnam, carried out through its puppet Cambodian regime.

In 1971 and 1978, when all other routes were exhausted and brutality after brutality was perpetrated against the populations of Bangladesh and Cambodia, war erupted. The liberation forces of Bangladesh, with the strong support of India and its army, moved to overthrow the military regime and establish a free nation, just as the liberation forces of Cambodia with Vietnamese support did this past week.

The U.S. and Chinese response in 1971 foreshadowed 1978. With cries about "territorial integrity" being violated, the U.S. 7th Fleet, led by the carrier Enterprise, moved toward the Bay of Bengal. At the UN, China and the U.S. colluded to condemn 'Indian aggression.' The Chinese paper tigers, who Kissinger reportedly assured the Pakistan regime would intervene to help save their necks, moved troops to the Indian border. Again last week, when Chinese troops massed on the Vietnamese border, the Chinese were too scared to act by themselves.

China's "America Card"
Twice in the same decade the Chinese have chosen to play their "America card," to use American power and influence for their expansionist designs. Kissinger was only too ready to play this role in 1971, and would do the same now if given the full opportunity. Twice the U.S. has been led up the garden path by China and left holding the hands of brutal fascist dictatorships who serve Chinese aims and interests.

—Daniel Sneider