

Editorial

When this journal was launched two years ago, we stated that our main objective would be to provide rigorous and objective analysis of Chinese developments. This is still our aim. But regular readers will have realised that we have widened our scope beyond the frontiers of China.

Partly this has been because little is generally known about Communism in Asia and Australasia and we have wanted to help fill this gap. More important has been the fact of China's increasing involvement in foreign Communist movements as the articles we have published on Northern Vietnam, North Korea, India and Australia have shown.

Of all the Asian Communists, it is the North Vietnamese who for reasons of geography, history and culture are the most sensitive to the aims and policies of Peking. Indeed, under a leader less able and subtle than Ho Chi Minh, North Vietnam by now might well have been a fully-fledged Chinese satellite. It is the close ties between North Vietnam and China that has led us to select the former for our first extended survey of Communism beyond China's frontiers

Five of our articles are by specialists who have observed the Hanoi régime from a distance. M. Tongas and Mr. Hoang Van Chi are writing on the basis of personal experience. Dr. Bich presents an independent view of the whole Vietnamese situation.

This special survey has been made possible as a result of considerable editorial work by Mr. P. J. Honey, to whose expert knowledge this journal is much indebted.