Chapter 9

Changes in the relationship due to the formation of the SAARC between India and other important States.

The changes which took place in world politics gave clear indications that the era which is emerging will end bi-polarity and will create such a situation which will have to be faced by the developing countries; particularly the developed countries will try to spread their influence on all small and weaker states in early stages and later on will target middle and developing states. Developed states already had their international organisations, association and institutions and they safeguarded their interest through their utilisations. Small are and weaker states struggle to survive and to come out of the problems of scarcity and for this they had to depend upon the affluent states.

South Asia was a region which did not have any regional organization therefore other regional organisations or international organizations and associations tried to exploit the states of this region for their benefits. For example Pakistan provided all sorts of facilities to the U.S.A. only to get financial and other help from the U.S.A.

South Asia region is geographically one region which is separated by international borders into sovereign independent states. Further more, just before fifty years it was ruled by Britishers. In 1947 India was divided into Pakistan. In 1971 Pakistan was split into Pakistan and Bangladesh. India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were British Subjects and were ruled by British Parliament. Nepal and Bhutan were protected states of the United Kingdom. Britishers ruled these states as one unit for governmental,
political, agricultural, industrial and commercial purposes. Therefore, the British economy could not be implemented when these states became Sovereign and independent. As such India and Pakistan had to restart their economy to fulfill their requirements in this regard, for example, all the jute producing area came under Pakistan (East Bengal) and all jute industries were located in India (West Bengal). This has created a hindrance in the agricultural and industrial sector of both countries because these two areas were separated from each other by international border. The result of it was the smooth trade between the agricultural producers and industrialists was disrupted. To overcome this problem India and Pakistan had to chart out the export-import policy of jute and its products, under trade rules and regulations as per international law. The treaty made between the two states to regulate jute related activities.

This above situation continued to be in existence even when the European states formed European Common Market. ECM made trade free zone, all the member states were amalgamated with each other to create one economy zone. Same thing is to be seen in establishment and successful implementation of ASEAN. Not to lack behind in the era of Regionalism and to march along with time to safe-guard self interest along with the interest of the neighbors the theme of region building of South Asia was initiated and later on successfully implemented in the form of SARC and then converted into SAARC to cover up more areas of Cooperation among the member States.

i) India and the European States:

At the time of independence, India had relations with United Kingdom only. Because then India was a British Subject and British Parliament ruled
India directly and managed it's all affairs in the community of states. Immediately after independence P.M. Nehru declared India's foreign policy. India was closely associated with the U.K. prior to its independence and therefore desired to keep it intact but in a different format. Nehru declared that India will not join British Commonwealth of Nations because it is a replica of British Empire and British Colonialism. Nehru initiated and succeeded in the move to delete 'British' from the title of the 'British Commonwealth of Nations.' The prefix British was eliminated and British Commonwealth of Nations came to be called Commonwealth of Nations.' India is one of the most important member of Commonwealth of Nations, to-day.

India had to establish Foreign Ministry and departments to deal with various international activities. India had to undertake the task of establishing its Embassies in friendly states; India established its Embassies in London, Washington, Moscow, Beijing, Djakarta etc. Thus in the first phase of establishment of Embassies England was given priority over others. In the second phase Embassies were established in Paris, Bonn, Berlin, Prague, Belgrade, Warsa etc.

Western countries were confused regarding India's policy of non-alignment. Particularly European countries followed the line of action of the U.S.A. towards India and its non-alignment policy. Slowly and steadily European countries realised India's foreign policy and its' position in the community of Nations.

India successfully lead non-alignment movement, established Indo-Arab bloc and Indo-African bloc. European states kept away from India as India favoured Communist Soviet Union, Communist China, Communist Yugoslavia over

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Capitalist U.S.A. and liberal U.K. India's association with capitalist bloc and communist bloc for non-military relationship and seeking their help for industrialisation and modernization started new era of relationship between India and Western States.

Indo-China war of 1962 and its impact on India made India to realize the importance of modernization of its armed forces. This led to the purchase of modern arms and ammunition, military technology, technical know-how etc, particularly from European states. Thus, the new trend was set up by purchasing arms and ammunition, machines and equipments from the UK, France, Soviet Union, Sweden etc.

The moment European states overcome the racialism effects of the Second World War they tried to associate with each other to overcome their economical dependency on the USA. The Dollar dominance disturbed their economy, trade and business. European States began experimenting with the establishment of European Community in 1957. This European Community could not successfully implement its policies but later on it strengthened itself and became a force to be given due respect in international trade and business, monitoring system, free market system etc. India established economic relationship with European Community member states i.e. Germany, France, Italy, UK, Spain, Netherland, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Denmark, Island, Luxebourg.

India concentrated on non-aligned movement and made it more popular than any other international movement in the post-second war era. In meantime Indo-Pak war, 1971 lead to the creation of Bangladesh and then onward India's status in the community of the states is upgraded and India's foreign policy became a foreign policy of big and powerful state. India hereafter is treated as a super power of Asia in the community of states.
Regionalism became prominent and most of the states formed their regional organizations by taking guide lines from E.C.M. (European Common Market). European Common Market became successful. E.C.M and ASEAN encouraged South Asian States to form the regional organization. The initiative taken by Bangladesh was upheld by other member states of South Asia and thus SARC came into being. This SARC was then converted into SAARC. Automatically India being the dominant state in the SAARC lead the SAARC in international politics and lead other members of SAARC in establishing cordial relationship among their governments and people. This created a new image of India in the minds of European states and therefore their attitude towards India as a leader of SAARC has created new avenues in dealing with each others. Then came the splitting of the USSR in its fifteen segments. This has created new situation in international relations. Many states opposed United State’s Uni-polarity and favoured multi-polarity to replace bi-polarity. Unification of Germany and newly united Germany along with France favoured India’s stand on multipolarity. European Community created its own currency thereby challenging the dominance of Dollar in international market. India made use of Euro currency from its inception in internation dealings.

India as a motivating and dominating force of SAARC is treated with respect and now when Indian became nuclear and advanced state in many technologies is accorded special status by some of the European states for example UK, Germany, Sweden, etc. etc. Today all European states think that by keeping cordial and friendly relationship with India they associate themselves with the South Asian region.
ii) India and the African States:

India was related through the British Parliament with the African states situated on the Sea route between India and UK. Indian armed forces served in North Africa along with British army against German forces during Second World War.

After independence the policy adopted by India in regard to colonial states of Africa benefited Indo-Afro relations when these African colonies acquired independence and established themselves as Sovereign states in the community of Nations. These newly independent sovereign African States opted for tested policy of Non-alignment in international relation thus India and India's foreign policy became ideal for these new independent African states. Diplomatic contacts were gradually established with the newly African countries. By 1961, India had diplomatic missions in Ghana and Nigeria. India established its Embassies in Brazivilla (Congo), Cairo (Egypt), Adis Ababa (Ethiopia), Accra (Ghana) Nairobi (Kenya) PortLuis (Mauritius), Rabat (Morocco), Pretoria or Cape town (South Africa), Lusaka (Zambia), Harare (Zimbabwe) etc. Brazililla, Cairo, Accra, Lusaka and Harare were closely linked with India and non-alignment. India helped these nations individually or through the United Nations. India also helped these nations in their developmental programme; for example India helped Kenya in erecting railway lines and manning their railway services; establishing and developing air ports and air services in Ghana etc.

India established Indo-African bloc with the help of Ghana, Congo, Zambia etc. In this regard Nakruma played a key role in bringing African states closer to India.

1. A. Appadorai and M.S. Rajan: India's Foreign Policy and Relations, P.P. 412
2. Ibid, P.P. 412
Majority of African States were and are poor, backward and weaker states. Western states whether capitalist or non-capitalist exploited these states for minerals and raw materials. Thus these newly sovereign, independent States avoided imperialistic western bloc or communist bloc. By keeping aloof from bipolarity and aligning themselves with India they became active members of the 'third world.'

The success achieved by SAARC in establishing successful coordination among its member states and changing the life style and social structure of society residing in member states. The role played by India in establishment of SAARC and in enactment of its Charter and then in its implementation is applauded by the African States. India helped in creating infrastructure for the working of SAARC as an organisation. India's role in implementing various schemes, projects and plans in member states of SAARC and building confidence among the member states of SAARC is considered to be unique success by the African states.

African states would like to follow the role model of SAARC for integrating African States in regional zones. The nature of SAARC is entirely different than the nature of ASEAN, ECM or any other international organization and suits to the political atmosphere of Africa and therefore infrastructure, charter, aims and objectives of the SAARC can be taken as a guide line for creating Regional Organisations in Africa.

The end of apartheid policy of South Africa has changed the politics of Africa. Overthrow of white regime has given new phenomena to the 'black' African states, i.e. Dominance of white man's authority can be overthrown and self rule can be established to enjoy the liberty and sovereignty in its totality. The suspicion towards European white states and the USA and the splitting of the USSR has created the situation in which African states had to join the associations and organizations of the
'third world' countries. This can be realised in the association of Indian Ocean rim states.

The scientific and technological achievement of India became strength of the third world due to India's attitude of helping non-developed, underdeveloped and developing states to establish or expand or develop their various establishments either by giving them technical know how, or providing them skilled labour and experts, giving them needed infrastructure or machineries and tools etc. The faith and confidence in India of these states is due to India's successful implementation of developmental programmes of SAARC in the neighbouring states. The successful implementation of various projects in the friendly states under the forum of non-alignment has also encouraged the African States to seek help and guidelines from India. India established itself as an industrial state and it is competing with other industrial states in the world market to sale its products. India has successfully executed the contracts of establishing industries, providing services and systems. India completed the projects promises in a given time within the budget and therefore African states kept very cordial relationship with India.

iii) India and the Latin American States:

At the time of independence India had no relationship with any of the Latin American states. India's policy towards Latin America states is a new arrival in the international relations. Latin American states were predominantly under the influence of the United States of America. Bipolarity has completed by Latin American states to be member of a Capitalist Bloc or Communist Bloc. Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru etc. belonged to American Group, whereas Uruguay, Peru, Cuba favoured and belonged to Communist Group.
To overcome the dominance of the U.S.A. the Latin American states minimised or nullified their dependence on the USA. Cuba is first Latin American state to join NAM and its President Fidel Castro successfully led NAM for a year.

India's respond to the call of Bangladesh and its contribution in the establishment of the SAARC and successful implementation of SAARC activities in South Asia region has increased the credibility of India in the minds of Latin American states.

Diplomatic relations were gradually established by India with a number Latin American countries. Brazil was the first country in Latin America with which India established diplomatic relations (1949).

India gave due importance to Latin American States in its foreign policy and tried to induct them as active member in the non-alignment movement but could not succeed in it. Today, India has diplomatic and political relationship with them without much transaction in trade and business. SAARC could not make any impact on Latin American states due to lack of communication and distance among them.

IV) India and North American States:

India tried to reach North American states after independence. India had problem of clarifying the meaning of non-alignment to the USA, Canada, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Costarica, Jamaica etc. India wanted to establish close relationship with the USA in particular India was accorded well-come and helped in

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1. A. Appadorai and M.S. Rajan: India's Foreign Policy and Relations, P.P. 405
getting technical know how by Canada. Scientific and technological help from Canada in early stages of research in nuclear physics and Atomic energy made India to develop & establish itself a Nuclear power in recent times. India received military help from the USA during Indo-China war of 1962.

The USA, the leader of the American continental states kept itself away from India because even after persuasion India didn't become member of the Capitalist Bloc and led 'Third World' as a counter move to bi-polarity. Further more India's growing importance was disturbing the USA's strategy in world politics and therefore USA wanted to balance India's power by helping Pakistan in all respects but all the efforts of the USA to establish Pakistan as equal power to that of India smelt away when India created Bangladesh in 1971.

Many times India critisised American policies and opposed some of them bluntly in International Relations; i.e. NPT, CTBT etc. Canada followed it's own policy for keeping relations with India. Cuba became NAM member and there after kept a good track of friendship with India. Cuba helped India in expanding NAM in North-America and South America. Other North American states for example Antigua, CostaRica, ElSalvador, Grenada , Hounduras, St.Lucia, Tobago etc. are important even today for India and therefore India simply kept cordial relationship with them. India is having economic relations with the USA, Canada, and Cuba; and therefore India established Consulates along with the Embassies in these states, only.

Establishment of SAARC in the South Asia region and Pakistan joining it as its acting and important member was not cordially received in the diplomatic circle of the USA. USA could not keep Pakistan happy in its company; time and again Pakistan discarded the company of the USA. Pakistan shoulder the responsibility
bestowed upon it by SAARC and collaborated with other member states of SAARC, including India to complete the project and change the pattern of life in the region.India and Pakistan together shouldered the major responsibilities of the SAARC. Both turned nuclear power against the wishes of the USA and did not sign CTBT. Therefore both are indirectly helping each other in giving counter move to the USA's strategy in international nation.

SAARC is a regional organisation which linked the Government and people of the member states with each other and is trying to uplift standard of living of people of this region. Indians and Pakistanis working together in the SAARC is a hindrance in the application of USA's 'devil's Policy in the South Asia region and therefore it has became a hidden challenge to the diplomatic moves of the USA. Further more India apposes the uni-polar policy of the USA, it is treated as a possible threat to the USA.

The creation of SAARC has started rivalry between the USA and India because through the establishment of SAARC India has successfully distanced Pakistan from the USA and reduced its sphere of influence in South Asia and also reduced its importance in the Indian Ocean. This development has created such an atmosphere in the Indian Ocean rim states which accepted India's leadership and are eager to establish and implement Mauritius 14 Agenda in reality. If such' M14 Group' comes into being and starts functioning it will be a counter balance to the American might in the Indian Ocean.


195
USA is a super power and having its influence on the world politics and regional politicians of the continents, the interest of the USA and the India collide with each other in the regional politics of Asia and Indian Ocean. USA had to withdraw its military and disband its military bases in Asia that is Pakistan, Afghanistan, South Vietnam, South Korea etc. To over come this loss the USA established its most powerful based at Diago Garcia in the Indian Ocean. But India is determined to make Indian Ocean a ‘Peace Zone’ and this led to the enmity among these two states. There are many areas in which India and the USA do not have common understanding thus they contradict each other.

V) India and Australia:

Australia since 1901 became ‘White men’s’ Australia. Up to second World War Australia followed United Kingdom and after Second World War followed the USA’s policy in international relation. Australia realized that it has no individual identity in the community of nations and if it continuously follows American policy in the international relation it will not be treated as an independent, sovereign, democratic state which is free to adopt its own policy in world politics. In the name of ‘white men’s’ paradise Australia was treated as a colony by Western Powers particularly British and American Governments. It is a Continent but can not be compared with other continents. It is a big island. It can not be treated as powerful a state or a rich state. It is the most isolated state in the world. It's having only New Zealand, Nauru, Papua New Guinea as its sea neighbour states. Other states are far away from it. Australia desires to be an Asian States. It is trying all its best to get included in Asian Community of states. In the early 1970’s the Government of Australia ended the “white
only" immigration policy and strengthened Australia ties with Asian Nations. Australia is trying diplomatically, politically & economically to convince Asian States that it will be an asset to Asian Community if they accept Australia as an Asian State. Australia is impressed by an establishment of ASEAN and SAARC in Asia. Australia is surrounded by Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean. Australia cannot become member of either of these two regional organizations i.e. ASEAN and SAARC; therefore Australia proposed to establish an Association of Indian Ocean Rim States for the development of the Society residing in this region.

Australia 'Look West ' (August 1994) policy was realised when she became an active member of M-14 group. Australia organised the conference of International Forum on the Indian Ocean Region (IFIOR) on 11-13 June 1995 at Perth. The trade interest, besides other factors, has forced Australia to collaborate with India and South Africa to initiate dialogue among the countries in the Afro-Asian region. The IOR-ARC (Indian Ocean Rim-Association for Regional Cooperation) is to be lead by India and ably supported by South Africa and Australia. Australia's proposal is in a premature stage. The time and events will decide the shape of relationship among India and Australia.

vi) India and other Asian States:

India prior to the establishment of SAARC was one of the three big powers of Asia. The establishment of SARC owes its origin to the awesome Military power of India in the eyes of neighbouring states, particularly Bangladesh. On the call of Bangladesh; Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives associated with her and

1. New Standard Encyclopaedia, P.P. 780
later on India joined them to remove their fear about it and to give a concrete foundation and contribute its share in the establishment of SARC and played a role of elder brother to these neighbouring states which became members of the SARC. The SARC was converted into SAARC and its headquarters was established at Kathmandu, Nepal. Now India takes lead in over all development of SAARC. Under the leadership of India SAARC has realised many dreams of the people of South Asia region and therefore India is treated as a benefactor of the people as well as governments of the South Asian states.

Asian States since ancient time considered India as a mystic and spiritual state. Even in the freedom movement India experimented with non-violence and succeeded in it. Thus India's independence is a product of non-violence movement and therefore after attaining independence India immediately declared that it will implement 'Panchsheel' and non alignment policy in its relationship with all the states of the world. India handed over the mandate of ruling Tibet to China through 'Panchsheel' agreement'. Further more the lead taken by India in non-aligned movement, in establishing Indo-Arab bloc, Indo-African bloc and avoided all sorts of involvement with such states which followed racial and colour discrimination policies in their relationship with other states and intervened in the internal rule and administration of the neighbouring states.

India entered into Twenty Years Friendship Treaty with the USSR, which was then Euro-Asian state, till its disintegration in 1991. In this year USSR was split into fifteen independent states and the five of them are included in the community of Asian States besides treating Independent State of Russia as a Euro-Asian State. Independent State of Russia carried the legacy and responsibility of bygone USSR thus
India and Russia renewed 20 year friendship treaty. This is a clear indication of mutual understanding between these two states.

Communist China and India had cordial relation till Indo-China war of 1962. In between 1962 to 1972 Indo-China relationship was strained one. In between 1971 to 1984 China realized the all out development of India and therefore it adopted watch and wait policy. The establishment of SAARC and the second nuclear test carried out by India has made India’s intention clear to the world and China too took notice of it. There after Indo-China relations started improving. Their relationship are diplomatic in nature. They have dialogues and treaties with each other except international boundaries.

Indo-Japan relations, Indo-South Korea, Indo-South Vietnam and Indo-Nationalist China relations are based on these states desire to keep contact with India and if possible have trade with it. Toshiki Kaifu, Prime Minister of Japan expressed that "Should SAARC as an Organisation desire to receive cooperation from countries outside the region in its endeavor to attain these goals, Japan will be prepared to consider extending appropriate cooperation .... cognizant of the growing inter dependence in the world economy and also out of humanitarian consideration, Japan has been addressing itself to the task of expanding its assistance to developing countries. As a country in Asia that has endeavored to modernise itself, we believe that Japan has a unique role to play for the promotion of development assistance". India treated these states as the protected states of the USA. USA has promised them Nuclear Umbrella in case of nuclear war. These states therefore, never bothered to follow either non-aligned policy or collaborated with India in any issue in the international

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1. P.A. Narasimha Murthi: India and Japan - Dimensions of their Relations: Economic and Cultural, P.P. 445

199
forum. Even after the establishment of SAARC they never changed their attitude towards India as such even today these states hold no special place in its foreign policy.

India and South East Asian states had cordial relationship, since India’s independent. India had and is having very friendly relationship through non-alignment movement and ‘Panchsheel’ agreement. Djakarta with Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma, Thailand and Philippines. The establishment of SAARC and India’s association with it is duly recognised by these States, they also recognised India’s nuclear capability and therefore they treat and accord respect to India as a super power of Asia. They want that India should take lead in establishing peace not only in Asia but also in Indian Ocean too. The emergence of the South Asian region in the centre of the Indian Ocean as an area firmly committed to peace and cooperation on the basis of Bandung Principles and the UN resolution on the Indian Ocean Peace Zone will go a long way in improving the prospects for conversion of the entire Indian ocean area into a Peace Zone.

Arab States of Asia had and are having friendly relationship with India. India is one of the food exporter to the oil producing Arab states and one of the principle customer of these oil producing Arab states, even India established Indo-Arab bloc to safeguard the interests even by neglecting the offer of friendship by Istrael for very long time. India established and developed diplomatic and other relationship with Istrael in the last decade of 20th Century.

Iraq turned communist oriented state through the Bath Party, which came in to power and provided strong military leadership in Saddam Hussain and

1. Op-Cit, 445
2. Kaushik Devendra : The Peace Zone Concept : It's Relevance to a system of Regional Cooperation and Security in Asia, P.P. 36
followed independent policy in world politics. Iraq dared to oppose the policy of the U.S.A.

The overthrow of Shah of Iran and establishment of Fundamentalist Islamic rule under the leadership of Ayatullah Khomini Changed all the diplomatic and other relationship between India and Iran.

Afghanistan's traditional Islamic rule came to an end when Daud with the help of Communist 'Soviet Union' came into power; but soon he was removed from power and Karmal took over the charge of Afghanistan. There after Afghanistan was in turmoil in which various militant groups tried to take over the rule of Afghanistan. One of the group was supported by the USSR and the other Group was supported by the USA and Pakistan. They fought with each other and lastly Soviet Union had to withdraw from Afghanistan and slowly and steadily the hard core Fundamentalist captured the power i.e. 'Taliban. India never had any cordial relationship with the Taliban rulers of Afghanistan. Afghanistan was considered to be the aspirant member of the SAARC. India along with the other SAARC members had soft attitude towards Afghanistan but Taliban dominance in Afghanistan has ruled out any possibilities of including Taliban ruled Afghanistan as a member state of SAARC. Not only India but other member states of SAARC also rejected Afghanistan in its present form.

Establishment of SAARC in South Asia is a turning point in the relationship between the members of the SAARC as well as between the relationship of SAARC with other than SAARC member, states of Asia. India being a big brother among the member states of SAARC is treated as a dominant and unifying power of the region and therefore the relationship of the important states of the community of nations in Asia with India is cordial.
India, which was a colony of the UK is now leader of the Non-Aligned Bloc, Third World and SAARC, where as the UK is second fiddle to the USA in World Politics and one of the member state of Euro-community, which at present is led by Germany. The USA which desires to implement its uni-polar policy’ is strongly challenged by India in association with the important states of the world which favoured multi-polarity to take over bygone bi-polarity. Most of the Latin American , African, and Asian states respect India as a Third World leader and the sympathizer of Third World people. Their faith in India increased after India’s successful leadership and efforts to convert South Asia region from non-developed to progressively developing region and improving the conditions of the people and offering more and more facilities and services to the people of this region. India’s intentions through the leadership of SAARC is made clear that India gives more important to the people of the region in comparison to the Governments of the states in region. India’s this attitude is treated by the peoples of the world as a humanitarian effort than the welfare schemes as they are employed by ‘said to be’the welfare states or by international welfare organisations.