This dissertation is an attempt to analyse India's relations with Southeast Asia from 1954 to 1964 - that is, from the Geneva conference on 21 July 1954 to the death of Jawaharlal Nehru on 27 May 1964. Though India's relations with Southeast Asia during the early historical period have been exhaustively dealt with by scholars, both Indian and foreign, the same interest has not been evinced in the study of interaction during the medieval, modern and contemporary periods. As far as post-independence period is concerned, only two books have appeared, the first entitled *India and Southeast Asia, 1947-1960* (Geneva, 1963) by a Vietnamese scholar, Ton That Thien, and the second entitled *Indian Foreign Policy in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, 1947-1964* (Berkeley, 1968) by D.R. Sardesai. Ton That Thien's work has serious limitations not only due to insufficient research materials consulted, but what is more, the author has not been able to grasp the mainsprings of India's foreign policy. D.R. Sardesai's work is a commendable study, but its focus is restricted to Indo-Chinese states - Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. This study, on the other hand, encompasses all the countries of Southeast Asia and attempts a new approach to the study of India's relations with that region in a crucial period of Asia's political resurgence. To the best of my knowledge, this study is the
first of its kind to be attempted by any scholar in an Indian University.

This dissertation is divided into five chapters. Chapter I introduces the subject and traces India's relations with Southeast Asia upto 1954. Chapter II traces the genesis and formation of Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (S.E.A.T.O.) and highlights the factors that motivated India to oppose it and the views of Southeast Asian countries. Chapter III analyses India's relations with Indonesia and traces the ups and downs in the bilateral relations. Chapter IV deals with the Indians in Southeast Asia with special reference to Indian minority in Burma. Chapter V sets out the conclusions that could be drawn from the study. An attempt is also made to highlight the significant trends in India's relations with Southeast Asia during the period of study and arrive at certain definitive conclusions.

I wish to take this opportunity to place on record my deep sense of gratitude to numerous persons and organisations
for extending to me their assistance and guidance in the course of preparing this thesis. My profound thanks are due to my Supervisor, Dr. V. Suryanarayan, Professor and Head of the Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras, for his invaluable guidance. I should express my gratitude to the University Grants Commission for providing me with the Junior Research Fellowship financial assistance but for whose encouragement I would not have successfully completed my research programme.

I should also express my gratitude to the University of Madras for providing the necessary facilities for research. I am grateful to the Librarian and staff of the Madras University Library; Library of the Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras; Library of the Servants of India Society, Madras; the Connemara Public Library, Madras; Library of the Indian Express, Madras; Gokhale Institute of Public Affairs, Bangalore; Sapru House Library, New Delhi; Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi; Ministry of External Affairs Library, New Delhi; Nehru Museum Library, New Delhi. I should also thank (Late) Professor Vishal Singh, School of International Studies,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Dr. D. R. Sardesai, Assistant Professor, University of California, Los Angeles; Professor A.K. Das Gupta, Department of History, University of Calcutta; Dr. P. C. Pradhan, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for their valuable suggestions in improving the thesis. I am grateful to the Documentation Centre, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi which made my collection of research materials in New Delhi easy. I cannot adequately thank Mr. N. R. V. Prabhu, Research Scholar, Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Madras, Madras for his suggestions, ideas and meticulously going through the draft of my thesis.

Date: 25/01/'86
Place: Madras-5.

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