The present study entitled "Indo-Burmese Relations, 1948-1962" is an attempt to evaluate major aspects of Indo-Burmese relations during the one and half decade period after the two countries gained independence. The study focuses only on specific issues and areas that bear relevance to the relations between India and Burma during the years 1948-62. The period of 1948-62 has been chosen for study for the reasons that during this period the bilateral relations between the two countries saw unanimity of views except on some issues when there arose minor differences. The year 1962 constitutes a landmark in the histories of both India and Burma. In the case of Burma, the year 1962 was a turning point in its political system because the civilian rule that had been continuing since independence was replaced by military dictatorship under the leadership of General Ne Win. As for India, 1962 was the year of Sino-Indian Conflict which made a far-reaching impact on India's foreign policy in general and its approach towards the neighbours in particular. These developments undoubtedly marked a significant phase as far as the relationship of these two Asian neighbours was concerned.

How did the pre-independence historical association between India and Burma influenced their relations during post independence period? What were the determining factors in Indo-Burmese relations? How far the bilateral relations between India and Burma were based on friendship and mutual co-operation? In what way they participated in solving the
regional problems? How did they share a common platform in regional as well as international conferences? Did they maintain a common stand as far as global issues were concerned? To what extent they co-operated on economic matters? Did the issue of Indian immigrants in Burma, in any way affected their relations? This study is an humble attempt to find answers to these questions.

Most studies made so far do not throw sufficient light on the Indo-Burmese relations particularly during the period 1948-62. In fact there is no systematic research work on this particular period. Therefore the purpose of this study is to give both, a factual and an analytical account of the various aspects of Indo-Burmese relations and their significance.

The thesis is divided into six chapters and the conclusion. The first chapter is a historical survey of India and Burma which includes their close association during the British colonial rule and also their co-operation in securing independence from the British rule. The second chapter highlights the major determinants in Indo-Burmese relations. The co-operation of India and Burma at bilateral and regional level has been discussed in the third chapter. Chapter fourth makes a study of their roles in regional conferences and global issues. Importance of Immigration in Indo-Burmese relations has been carefully analysed in chapter fifth. The sixth chapter examines in details the economic relations existing between the two countries.

The present study is based upon various official sources, memoirs, books and articles as also interviews and
discussions with persons who had opportunities to watch developments from very close quarters. In deference to the wishes of the persons concerned sometimes their names have not been mentioned nor sensitive details of the interviews recorded. After a study of the materials available in India, I was sanctioned financial support by the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University to proceed on a field trip to Burma. Unfortunately, the Government of Burma had difficulties in allowing me to visit their country. As a result, this study is based mainly on the materials available in the libraries and academic institutions in India.

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