I have got no words to express my profound feeling of gratitude to my Supervisor, Dr. K. Warikoo, Associate Professor in the Central Asian Studies Division, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. I am deeply indebted to him for his invaluable help, sustained guidance, encouragement, insight and suggestions. But for his considerate co-operation it would have been very difficult for me to complete this work in time. My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Shams-ud-din, Associate Professor in the Centre for Soviet Studies and Dr. Dawa Norbu, Associate Professor in the Central Asian Studies Division, S I S, JNU for their inspiration and encouragement.

I owe my profound gratitude to Dr. S.K. Soni for his valuable suggestions. In completing my work, I received encouragement from a number of friends, Ranjan Chaturvedi, Imran Ali, Dr. Azhar, Dr. Abdul Mannan, Abhay Jha, Luther M. Rangreji, Vidya Shankar Aiyer, Mansoor, Azam, Rahmat, Askar, Rakesh Raman Jha, Shailendra and Dr. Sami, Reddy, Ateeq, Mrs. Warikoo and Arshad.

I also express my thanks to the staff of the National Archives of India, J N U Library and Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, for providing access to their valuable collection of books and other documents. I am thankful to Praveen Sachdeva who undertook painstaking job of typing this thesis.

Last but not the least, I would like to record my love and gratitude to my sister and brother-in-law, without whose blessings and moral support it would not have been possible to complete this work.