Preface

This study attempts to study Iran-Iraq relations from 1975-1989 with special reference to the co-operation and conflict that prevailed between them. The aforesaid period includes events which altered drastically the course of relationship between them. From better neighbourly relationship in 1975 it drifted to actual war by 1980. However, the situation was brought under control by 1988. But this did not result in absolute friendly neighbourliness. This may be attributed to the various factors the study has attempted to highlight.

The study attempts to analyze the validity or otherwise of the following hypothesis: "The bilateral relations between neighbouring countries are governed by variables like geography, ethnicity, religion, economic, domestic political environment and foreign policy of the states, as well as international environment. The interaction of these variables over a period of time gives the pattern of relationship within the broad spectrum of entente, detente, conflict, crisis and war".

In pursuit of collecting first hand information, I undertook a field trip to Teheran in January 1994. During my stay there, I had the opportunity to meet and discuss the complexities that mark Iran-Iraq relations
with many scholars. This helped me to fine-tune my perception regarding the research problem. Academic institutions like Institute of Political and International Studies (IPIS) provided me valuable materials to refine my work. I would like to gratefully acknowledge them for their assistance during my study. The hospitality extended to me by 'Dhammus' deserves special mention, for which I am grateful.

The main credit for completing this work goes to a noble human being, Professor K.R. Singh, my supervisor. But for his sagacious guidance, academic as well as personal, I would have definitely lost my moorings. My thanks are also due to the faculty members of the Centre for West Asian and African Studies, School of International Studies (SIS), for their assistance in completing the work.

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I am thankful to all my friends for assisting me during the course of my study. My thanks are due to Smt. J.R. Aiyer for her almost error-free typing of my work.
Needless to mention that inaccuracies, if any, are solely mine.

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