PREFACE

This is a study of Soviet policy towards a main issue in international politics, viz., cooperation among states of diverse nature, in the specific context of Asia. A characteristic example chosen here is Soviet policy towards the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), during a well defined period, 1967-1985. Our main concern here is the investigation and analysis of Soviet policy on the global issue of cooperation among states in the regional context of Southeast Asia.

The study is divided in the following scheme. Chapter first attempts to investigate and define Soviet policy framework for regional cooperation in Asia. Chapter two highlights the historical developments of Soviet policy towards regional cooperation in Asia in general and Southeast Asia in particular. The next three chapters focus attention on the specific case of Soviet policy towards ASEAN during 1967-85. These three chapters are divided time-wise, 1967-1971, 1972-1978, 1979-1985. Each one of these chapter highlights a specific stage and phase of Soviet policy towards ASEAN. Chapter three, covering the period 1967-71 focuses attention on initial probings. The following Chapter covering the period 1972-1978 is what may be called is the phase of an active policy towards ASEAN. Our next Chapter covering the period 1979-1985, underlines the cooling of the Soviet policy towards ASEAN, stressing on the problematic areas of Soviet policy.

We finally conclude that Soviet policy towards ASEAN during the period under review was pursued with remarkable consistency to its commitment to cooperation among states of diverse social systems,
although it was a policy which hardly brought about any positive results. It added to the experience of Soviet foreign policy in Asia which proved an asset to the new Soviet leadership under Gorbachev after 1985 in dealing with the complex problem of the region of Southeast Asia.

The study is based on primary and secondary sources in English, as well as, Russian languages; these are shown in our Bibliography.

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It is hoped that our modest effort shall add to our understanding of the foreign policy of a friendly state like the Soviet Union in Asian environment. Needless to mention here that any short-coming and draw-back in our study, if any, is entirely mine.

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