This thesis is an attempt to understand an important component of India's foreign policy, i.e., India's attitude towards collective security system under the United Nations during the period 1947-62.

To the best of my knowledge, no secondary material strictly relevant to my subject was available till the year 1962. The works published so far, pertained either to India's general approach to the United Nations as a whole or India's attitude towards the specific issues which came up before the United Nations. Primary material was available in the form of UN records, Indian parliamentary debates, relevant statements by Indian and foreign statesmen and various communiques and documents concerning the issue. I must mention, however, that even the primary material was at times so vague and general that reliance had to be placed on inferences supplemented occasionally by conclusions drawn from general works on international organization, international politics and India's foreign policy. But essentially this thesis has been based upon primary sources.

Perhaps the nature of material available can be attributed largely to the nature of India's foreign policy which started with broad generalizations and evolved in terms of reactions to different situations. Consequently, the purpose of this thesis may be described as an attempt to reconstruct an attitude which came out in bold relief during the various situations related to
the different aspects of collective security system under the United Nations. Its primary concern is to understand India's attitude and not to assess India's contribution. In doing so, the broad objectives of India's foreign policy, i.e., world peace, as well as the general strategy of India for the realization of that objective, i.e., non-alignment, have been taken as basic assumptions.

In retrospect, it appears that India was one of those members who viewed collective security system as an integral part of the institutional framework within which the United Nations hoped to establish and maintain world peace and security. It was not treated as an independent component, with the result that India's understanding becomes meaningful if the Charter is considered as a whole. Since every provision of the Charter can be related to the establishment and maintenance of world peace, this thesis, for obvious reasons, discusses only those parts which according to India were intextricably connected with collective security system.

Against the perspective stated above, I have tried to deal with India's attitude towards collective security system as envisaged by the Charter, the operation of collective security system under the United Nations and the emergent pattern of the system. In dealing with the actual operation of the system, I have taken up three aspects: India's view of threats to international peace and security, India's reaction to situations designated as threats to international peace and security and
India's attitude towards the major operational problem of the system, i.e. an international force.

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Swarajesh Mallick