PREFACE

This study deals with the bilateral relations between France and the Ivory Coast during 1956 to 1966. As a case study, the subject highlights the relationship between a highly industrialized and prosperous European nation on the one hand and an emergent and developing African state on the other. The period under review is interesting in more than one way. It begins with the passage of the Loi-cadre reforms in the French Assembly which made the Ivory Coast a dependable friend of France among its former West African colonies and it ends up with the consolidation of Franco-Ivorian ties, through such organizations as Organisation Communautaire Africaine et Malgache (O.C.A.M.), on the overall African scene. The study attempts at examining the continuity of relationship between the two countries in two broad phases i.e. pre-independence phase (1960) and post-independent phase (1960-66).

Historically, France followed the policy of assimilation in its African empire. It aimed at integrating the colonies economically, politically and also culturally with the metropolitan country to form a United Republic. African colonies, south of the Sahara, were divided into two federations for the administrative purposes i.e. French West Africa (A.O.F.) and French Equatorial Africa (A.E.F.). During the latter phase of the Third French Republic (post-1920) the policy of assimilation was gradually replaced by the policy of association which paved the way for the establishment of the French Union and admission of African leaders in various representative
institutions. The Ivory Coast, as a colony, evolved under the Federation of French West Africa. Ivorian leaders like Houphouet Boigny defended the Franco-African co-operation through French Union. Thus, it was the French Union that introduced a new frontier to the relationship between France and the Ivory Coast in particular and France and its African colonies in general. Keeping this in mind, this historical-empirical analysis of the continuity in Franco-Ivorian relations would take into account five broad spheres i.e. French Union, French Community, West Africa (including Anglophone states), Afro and Economic Relations. Accordingly, this study has been divided into following seven chapters.

The first chapter gives an outline of physical features and political and economic evolution of the French West Africa under French colonial rule. It gives a brief account of the transition of the colonial policy from assimilation to association. Also, it throws light on the nature of economic rapports between the metropole and its dependencies.

The second chapter which attempts to analyse the circumstances that paved the way for active interdependence between France and the Ivory Coast during the post-second World War period deals with following three themes: (a) observations on the socio-political change in French West Africa including the origins and formation of political parties with particular reference to the Ivory Coast, (b) causes, nature and repercussions of Loi-cadre forms, (c) elections in March 1957 and analysis of Bamako Conference of September 1957.
The third chapter examines the nature of Franco-Ivorian accord within the French Community. It analyses three important events i.e. (a) causes of the emergence of the French Community, (b) referendum of September 1958 and (c) Guinea's refusal to join the Community and its impact on Franco-Ivorian relations.

The establishment of the Community paved the way for Franco-Ivorian entente which took concrete shape against the general developments in West Africa after 1958.

The fourth chapter attempts to find out how the developments in West Africa influenced the Franco-Ivorian entente on the one hand and how the Franco-Ivorian entente affected the inter-state relations of West Africa on the other. The chapter analyses Franco-Ivorian responses to Ghana-Guinea union (November 1958) and Mali Federation (April 1959) on the one hand and examines the evolution of Franco-Ivorian relations in the context of entente states (Ivory Coast, Niger, Dahomey and Upper Volta) on the other.

The fifth chapter analyses Franco-Ivorian entente with reference to the inter-state politics of Africa. First, it takes into account how Pan-Africanist movement led by Ghana, Guinea and others affected the Franco-Ivorian entente. Second, it attempts to find out how Ivory Coast mobilised African states, in order to consolidate its position, with the help of France. This involves a study of various groupings such as Brazzaville, Union Africain et Malgache (U.A.M.), Organisation Commun Africain et Malgache (O.C.A.M.) where both France and the Ivory Coast played effective role.

The sixth chapter deals with the economic relations of France and the Ivory Coast. It studies them in a broader
perspective of the formation of the European Economic Community and the association of African states with it. It also highlights three other important channels of economic co-operation between the two countries i.e. (a) Franc zone, (b) Investment and aid and (c) trade.

The last chapter sums up the important findings of the study. Briefly, the Franco-Ivorian co-operation in both economic and political fields continued to grow and assumed an importance far beyond the bounds of bilateral relations, during the period under review. To the extent their ties proved mutually beneficial, France and Ivory Coast became interdependent.

I began working on this thesis after successfully completing my M. Phil dissertation on 'France and French West Africa, 1956-61' in January 1973. I had the privilege of going on a field trip to France, as a French Government scholar, during 1973 to 1975. I was a regular student of Fondation Nationale Des Sciences Politiques for two academic years. My stay in France was extremely fruitful. I could consult most of the important primary sources concerning this study. It was indeed a pleasure to work in well organised libraries such as, Bibliotheque Nationale, Archives Nationale and the Library of Institut des e'tudes politiques. I also consulted books and periodicals from the libraries of Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Indian Council of World Affairs.

In completing this work I received help from many quarters. Throughout this period, my supervisor Dr. Anirudha
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