ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted to my supervisor, Professor Baladas Ghoshal, for his learned guidance and stimulating discussions which enabled me to complete my work in time. His wide experience, unrivalled knowledge of Southeast Asian Politics and criticism and comments helped me immensely in writing this work. I am beholded to Phra P. Mahaviro, teacher of Thai language, who has been a great source of inspiration in pursuing my research work on Thailand.

First and foremost I thank Mr. Niyom Watthammut, former Minister Counsellor of Thai Embassy, New Delhi, who helped me in collecting source materials from Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi as well as Thailand. My special thanks to Patrachit Chotikapanich (Belle), Bangkok University, and Sannipha Chotikapanich (Pam), Chulalongkorn University for helping me to have an access to the source materials available in several Thai university libraries.

I benefited greatly from support offered by Dr. Priyankar Upadhyay, Director Malviya Centre for Peace Research, BHU, Prof. A.P. Singh, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, BHU, Prof. J. Chaube, Dr. Sumitra Gupta and all the teachers of the Department of History BHU, my sincere thanks to all of them.

It would be improper on my part if I fail to recognize the genuine help from my friends when I needed it most. My special thanks to Hriday Narayan, Ashutosh Rajhans, Harish Chandra, Dr. J.B. Komaariah, Rajender Kumar, A. Gangatharan, Venkat, Sandeep Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Anand, Jayant etc. Last but not the least my heartiest thank to Khushi and my brothers for their constant moral support and encouragement for this research work.

Errors, mistakes and limitations are entirely my own.

24 August, 2002
New Delhi

24-8-02
(GHAN SHYAM)