PREFACE
The humanity has known the use and abuse of drugs since the prehistoric times. But it is only in the more recent post Second World War period that the drug abuse has assumed epidemic proportions. There is hardly any country which has remained unaffected by this modern day epidemic. It has affected both, the countries which consume drugs and which produce it. The United States is the biggest consumer of illicit drugs. Although the US efforts to adopt measures to control the misuse of drugs goes back to the early years of the present century, it was only during the Nixon Administration that the United States became seriously concerned and made concerted efforts to bring the drug menace under control. But as the level of public concern lowered the following administrations attached low priority to the drug policy. It was President Reagan who once again energized the campaign against the drug abuse and trafficking. Reagan’s anti-narcotics policy had two distinct dimensions -- the domestic and foreign. The thesis deals with Reagan Administration’s narcotic control policy in its international dimension.

President Reagan was indeed, the architect of American drug control programmes. He in a true sense
internationalized the war on drugs: He spent billions of dollars, created new agencies and energized the old ones by reorganizing them. Drug control became a very important issue in the US relations with drug producing countries of Latin America, Golden Triangle (Burma, Laos and Thailand) and the Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran). With Laos, Afghanistan and Iran, the United States had no political relations. The policy of eradication of the drug crops in the source countries themselves, so that the drugs might not enter the United States thus had an inherent problem. Even if the programme succeeded in all other countries, the supplies from the countries with which the US had no relations were bound to reach the most lucrative markets of the United States. In each country in which the US had posted officials and helped the governments to run various anti-narcotics programmes, it ran into different sets of problems. Despite these formidable problems, the Reagan Administration carried on its war against the drugs. The thesis tries to analyze the accomplishments and failures of the programmes. It also discusses the relationship among various agencies and organizations and their roles in carrying out the administration’s policy. It also highlights
how the United States remained insensitive to the enormous problems confronted by the source-countries and how it bent them to its own will.

As the Reagan Administration entered into its last two years the Congress controlled by the Democrats, entered into the act. It did not want to leave the drug policy into the hands of the administration. It enacted one anti drug abuse act in 1986 and the other in 1988. The second, only, months before the Presidential election. The thesis examines this internal dimension of American politics.

This thesis is based on primary and secondary sources. In India the material available on the subject is limited. Thanks to a field trip given to me by the School of International Studies of Jawaharlal Nehru University, I was able to have access to a sizable quantity of primary sources. I could also meet a few scholars working in the same area and interview a few officials whose names have been given below.

The list of individuals who rendered valuable assistance at different stages of my work is a long one. I would like at the outset to record my sincere gratitude to
my supervisor Professor B.K. Shrivastava, Centre for American and West European Studies, of the School of Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, for his invaluable guidance and constant encouragement throughout the course of my work. The final product would probably not have seen the light of the day had he not provided constant encouragement and help. I also thank Professor R. Narayanan, Dean of the School of International Studies, Professor R.P. Kaushik, Chairman of the Centre of American and West European Studies, Professor H.S. Chopra, Dr. Christopher Sam Raj, Dr. K.P. Vijayalakshmi for their valuable advice and encouragement during the period of this study.

I also gratefully acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Mr. Malvyn Levistky, Assistant Secretary, Department of State, and Mr. G. Eugene Martin, Division Chief, Asia/Africa Division of the International Narcotics Matters, Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D., N.Y.); Mr. Edward H. Judith, Staff Director of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control; Mr. Cornelius J. Dougherty, Public Affairs Officer of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Mr. Raphael F. Perl, Specialist in International Narcotics
Policy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Mr. William Rosenau, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defence, the Pentagon; Professor Abdul Aziz Said, the American University; Professor Bruce M. Bagley, University of Miami; Professor Cynthia McClintock, The George Washington University; Professor John D. Martz, the Pennsylvania State University; Professor Donald J. Mabry, Mississippi State University; Mr. Gary L. Carter, DEA Attache and Mr. Shannon P. Scheel, DEA Special Agent in the American Embassy in New Delhi.

I am also specially grateful to Professor Ethan A. Nadelmann, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, who is an acknowledged expert in the area of my work and base of my studies for his kindness in giving me his valuable time to discuss various aspects of my thesis.

I also thank the staff of the Library of Congress, the American University Library, Princeton University Library, Dag Hammarskjold Library of the United Nations, Public Library, New York, Colombia University Library and the Library of the Drug Enforcement Administration. I would also like to put on record my thanks to the Librarian and
the staff of Jawaharlal Nehru University and the USIS Libraries in New Delhi.

I would be failing in my duties if I fail to acknowledge the love and affection of my father S. Arjan Singh and Mother which sustained me through the entire period of this study. I also sincerely thank my brothers and sisters who gave me moral support and encouragement.

I am grateful to the friends who constantly encouraged me to complete this work. My special thanks to Mr. S. Raju Aiyer for word processing this work.

New Delhi
August, 1993

- Randhir Singh