Preface

Jawaharlal Nehru became a legendary figure in his own life time. He was devoted to promoting world peace, security and to save the future generations from the scourge of another world war. He was ready to pay every price for peace for without peace all our dreams of prosperous world would have died. According to him the major problem of the age was the question of Cold War rather than the lingering continuation of colonialism which was an age old phenomenon. Like other peace loving statesman of the world, he also shared the same opinion that in the present situation which involved the danger of war, every country should direct its efforts to the easing of international tensions.

Thus the future that took shape in his mind was one of intimate cooperation, politically, economically and culturally between India and other countries of the world. Intelligent opinion all over the world and vast number of people were eager and anxious for this to happen, but government vested interests and groups came in the way.

However, a faint glimpse of this world cooperation came to President Wilson and he sought to realize it. Nehru appreciated President Wilson for his statesmanship towards realizing this World Order. Thus the foundation of the League of Nations in the year 1918 by Wilson was the first attempt to create machinery for world wide International Government. No doubt Nehru fully appreciated the idea of the League but he felt sad to see the
functioning of the League and said that the Organization was coming out but it had its set backs and one day it would die out as it contained the seeds of death within it. Thus the League inspite of its pious principles and useful purposes failed miserably. However, its failure and drawbacks provided sufficient material for those who were sincerely thinking in terms of establishing a more lasting world Organization.

For carrying out this proposal Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill during the Yalta Conference decided to find out the possibilities of maintaining peace on stable lines, which later on led to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. There was hardly a Statesman in the world that displayed greater faith and allegiance to the United Nations Charter than Nehru and repeatedly pointed out that India’s attitude towards this august body as that of whole-hearted cooperation and unreserved adherence, in both spirit and letter to the Charter governing it. To that end, India will participate fully in its various activities and endeavour to play that role in its council to which her geographical position, population and her urge for contribution towards peaceful progress entitled her. Thus after independence Nehru made it one of the chief corner-stones of India’s foreign policy to support and work within the United Nations, and to mediate whenever possible and desirable.

Nevertheless his supreme faith in the United Nations did not make him blind to the conspicuous defects in the United Nations Charter. Though he realized that certain structural defects existed in the
Organization, he appreciated the difficulties of the situation and warned the nations of the world to proceed slowly and with agreement and not to press for any change. As it would involve an immediate amendment of the Charter and the raising of heated controversies and it might lead to the downfall of the United Nation for which he was not ready because according to him the United Nations inspite of its so many shortcomings had been a formidable instrument in bringing about peace and harmony in the world. Not to have it or to do away with it would be a tragedy for the world.

Therefore he wanted his countrymen to extend whole-hearted support to the United Nations irrespective of differences of ideologies and cultures because if the United Nation is denied its rightful place in the eyes of the world, the only alternative to co-existence is co-destruction.

My study consists of five Chapters besides Conclusion. In the first chapter an attempt has been made to access Nehru’s contribution to world peace and disarmament. It discusses his concept of world peace and ideal of One World. Moreover, an attempt has been made to describe the circumstances which led to the formation of World Organizations like the League of Nations and the United Nations. It further deals with the Nehru’s perception of the role of the United Nations in contemporary world.

The Second Chapter evaluates Nehru’s role in resolving the Palestinian issue in the United Nations. An attempt has also been made to
provide the readers with the proposal made by Nehru in resolving the Palestinian issue in the United Nations. Had Nehru's proposal been accepted the Palestine problem would have been solved much earlier.

The Third Chapter deals with the Korean crises and evaluates the role of mediation played by Jawaharlal Nehru in resolving the Korean crises.

The Fourth Chapter deals with the Vietnam issue and the role played by India under Nehru's leadership in providing a solution of the problem.

In the Fifth Chapter an attempt has been made to provide a brief summary of Indo-African relations and describes how Nehru averted major crises in the world Organization's history during the Congo crises of 1960.

The present study tries to analyse the role played by Nehru in the United Nations at a time when the world was divided into two hostile camps. In retrospect one might say that it was a crucial stage of world history when there was intensive Cold War, threatening to break into a shooting war. Inspite of so much criticism Nehru was thus successful in playing a role assigned to him by history.