ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In preparing this dissertation, I am grateful to many persons who have helped me in some way or at some stage of my writing. I express my thanks to the staff of Taraknath Das Research Centre, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, especially to the research officer, Ms. Kankana Das, who provided me with useful documents and information which might have escaped my attention. I also received help from Ms. Nandini Dey, Documentation Officer of the library of the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, who always met my demands whenever I approached her. I am grateful to Amal Dey who provided me with a constant supply of books and journals. I have also received help from the staff of the Central Library, Jadavpur University. I express my gratitude to the staff of the Seminar Library, Department of Political Science, Burdwan University and also to the staff of the Central Library of the same University. I have received adequate materials for research in these libraries. The National Library, Calcutta and the State-Central Library at Kankurgachi, Calcutta have been of great assistance to me. I thank the staff of both these libraries.

I am much grateful to the librarian and staff of the SAARC Secretariat Library at Kathmandu, who provided me with a flurry of primary documents, reports and articles published by the SAARC Secretariat. Hillol Kumar Sinha, my cousin, now working in the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, provided me with many primary source materials which have been profitably used in the dissertation. No formal thanks can express my gratitude to him. My parents and the other members of my family have shown admirable patience during these years, cooperating with me and providing me with sufficient inspiration which helped me complete my work.

Last but foremost, I am grateful to my supervisor, Abhijit Ghosh, Reader in Political Science, Burdwan University, without whose constant guidance this dissertation could not have been, perhaps, completed. He has responded ungrudgingly whenever I approached him, and held stimulating discussions which helped me in understanding the subject and completing the dissertation.

Chaitali Sinha (Mrs. Sasar)
4.9.02.