This study deals exclusively with India's attitude towards the Czechoslovak crisis of 1968. The invasion of Czechoslovakia on 20 August, 1968 by Bulgaria, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland and Soviet Union had created a world-wide furore. The scope of this study comprises an analysis of the attitude of India towards this political event of momentous importance. The policy of the Government of India and that of some of the Indian political parties and the general reaction of the Indian press and elite are brought home and studied in their respective significances with a view to establish the attitude of India towards this political crisis. The reason lies in the fact that a study of the attitude of one single perspective will not reflect the attitude of India as a whole. In a democratic country like India where the Government is constituted by the representatives of the people, the decision of the Government regarding her foreign policy may not always reflect the opinion of all the segments of the country. When an international issue confronts the government, the government takes care to analyse the issue and tries to formulate its policy in the light of the consideration whether such a policy will or will not deter national interest of the country. Hence the stance of the government may sometimes be mild towards the state which had done the wrong. Again the attitude of the political parties towards
the international issues may sometimes be biased. The reactions of the people to an international event may be varied and conflicting and even those may not have been sufficiently reflected in either the policy of the government or that of the different parties. Thus a simultaneous and coherent study of these respective angles will bring out clearly whether there was any consensus of attitude or sharp differences.

The present thesis, which is being re-submitted, is divided into seven chapters: (a) India-Czechoslovakia contacts before 1968; (b) Historical background of the Czechoslovak crisis of 1968; (c) the Government of India and the Czech crisis; (d) the crisis and the non-Communist Political Parties; (e) the crisis and the two Communist parties of India; (f) the press and the Elite reaction; and (g) conclusion. This chapter I have rewritten. In the chapter six, the reactions of the Indian press and the elite have been studied in order to assess the feelings of the Indian people against the intervention in Czechoslovakia.

In preparing the study, I have mainly relied on the official documents like the Parliamentary debates of India, the U.N. Documents and some records of the political parties of India. Secondary sources of my investigation include numerous books, periodicals, newspaper-articles and the like. I have interviewed one important political leader of India. I have also tried to take interview of some statesmen and political leaders of India and for this reason I have written
letters to them but unfortunately I did not get any response from them.

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