CONCLUSION

Indo-American relations in the fifties were developed against the background by their positive views of cold war. India became independent at a time when the tendency towards Polarization had already set in the world politics. The cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union constituted to a very large extent, the external policy environment of countries like India. India revolved against the implications of the cold war which drastically restricted its freedom of action. Anti-imperialism, anti-colonialism, anti-racialism and fraternal feelings for Asian countries did not permit the Government of India to move too far towards the West. On the contrary, she tended to render her attitudes rather critical of some of the actions and decisions of Western Powers. It could not openly and un-conditionally align itself with the Western powers independently or collectively because Western imperialism throughout the late forties and early fifties remained powerful in Asia and Africa. India had shown extra-ordinary concern and anatural support towards anti-colonialism and anti-racialism.

The attitude of the Government of India and opinion against the cold war were formulated and implemented during the
formative years of Indian Nationalhood in the context of an international environment of which the most important features from the point of views of the Govt. of India, were racial inequality, colonialism and imperialism in Asia. Since 1947 Nehru, the Prime Minister, prompted India to put its faith in the Panchasheel and to decide that it would serve as a bridge between the two sides in the cold war.

To USA, Communism appeared to be a real threat to world peace, and also to the basic American national interest. In the opinion of the non-communists, Communism implied an order of violence and repudiation of democracy. It stood for expansionism. Therefore no country was safe from such an expanding and violent world system.

But to India this interpretation of communism did not appear to be a correct one. After all each communist country should be allowed to develop according to its own ideals. If communism is liked by the people of any nation they should be allowed to accept this way of life. Moreover the American interpretation of communism, as a violent expanding world system did not correspond to the facts. In any case, India refused to look at communism as another brand of world imperialism. There was no reason to have a hostile attitude to it. On the contrary, the Western bloc and the communist bloc can perfectly

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co-exist in contemporary history without any conflict for the maintenance of international peace and for the welfare of the common people.

The basic difference in approach created a lot of suspicion and mis-understanding between India and the United States. As India was a British colony for nearly two centuries, India had a basic suspicion of Western imperialism. This historical experience had obviously made India suspicious of American goals and policies.

It widened the differences between these two countries.

It is however interesting to know that the unfriendly relations between these two countries never broke up altogether. At times, this relations indicated great strains, and almost reached the point of a breakdown. But such an event never occurred. Even in Korea, Indo-China and Pakistan issue, India and the United States were poles apart, but that was all. The two countries had hot debates on the points of differences rather openly but it was rather remarkable that despite colossal unfriendly views they remained friends. In particular the economic relations between two countries were perhaps least disturbed by the political turbulence. It has to be admitted that at times the political dispute tended to discolour even economic relations, but ultimately trade and aid contacts remained undisturbed.

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Therefore from the formative stages Indo-American relations were marked by friendli-ness within an unfriendly frame-work. It simply indicated that in the long run one country is indispensable to the other.