

PREFACE

A major factor of British foreign policy during the period between 1945 and 1961 was its dominant consideration for the Commonwealth opinion and interests. As this factor has not received the special attention of research scholars, it seemed to me a fertile field for research. The main objective of this analysis is to study to how and to what extent the Commonwealth was a factor in British foreign policy. An effort has been made to bring out the impact of Commonwealth opinion and interests on Britain's foreign policy decisions. The analysis has been made in the light of both official and unofficial views expressed in other Commonwealth countries on various occasions and the British response towards them and also in the context of international situation prevalent during the period. In the Suez crisis of 1956 one finds a turning point in Britain's foreign policy in general, and her policy towards the rest of the Commonwealth, in particular. This new phase slowly but surely began to unfold itself a few years later with the formal British decision in 1961 to make an application for the EEC membership.

The present work is the outcome of investigation into the mass of documentary and semi-documentary material available in various centres of learning in India and the United Kingdom. Particular mention may be made of the combined library of the School of International Studies and the Indian Council of

World Affairs in New Delhi and the libraries of the British Museum, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London School of Economics and the British Foreign Office in London. The other libraries which had benefited me substantially in completing this study are the libraries of the Labour and Conservative parties in London. While thanking the members of staff of all these libraries for the willing assistance and co-operation, I wish to place on record my deep appreciation of an outstanding Library Assistant, Mrs Celine Andrade, of the combined library of the School of International Studies and the Indian Council of World Affairs in New Delhi for the devoted service in helping research scholars to facilitate their work.

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Mr Michael Stewart, Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary in the Wilson Government, Mr John Hare (now Lord Blakenham), a Minister in the Macmillan Cabinet, Mr Kenneth Younger, Director-General, Royal Institute of International Affairs,. Mr T.H.R. Cashmore of the British Foreign Office and Professor P.N.S. Mansergh of the University of Cambridge.

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