ACKNOWLEDG. ATS

This research was made possible by a fellowship granted by the Jawaharlal Nehru University. I thank the authorities of this institution for having given me the opportunity to pursue my work uninterruptedly for four and a half years.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to my Supervisor, Professor Bipan Chandra for having first kindled an interest in the Indian National Movement and then sustained it over the years through stimulating discussions in the Friday Seminar Group. He also gave me the opportunity to be part of the ICSSR-sponsored Oral History Project on the National Movement, from which I gained invaluable experience. Besides, he has been constantly providing new perspectives to the problem I was working on. I also wish to thank Mrs. Usha Chandra for her warm hospitality and friendship.

A large number of friends have helped in various ways in the preparation of this thesis. Sucheta Mahajan, Salil Misra, Vinita Damodaran, Ravi Vasudevan, Radhika Singha, Shashi Joshi, Gyanesh and Medha Kudaisya, Gurpreet Mahajan and Niraja Gopal have all been instrumental in the shaping of many of the arguments in this thesis. Kapil Kumar made helpful suggestions for the chapter on the Kisan Sabha. I have also benefitted greatly from discussions with several
members of the faculty of the Centre for Historical Studies, particularly Prof. S. Bhattacharya, Majid Siddiqi, Mridula and Aditya Mukherjee and Bhagwan Josh. Kunal and Shubhra Chakravarty were very helpful in moments of crisis.

During my frequent visits to Lucknow I have enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Mayadas, the A.K. Dass family and Mrs. Daya Singha. Their companionship made my Lucknow visits much more than mere field-trips. Thanks are also due to the authorities at the YWCA Lucknow for having provided me with accommodation at very short notice on more than one occasion.

I would like to thank the Directors, Librarians and Staff of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, the National Archives of India, the Central Secretariat Library, the Archives of Contemporary History at Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University Library in New Delhi for having provided me with the facilities to conduct my research. In Lucknow all help and co-operation was extended by the authorities at the U.P. State Archives, the Secretariat Library and the office of the Criminal Investigation Department, for which I am grateful.
In the typing and preparation of drafts of this thesis, Shaji, Lakshmi, Sucheta and Bodh were of great help. Of course, the final product owes itself entirely to the efforts of Om Prakash.

Last but not the least is the deep debt of gratitude I owe to my family members. For my parents, the completion of this thesis has been a long-cherished dream. It was their constant support and encouragement which kept me going through difficult times. Col. and Mrs. Batra were also helpful to me in more ways than can be enumerated. My husband, Antony Thomas, has been a continuous source of inspiration and guidance. Had he not personally supervised the entire production of this thesis, it may have never seen the light of day. Little Sujit deserves special thanks for having cheerfully borne with his mother’s impatience and for having considerately refrained from putting my manuscript to rather more imaginative uses!

VISALAKSHI MENON