

PREFACE

In the cherished saga of India's struggle for freedom, the I.N.A. movement under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose played the most important role. After the failure of the Quit India Movement, India's freedom struggle confronted a great crisis and the prospects of the struggle were grim and dismal, and but for the emergence of the new factor of the I.N.A., the whole movement under Gandhiji might have collapsed and the dream of India's independence might have been far-fetched. But thanks to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, under whose relentless, selfless and tireless efforts, the I.N.A. movement reached a high water mark even after the surrender of Japan. When the information reached the Indian people during the I.N.A. trial about the exploits of the I.N.A. heroes, the whole country was ablaze with the fire of revolutionary zeal, there was mutiny even in the British navy and the revolutionary spirit of the freedom struggle received a new dimension. This countrywide commotion forced the British, even as Churchill admitted it, to leave India and transferring power to her.

This dissertation deals with Netaji's I.N.A. movement, but it does not deal with its political or military aspects. It rather, for the first time, deals with the administration of the I.N.A., of the provisional government of Azad Hind – both military and civil – conceived implemented and executed by Netaji. This aspect of I.N.A. history forms the subject-matter of this dissertation — an entirely original and novel one. It should also be pointed out in this connection that this work has largely been based on some very important and yet unexplored archival materials particularly the recently released I.N.A. records by the

government of India lying in custody of the National Archives of India. On the basis of these primary sources supplemented by some authentic published secondary sources, an attempt has been made here to make an analytical construction of the structural set up of the Azad Hind government under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose – its concept and character, its objective and activities, not yet undertaken in any research work.

* * * * *