CHAPTER VIII

CONCLUSION

The rich experiences of ASEAN in the successful management of intra-group conflicts, particularly an effective mechanism for conflict management and discreet, but highly skilful, diplomatic practices prevailing in the region, serve as a source of inspiration as well as learning for the SAARC in its efforts to manage conflicts among the member-states. However, this must be weighed against the backdrop of the fact that while there are some similarities in the historical experiences, socio-economic and politico-cultural life of the two regions, the differences between them in terms of political culture, diplomatic practices, socio-economic life, moral-cultural values, convictions and prejudices are also considerably great. Therefore, while the experiences of ASEAN deserve serious consideration, the SAARC countries will have to evolve an workable mechanism for the management of intra-group conflicts and device appropriate diplomatic practices through their collective efforts taking into account the prevailing socio-economic, politico-cultural and geo-strategic reality in the region as well as the interaction of the region in all these respects with the outside world. This remains a highly difficult undertaking. Its success would require, on the part of the countries concerned, to employ inexhaustible efforts and display enormous patience, a very high degree of creativity and innovation, and above all, sincerity and goodwill. In this regard, the role of the leadership of the region, particularly its ability to project a wide vision for the future and display wisdom, sagacity and political acumen, would be of crucial importance in any possible transition of South Asia from conflict to a course of cooperation through effective measures of conflict management.
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