FOREWORD

The Indian freedom movement was a saga of courage and endurance in the face of what seemed insuperable odds. By this struggle the mightiest empire that the world had ever known was shaken and finally uprooted by an unarmed people determined to be free. Ever since that famous victory, the very concepts of imperialism and colonialism have fallen from high pedestals to become terms of derision.

The struggle for freedom had a wide base and reflected a consuming hunger for liberty among all sections of our people. Despite differences in strategy and ideology, the aim of all the individuals and groups who flung themselves into the struggle was the freedom, unity and dignity of this great and ancient land. It is important that we remember the sacrifices made in this great cause so that we are better able to value and nourish our hard won independence.

The Congress Party was always in the forefront of the quest for freedom. Inspired by the Congress, various popular organisations grew up in the erstwhile princely states. There were also other organisations which did not subscribe to the ideology of the Congress but whose contribution to the movement for freedom and the reform of our society, we should like to acknowledge. ‘Associated Movements’ being published as part of the Congress Centenary Celebrations, is a tribute to the patriots in these organisations and an effort to perpetuate their memory.

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