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# **IMPERIAL PREFERENCES**

**A Study of New Zealand's Great Power Relationships from 1949 to 1963**

A Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of  
Master of Arts in History at Massey University

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AMDA	Anglo Malayan Defence Agreement
ANZAM	Australia, New Zealand, and Malaya
ANZUS	Australia, New Zealand, United States
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CSR	Commonwealth Strategic Reserve
DRV	Democratic Republic of Vietnam
EEC	European Economic Community
EFTA	European Free Trade Area
FTA	Free Trade Area
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
MCP	Malayan Communist Party
MEC	Middle East Command
MEDO	Middle East Defence Organisation
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NSA	Non-Sterling Area
PL	Pathet Lao
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAN	Royal Australian Navy
RLG	Royal Laotian Government
RNZAF	Royal New Zealand Air Force
RNZN	Royal New Zealand Navy
RSA	Rest of the Sterling Area
SEACDT	South East Asian Collective Defence Treaty
SEATO	South East Asian Treaty Organisation
SAS	Special Air Service
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

## PREFACE

This year is the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the treaty that led to the formation of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation or SEATO. As such, it is an opportune time to review aspects of New Zealand's membership of this organisation. This task is all the more timely, because this year has also seen the Prime Minister of New Zealand sign a Non-Aggression Pact with ASEAN in the capital of Laos. Helen Clark is following in the footsteps of her Labour predecessor Walter Nash, who defied SEATO and the US over the matter of armed intervention in Laos. This thesis examines the changing defence relationships of New Zealand with the UK and the US during the 1950s, and seeks to explain the circumstances of Nash's disagreement with our largest ally.

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