



Indian Council of World Affairs
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Press Release

on

Seventh Sapru House Lecture

by

H.E. Madhav Kumar Nepal
former Prime Minister of Nepal

H.E. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal and member of the Standing Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist[CPN(UML)], delivered the Seventh Sapru House Lecture on “*Recent Political Developments and Upcoming Constituent Assembly Elections*” at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi on July 26, 2013. The event was chaired by Ambassador Deb Mukharji, India’s former Ambassador to Nepal.

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General of ICWA, welcomed the former PM of Nepal and the audience, comprising diplomats, former ambassadors, academics, media personnel and research scholars. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Bhatia highlighted the importance of the Sapru House Lecture Series and mentioned the seminal contribution “*Perspective on Indo-Nepal*

Relations” by the ICWA’s ‘Core Group on Nepal’. Chair Ambassador Deb Mukharji set the background for the speaker by referring to the issues of federalism, structure of future government and the upcoming elections in Nepal.

Acknowledging the importance of India-Nepal relationship, Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal held that the relations between the two countries were marked by the warmth of friendship,



(L-R) Amb. Rajiv K Bhatia, DG, ICWA, H. E. Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, former Prime Minister of Nepal and Shri Deb Mukharji, former Ambassador of Nepal

goodwill, mutual understanding and cooperation. He emphasized that Nepal had maintained her position of not allowing her territory to be misused by any inimical elements against its neighbours, including India, and said that Nepal also expected the reciprocity and similar assurances from the neighbours as well.

Remarking on political developments in Nepal, Mr. Nepal recalled the uprising of April 2006 and the subsequent developments. He said that the goal of this popular people's movement was to establish a democratic system based on social justice and bring economic prosperity for the people. He elaborated that though the first Constituent Assembly (April 2008) took a number of historic decisions, including abolition of Monarchy and declaration of Nepal as a Federal Democratic Republic, ending the 10-year Maoists armed conflict and restoring peace in the country, it failed to fulfill its assigned task and was dissolved without drafting a new constitution. The inability of various political parties to reach consensus on a number of pertinent issues, and lack of flexibility among them, ultimately led to its dissolution.

Espousing his vision of a peaceful and democratic Nepal under the Second Constituent Assembly, which is due to be elected in November 2013, Mr. Nepal said that his party, the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), believed that only holding of election could enable consolidation of durable peace and build a democratic society in Nepal. He added that this was the only way to end the



Audience listening to the Hon'ble former Prime Minister of Nepal

unstable political environment of the country and to create a conducive environment for much needed economic development and social transformation.

Mr. Nepal concluded that Nepal was still passing through a transitional period. Therefore, building national consensus and maintaining it among main political parties on major political and socio-economic issues was the need of the hour. He said that to achieve such endeavours, they needed cooperation and solidarity from international friends, particularly from neighbours like India.
