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Press Release

on

Third Sapru House Lecture by H.E. Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda” Former Prime Minister of Nepal

“Without good relations and understanding with India, Nepal cannot prosper”, H.E. Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda”, former Prime Minister of Nepal, and Chairman of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) [UCPN(M)], averred at the Third Sapru House Lecture on *“Indo-Nepal Relations-Vision for the Next Decade”* while delivering the Third Sapru House Lecture at the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi on April 29, 2013. The event was chaired by Ambassador Shyam Saran, former Foreign Secretary, India’s former Ambassador to Nepal and presently, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board.



Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA welcoming H.E. Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda”, former Prime Minister of Nepal, and Chairman of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist).

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General of ICWA, welcomed the former PM of Nepal and the wide cross-section of audience, comprising former ambassadors, academics, media personnel and research scholars. In his opening remarks, Ambassador Bhatia highlighted the importance of Nepal in India’s foreign policy and mentioned about the seminal contribution to the study of foreign policy by the ICWA’s ‘Core Group on Nepal’.

Espousing his vision of a trilateral cooperation between India, China and Nepal, Mr. Prachanda held that the economic development of Nepal was in the larger interests of India and China. “The trilateral cooperation would help Nepal eradicate poverty and develop

its backward regions”, Mr. Prachanda added. His argument was that the tripartite cooperation would not undermine nor replace the bilateral relationship between India and Nepal. He said that better political and economic cooperation between the two countries would contribute to peace and stability in the region. Acknowledging India’s economic support to Nepal’s development, Mr. Prachanda sought investment in a range of areas, viz. infrastructure, hydropower, manufacturing industries, information technology, agricultural development and tourism promotion initiatives like Buddha circuit.



(L-R) Amb. Rajiv K. Bhatia, DG, ICWA, H.E. Pushpa Kamal Dahal “Prachanda”, and Amb. Shyam Saran, Chairman, National Security Advisory Board

Former Prime Minister of Nepal informed the audience that in its Party, the UCPN (M) had effected three fundamental changes in its ideology, i.e. ‘peaceful multiparty democracy’, ‘focus on economic development’ ‘progressive nationalism’ which promises healthy relations with India. He termed this decision of the party as a ‘turning point’ and hoped that it would generate a ‘new basis’ for Indo-Nepal relations.

Mr. Prachanda recalled India’s contribution to the clinching of the 12-Point understanding reached between the Seven Party Alliance (SPA) and the Maoists in Delhi (2005) and also to the historic Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2006) that led to political stabilization in Nepal through peaceful reconciliation and inclusive democratic processes. Recognizing India’s security concerns, he emphasized that Nepal had adopted a firm policy of not allowing any activity against its friendly neighbour from its soil. Mr. Prachanda remarked that his party had ideological difference with the extremist groups.



Lecture in progress

Mr. Prachanda concluded the discussion on an optimistic note, with a prognosis of greater integration in the region marked by the support of India and China to Nepal. He went on to say that his party, UCPN (M), was committed to peaceful democracy and looked towards India for active economic and political support for ushering in a stable and prosperous Nepal.