



America-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc.

PRESSRELEASE

For Immediate Release

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November 21, 2006 (New York): The America-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc (ANFS) welcomes with optimism the forward looking and historic comprehensive peace agreement signed on November 21, 2006 between the Nepal Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). We applaud and commend both parties for committing to a peaceful solution through which the over-a-decade-long conflict which has caused so much turmoil and upheaval in Nepal can be resolved.

The cost has been dear. Thousands of innocent Nepali citizens have lost their homes, their families and their lives; all due to the conflict they neither caused, participated in nor ultimately understood. Now, there is a ray of hope. The simple call from the heart by the Nepali people for peace, freedom and political stability has been heard. But there is work to be done. At this critical juncture, ANFS urges all leaders involved to put political differences aside and work together on a reasonable and humanitarian approach dedicated to peace and understanding; not just between the embittered opponents but for all the sovereign people of Nepal.

We acknowledge that the process for establishing Peace and Political Stability will require much diplomacy and the establishment of common ground and consensus amongst those with differing viewpoints. We are reminded of the great achievements of our shared ancestors, and implore those in positions of leadership to remain steady in their commitment to the future of a unified Nepal. ANFS has been following the events in Nepal with a sense of helplessness and frustration. The announcement of the peace agreement brings great comfort. We hope that the leaders charged with bringing peace to the nation will move towards restructuring Nepal in which every Nepali citizen can take great pride.

The Nepali people have shown great patience and witnessed much political and social upheaval over the recent years. While the voices and issues have changed, one message has remained clear; fundamental changes are inevitable and there is no turning back regardless of how difficult the path ahead may lie. All must walk the path together to create a prosperous Nepal. This will not be accomplished easily or overnight. It will require absolute commitment from all sectors of society to attain the ultimate goal of restructuring a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Nepal.

There is no alternative other than to seek a peaceful solution to the issues confronting Nepal today. ANFS urges all leaders to remain steadfast in their commitment to this goal. We look forward to many strong and mutually agreed upon initiatives coming from the newly created alliances. This will be in the interest of all Nepalis, living in the country and abroad.

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America-Nepal Friendship Society, Inc. (ANFS) is an association of individuals engaged in bringing the people of the United States and Nepal closer together in understanding, appreciation and cooperation. It is a nonprofit, and nonpolitical organization devoted to cultural, educational and public affairs, and to discussions, exchanges and studies in the area of vital interests to both people.