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The February 1 Royal Move: Comment

Vijaya Raj Sharma, Ph.D.*

The February 1 Royal Move was not only unnecessary, it has also further complicated the political stalemate in Nepal. King Gyanendra, just like the leaders of political parties, is playing his cards to consolidate his power. In the articles in this issue, each author has emphasized the need for unity among the various parties and the need for a common agenda. These needs were obvious even before February 1. What has changed in the perspectives of the parties after February 1? People are patiently waiting to hear the answer. Are they going to agree to the revival of the parliament? This is a fundamental step if the parties want to be guiding the democratic course of the country. Are the party leaders in favor of a multi-party interim government? This could be a solution, but the King would be directing the future course of action. What are the parties planning to do with discredited leaders like Govind Raj Joshi, Chirinjibi Wagle, and others of similar types in the movement against repression?

The basic issues are still the same today as they were before February 1 – they have only become graver. Nonetheless, the political parties still seem to be just going through the motions and unable to agree quickly on a common program. The emergency has slowed the process of political discussion, but there is a limit to the patience of people, who are eagerly waiting for credible plans and actions from political leaders. Unfortunately, the articles in this issue have not demonstrated that there is any concrete progress towards cooperation among the political parties.

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