



His Majesty King Mahendra

MESSAGE TO THE NATION

11th Anniversary, National Day

February 18, 1961

KING MAHENDRA'S

MESSAGE TO THE NATION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are celebrating to-day the Eleventh anniversary of our National Day. On this great occasion the Land and its people should take stock of the experience of our past ten years of living in a democratic environment and we should also review our shortcomings and weaknesses, overcome them and rededicate ourselves heart and soul to the task of an all-round development of this land of ours. This is the message for to-day. Let us forget our petty and narrow outlook and individual and partisan interests and courageously march forward united in our aims to work hard for the

greater glory and greater interest of the Motherland. This much is certain and it cannot be otherwise that unless we pay heed to the lessons of history and past experiences and take to the right path, we shall make no progress in our uphill march.

Everything will become crystal-clear if we patiently think over the circumstances under which in 1951 His late Majesty, Our August Father, ushered in democracy in the country with the co-operation of all patriotic countrymen, with the high ideals and objectives of the welfare of the country and people always in view, and over the various efforts made to bring about, secure, preserve and maintain political stability within the framework of democracy during the last ten years. We can learn a good deal from this experience by way of lessons, evidence and the feelings and aspirations of the people and in this manner chart out a new course of action and avoid certain pitfalls, But let us not in the least be discouraged because of the instability and weaknesses seen during the past decade.

Our countrymen are also fully aware of all possible efforts made by us for the general welfare of the people from time to time with a view to

securing and establishing political stability, democratic procedure, consolidating and furthering the unity of the country, making proper use of the country's manpower in the nation-building task, enhancing the prosperity of the Nation and preserving peace, order and tranquillity in the country. Let everyone pay special attention to our proclamation of December 15, 1960 and subsequent pronouncements, messages and proclamations. It is a matter of gratification for all of us that following the policy enunciated in these announcements, the people throughout the country, from one end to the other, are experiencing a renewed sense of security, and the simple, innocent, self-respecting, self-reliant children of the soil, following different professions and callings, are also pleased and happy. During the short period that has elapsed since the dissolution of the previous administration, an atmosphere of alarm and terror has happily turned into one of confidence, peace and security. This clearly shows whither the faith, aspirations and active co-operation of the people lie. Despite all that may be said to the contrary, it has hence been proved that the previous government was run by a few self-seeking individuals who, in the name

of democracy, flouted the interests and aspirations of the people and did not even hesitate to imperil national unity, solidarity and sovereignty. Let every patriotic Nepali, however, understand that the success of the timely steps we have, in response to the genuine wishes and aspirations of the people, taken with a view to preventing any further national deterioration that would have been an inevitable result of the continuation of the former government depends on the labours, the love for the nation and the devotion to national unity on the part of every Nepali. These steps have been taken by us with the intention of making a real beginning of the Era of Development. Let all unhesitatingly offer their usual, nay, increasing co-operation in this task so as to make it possible to build up the strong foundations of a democracy suited to our national genius, tradition and temperament, so as to enable us to scale the peaks of prosperity by leaps and bounds and so as to empower us to give resounding proofs of our sovereign national entity. Now is the time for work and labour, not for meaningless rumour-mongering, pointless comments and false and baseless propaganda. It is, therefore, natural for all patriotic Nepalese to

feel saddened by the malicious and baseless propaganda in which a handful of people deaf to national sentiments are still thoughtlessly indulging. This shows they have not been able to shake off their old ways. These people have failed to appreciate the changing circumstances as well as the sentiments of the people. It is, however, gratifying to note that the Nepalese people have not a shadow of doubt about the blatantly harmful nature of such anti-national activities.

On this occasion we would specially like to caution our people against the anti-national elements and their activities which are clearly against the interests of the people and detrimental to the march of progress. Do not give any kind of encouragement to such elements and be always ready for the progress and development of the country. Let none be in doubt on this score—this land belongs to us all and its progress is also dependent on our own united efforts.

The present administration is working hard with a special sense of urgency to remove the anomalies and straighten the angularities in the state of affairs. It is also devoting its attention to preparing a practicable plan of development, to bringing about a new economic set-up, to conso-

olidating and streamlining the administrative machinery and to accomplishing a greater sense of peace and security. With a view to accentuating common and united efforts to work out a plan of targets and goals in various fields of national activity and attaining these goals within the scheduled period, we have this day constituted a new Ministry of National Guidance. The principal duty of this new ministry will be to work in the broader interests of the country and to achieve a greater measure of progress and development in all sections of society and among its various classes, to coordinate the rights and interests of the various areas and their people and not to let regional interests conflict with national interest or with similar interests of other areas. This newly set up ministry will also try to inspire people of every walk and profession including agriculture, the young people of the country and specially students, in all spheres of activity cultural, social and ideological, to devote themselves to the service of the Nation. Many problems have got to be solved and a new atmosphere has to be created throughout the Land. I hereby appeal to all to render all possible help to the administration in its task of building up the Nation and advancing the welfare of the people.

Everybody must be aware that for the past few years our policy of friendship and neutrality has been paying dividends by way of better and stronger international relations. In the light of this our policy, our state visits to India, Ceylon, U. S. S. R., Japan, U. S. A. and U. K. and similar historical visits to our country by Their Excellencies the Presidents of India and U. S. S. R. and Their Imperial Highnesses The Crown Prince and Princess of Japan and by the Honourable Prime Ministers of India and China acquire special importance.

Next week we shall have the pleasure and opportunity of welcoming, at our invitation, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a country with which we have been happily bound by time-honoured bonds of friendship. We firmly believe that wherever Her Majesty will go, the Nepalese will welcome her and her party in the finest traditions of our hospitality and thus further strengthen the already subsisting ties of friendship between our two countries.

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May Lord Pashupatinath ever keep alight in our hearts the torch of national awakening and enthusiasm ! May He ensure the permanent well-being of all of us ! With these sentiments at heart, I hereby convey to you all my heartfelt greetings.

February 18, 1961.

Jai Nepal !

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