

Radio Program

Naya Nepal for Peace and Development

Presented by SUBALTERN FORUM / Supported by WACC, Canada

An Exclusive Interview with **Malone M David**,

Canadian Ambassador to Nepal and Bhutan, and Canadian High-Commissioner to India.

[Translated by Kamal Raj Sigdel]

NEPALI	ENGLISH
<p>g]kfnfndf eO{/x]sf] zflGt :yfkgrf sf] k]of;nfO{ s;l/ x]l//xg' ePsf] 5 < s] g]kfnfndf lbuf] zflGt :yfkgrf xf]nf <</p>	<p>Q: Do you foresee that Nepal will be able to restore peace?</p>
<p>d cfzfabl 5' . of] s'/f /fhlgt1x?df e/ kb{5 . xfdL ;+u o:tf] s'g} hfb"sf] 58L 5}g h;n] zflGt / :yfloTj t'?Gt} :yfkgrf u/f]; . k]hftGqdf :yfloTj eGg] s"/f /fhlgtLs ;+;bdf ePsf / gePsf b'j} vfn] kfl6{x? larsf] ;Demf}tf af6 pTkGg x"G5 . ;Demf}tf ug]{ aflg k'/fgf] ;+;lbo k/Dk/fsf] ;a}eGbf /f]rs ljifo xf] hxf kfl6{x?n] slxn} ;dy{g gug]{ elgPsf s"/fdf cGTodf uP/ ;dy{g ug{ k"U5g lsgls s]lx cGo s"/fg} plgx?nfO{ al9 dxTjk"0f{ x"Fg hfG5 . dnfO{ nfU5 g]kfn cem Tof] :t/ ;Dd k"lu;s]sf] 5}g . ;Demf}tf ug]{ aflg kl/s]sf] 5}g . s] aflg k/]sf] 5 eg] dflg;x? Psbd} l/fPsf 5g\ . k]bz{g ug{ vf]lh/x]sf 5g\ . cy{tGqnfO{ laufg{ vf]lh/x]sf 5g\ . t/ o;n] plgx?nfO{ emg k5fl8 ws]N5 . o;sf] ;dfwfg /fhlgtL1x? pTt/bflo x"g" xf] hgtf nfO{ ;]jf ug]{ ul/ ;Demf}tf ug{ tof/ x'g' xf] . cfkm\gf] eGbf al9 hgtsf] rfxgfnfO{ a"em'g"xf] .</p>	<p>I hope so. It depends entirely on the politicians. You don't waive the magic wand and hope the stability infused. Stability in democracy results from compromises made by different powerful parties represented in the parliament or not represented in the parliament. The habit of compromise is the most interesting thing about ancient parliament that parties that swore they'd never support this or that measure one day end up supporting them because they think something else is even more important.</p> <p>I think Nepal is not there yet. The habit of compromise is not deeply ingrained; what is deeply ingrained is a sense amongst the people and they're right because they have not received their due and they are increasingly angry, willing to demonstrate, disrupt the economy, which sets them back further, of course ... but perfectly a logical expression of popular unhappiness. The answer is the responsible politicians who are prepared to make compromises necessary to serve the people rather than their individual interests.</p> <p>In the West, the system took too many centuries to evolve. It did not happen overnight. Our democracy is not perfect, we have lots of problems, but the quality of the problems is not so severe as the quality of the problems of Nepal.</p> <p>So, am I hopeful? Yes. Am I optimistic? I'll be optimistic if the election takes place in the 10th of April, if the result of the election is accepted by the losers. Elections are very worrying for politicians because they are unpredictable. So the outcome of April 10 is tremendously important. If we have another postponement of the election the international community will be ready to give up on Nepal. Nepalis seem to take international support for granted. But actually no; there are many such countries around the world. So a government like Canadian government has to choose which country to invest its</p>
<p>klZrdL b]zdf of] aflgsf] ljsf; x"g ;tflAbof} nfUof] . of] Ps} /ftdf x"g] s"/f</p>	

<p>xf]Og . xfd f] nf]stGq klg q'16/lxt 5}g\ . xfd f klg w /} ;d:ofx? 5g\ . t/ xfd f ;d:of g]kfnsf h:tf cK7\of/f eg] 5}gg\ dnfO ;f]Wg"x"G5 eg] d t cfzfalfb 5" . t/ olb ;+ljwfg ;efsf] r"gfj r}q @* ut] eof] eg] / olb xfg]{x?n]] lgjf{rgsf] glthf l:jsf/ u/] eg] dfq d cfzfjflb 5' . /fhlglt s kfl6{x?sf nflu r"gfj lgs} lrGtfsf] ljifo xf] . lsggeg] r'gfjsf] glthf slxn} klg cg'dfg ug{ ;lsb}g . To;}n] r}q @* ut]sf] r'gfasf] kl/0ffdn] Psbd} dxTj /fVb5 . olb km]l/ klg r"gfj ;/of] eg] cGt{/fli6«o ;d'bfon] g]kfnnfO{ 5f18lbg]5 . g]kfnLx?n] cGt/fli6o ;xof]u To;} kfPsf] h:tf] ug]{ u/]sf] b]lvPsf] 5 . t/ t];f] xf]Og\ . ;+/f/df o:tf cGo 3]/} d'n'sx? 5g\ . To;}n] Sog8f ;/sf/n] klg s'g b]zsf] zflGt k s[ofnfO ;xof]u ug]{ eg]/ w /}dWoaf6 5fGg'kg]{ x"G5 .</p>	<p>money in support of peace process.</p>
<p>Sofgf8fn] g]kfnsf] zflGt k ls ofsf] k of;nfO s;l/ ;xof]u ul//x]sf] 5<</p>	<p>Q: How is Canada helping Nepal restore peace in this situation?</p>
<p>xfldn] g]kfnnfO{ ljleGg tl/sfaf6 ;xof]u k"^\ofO/x]sf 5f}+ . ;j{k yd t, xfd f] ;xof]un] ;/sf/ / 7'nf ;+:yfnfO{ eGbf hgtfnfO{ nlfLt ub{5 . t/ xfldn] kTofPsf] Pp6f 7'nf] ;+yf lgjf{rg cfof]u xf] . ;+o"St /fi6 ;+3sf] sf]if dfkm{t lgjf{rg cfof]unfO k Tolf ?kdf ;xof]u ul//x]sf 5f} . cfof]un] lgs} /fd f] ul//x]sf] 5 . t/ cfof]unfO ;+ljwfg ;efsf] kl5Nnf] :tug lgs} lg/fzfhgs ePsf] lyof] lsgls To;]nf lgs} k};f To;} vr{ eof] . t/ g]kfn / ef/t h:tf b]zdf xfd f] ;xof]u hgtfx?k lt al9 s]lGb t 5 .</p> <p>To;}n] xfd f] ;a} ;xof]u lgjf{rg k ls ofdf dfq} l;ldt 5}g lsgls of] b]zdf ul/ax?sf]</p>	<p>We are trying to do it in number of ways. First, our aid tends to target people rather than government and large institutions. But one large institution we admire very much is the Election Commission. Through the UN fund we have been supporting the EC directly. They are doing very well and for them the postponement of the election last time was deeply frustrating and by the way quite a lot of money was wasted. But mostly our aid in countries like Nepal and India is very people-centric. It is very difficult for a distant country like Canada to imagine, then plan and then implement a development program that would help some poor Nepalis.</p>

<p>;+Vof lgs} w]/} 5 / plgx?n] ;xof]usf] ck]lff ul//x]sf 5g\ .</p> <p>Sog8f h:tf] w]/} 6f9fsf] b]zfnO oxfFsf] af/] a'emg, of]hgf agfpg / ul/] g]kfnLnfO ;xof]u ug]{ lasf; sfo{qmd nfu' ug{ lgs} uxf]}{ u5{ .</p>	
<p>cl3 tkfOn] r"gfjsf] glthf sf] s"/f ug"{ ef] . s] r'gfjdf xfg]{x?m?n] cfkm\gf] xf/ l:jsf/ ufnf{g <</p>	<p>Q: Do you think the losers will accept the election result?</p>
<p>Tof] t dnfO{ yxf] 5}g . d cf:f u5{" ltlgx?n] glthf cj:og} l:jsfg]{5g\ . Tof] g} nf]stGqs] cfwf/ xf] . glthf cl:jsf/ ug]{ ljsNk s"g} kfl6{sf nflu cfs;{s b]lvb}g . cl:jsf/ u/] s] ug]{ < lx+;f z"? ug]{ < of] t hf]lvdk"Of{ /Of]lgt eof] . s] kml/ o"4 z"? ug]{ < Psk6s ;/sf/df uO;s]kl5 Tof] klg ;lhnf] 5}g . To;}n] lo s"/fx?n] dnfO cfzjf]lb agfp5 . cGo b]zx?df ePsf] cg'ejsf] cWoog pkof]lu x'g]5g\ lsgls o:tf o'4x?df ;dfgtf kfOG5 . d Psbd} cfzjf]lb 5" , k r08 / pgsf ;flyx?n] of] a'em]sf 5g\ ls r'gfjsf] glthf cl:jsf/ ug]{ /Of]lgt]n plgx?n] clxn] kfO/x]sf] ;xof]u klg u'dfpg] 5g\ . lsgls d]/f] larf/df hgtfx?n] r"gfj rfxG5g\ . plgx?n] r"gfjsf] glthf klg l:jsf/ ug]{5g / kfl6x?n] klg To;} u?g eGg] rfxG5g\ . o;y{df d Psbd} cfzfa]lb 5" .</p>	<p>I don't know. I certainly hope they accept the results. That is the basis of democracy. But the alternatives for a party that is not keen on accepting an outcome are unattractive also. What you do? Do you create violence? That's a risky strategy. Do you withdraw to the hills and resume the war? Not easy, once you've been part of a government.</p> <p>So, that fact makes me quite optimistic. The study of what goes on in other countries is useful because insurgencies are rather alike. I am very much hopeful that Prachanda and his colleagues will see what support they have could be further eroded by strategy of non-acceptance of the results because my sense is the people here want the elation. The people here will accept the outcome of the election and will expect the parties too accept the outcome of the election. So, in that sense I am very optimistic.</p>
<p>tkfOnfO{ ;+l3o Joj:yfdf sfd u/]sf] w]/} cg"ej 5 . g]kfn]sf] ;+/rgf ;+3fTds x"g uO/x]sf] 5 . s]lx hflto tyf lflqo zlStx?n] ;jfoTttf / cfTdlg0f{o sf] clwsf/ ;lxtsf] ;+l3o /fHo sf] dfu u/]sf 5g\ . o:tf] dfu b]zsf] lxt l]kl/t 5 eG5g\ lg . tkfO s]</p>	<p>Q: You have experience of working in a federal structure. Nepal is also going federal. Some of the regional and ethnic/caste based forces have been demanding federal states with autonomy and right to self-determination. Some say that such demands are against the national welfare. What do think of these demands? Because Canada has also adopted a federal system of governance and Quebec and other provinces were granted autonomy when such demands were</p>

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It is very complicated. And it takes a lot of time to think about and negotiate. With Quebec, its current status in the federation of Canada is the very slow evolution over many years. It's easy to say a region is autonomous but what is the content of autonomy? In what way a region is autonomous? Does it deliver all the programs? Does it raise its own taxes? Does it stop asking the centre for more money? None of these has been thought about yet. And in Canada it took us a great deal of time to think about these things.

Quebec is much more like every other Canadian province than it is different from them. The parliament of Canada has recognized Quebec as a nation because of its cultural identity, which is largely French. But if you look at the practical arrangements that govern Quebec, they are very similar to the ones that govern Ontario. What Quebec gets from Ottawa is pretty same what Ontario gets from Ottawa.

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So, I sympathize with the people of tarai because they have been marginalized for a long time. And nobody listened to them for a long time. But I think frankly there is no magic constitutional solution to their problem. If a new designation within the new Nepali federation, that is somehow distinct for the tarai, helps them psychologically that's good. Does no harm. But the people in the tarai and rest of Nepal need to think about the practical arrangements involved because they are the ones that affect development and growth.

So the business in Canada of building our federation has been nearly as much a boring business than as it has been an exciting business of visionary leaders. That's why I say it is slow. So the people who think that the constituent assembly will be able very quickly solve all of Nepal's problems -- NO I don't think that is true. But it is important that they start.

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<p>/ ;Dk"Of{ g]kflnx?n] Aoaxfl/s ?kdf Joj:yfkg s;/L ug]{ xf] To;af/ ;f]Rg"k5{ lsgls To;n] g} ljsf; / cfly{s j[l4df c;/ k'\lofp5 . To; }n] ;+3 lgdf{Of ug] k s[of Pp6f lgs} l9nf] k ls[of xf] . dflg;x? ;f]Rr5g ls ;+ljwfg;efsf] lgjf{rgn] ;a} ;d:ofsf] ;dfwfg ug}{5 . To;f] sbflk xf]Og . / d To:tf] ;f]lRbg . t/ k s[of z"?jft ug"{ g} Pp6f dxTjk"Of{ s'/f xf] .</p>	
<p>k ZgM g]kfn h:tf] ;fgf] b]zn] ;+3fTds Joj:yf ckgfpg sTtLsf] plrt xf] <</p>	<p>Q: Do you think Nepal should opt for the federal structure as this seems to be a very small country to be suited for a federal structure?</p>
<p>g]kfn tkfOnfO{ kf] ;fgf] b]lvG5 . lsgls tkfO lrg / ef/t h:tf b]zsf lardf x"g"x"G5 . sl/a c9fO s/f]8 hgtf ePsf] b]z ;fgf] xf]Og\ . ;a)eGbf ;kmn ;+3fTds b]z l:jh/Nof08 sf] hg;+Vof dfq ;fl7 nfv 5 . To; }n] dnfO{ nfUb}g s"g} klg ;+3fTds b]zsf] ;kmntf jf ljkmtf To;sf] cfsf/df lge{/ ub{5 .</p> <p>t/ g]kfn ;+l3o x"g] ls gx"g] eGg] s"/fsf] af/]df ljb]lzn] ;Nnfx ;d]t lbg x'b}g / ;Sb}gg . of] g]kflnx?n] cfkm}n] ;f]Rg"kg]{ s'/f xf] . of] k i6 5 ls ljutsf Joj:yfn] sfd u/]gg . To; }n] ljutdf h:tf Joj:yf ePklg tkfO k5fl8 hfg rfxg"x"Gg t/ eflj g]kfn s:tf] x"g] eGg]af/]df g]kfn] cfkm\gf] 5"§} df]8]n vf]Hg"k5{ . Tof] gt l:jh/N08 h:tf] x"g]5 gt sf]:6fl/sf h:tf] g} . ;+l3o x'G5 ls x'b}g eGg' eGbf lb]zsf laleGg ;d'bfo larsf] /fhlg]ts ;dembfl/ g} k d'v xf] . o;f] ePdf tkfOx? ;+3sf] cjwf/Ofdf hfg' k5{ eGg] 5}g . To; }n] gofF g]kfn] Pp6f /fd]f] df]8]n jgfp s]lx ;do t nfU5 g} .</p>	<p>It seems small to you because you live next to China and India. But actually ... 24/25 million people ... quite a big country. One of the most successful federations, Switzerland has only over six million people. So I don't think size determines whether a federation is successful. Whether Nepal should become a federation is something actually foreigners should not actually even officer advice on. It is something the Nepalis have to think about. It is clear that the past did not work well for Nepal. Whatever the arrangements in the past, you don't want to go back to them. But for the arrangements in the future Nepal, it has to come up with its own model. It won't be the model of Switzerland, Costa Rica or Westminster. And whether it is federal or not is much less important than the basic political understandings that are reached amongst the various important communities in this country and those don't have to be organized along federal lines at all. So I say a well-designed New Nepal is going to take some time.</p>

<p>olb zflGt :yfkf ePsf] v08df g]kfnf Sofgl8og nulgstf{x? cflif{t x'g;Sg] k d'v lf]qx? s] s] 5g <</p>	<p>Q: As you mentioned earlier that Canadian companies would be interested in investing in Nepal. What could be the areas of attraction for them?</p>
<p>olb g]kfnf zflGt :yfkf eof] eg] oxf w]/} To:tf lf]qx? 5g\ h;n] xfdlf nufgstf{x?nfO{ cflif{t ug{ ;S5 . pbxf/0fsf] nflu, Sofgl8og OIGHlgo/L a sDklgx? hnljB't pTkfbgdf lgs} l'g'Of{ 5g\ . xfld k'jf{wf/ ljsf;sf] lf]qdf kl'g lgs} cuf]8 5f} h:t} olb g]kfnf] /]ndfu{sf] ljsf; ug]{ lgOf{o u/]df xfld To; lf]qdf lgs} sfd ug{ ;S5f}+ . pbxf/0fsf] nflu ef/tsf] lbNnLdf rNg] d]6<f] /]n Sofgl8og sDklgx?n] jgfPsf] xf] . xfld vlgh pTvvggsf] lf]qdf gfd'b dflgG5f} . x'g ;S5 g]kfn vlghdf wlg 5 . dnfOnfU5 g]kfnf] cfkmgf] vlgh ;Dkbfsf] /fd]f] ;j]{lfOf u/]sf] 5}g . ;j]{lfOf u/]sf] v08df g]kfn lgs} wlgx'g]5 . To;]nf Sogl8og nufPt cGo b]zsf vlgh pTvvgg ;+DjGwL sDklgx? g]kfnf nufg ug{ cflif{t x'g]5g . xfld s[lif k zf]wg lf]qdf kl'g /fd]f] dl'gG5f}+ . o:tf w]/} lf]qx? 5g .</p> <p>a+unfb]z / ef/tdf h] eof] Tof] g]kfnf kl'g x'g ;S5 . t/ olb b]zdf :yfoLTj ePg eg] s]lx kl'g x'g]jfnf 5}g . To;]n] /fhlglt1x?n] cy{tgqnfO{ ulDe/tfk}'s lng' kb{5 . Sog8fdf kl'g lgs} k lt:k wfTds /fhlglt 5 t/ ToxfFsf g]tfx? s'g} o:tf] sfd ub}gg h;n] cy{tGqnfO{ gf]S;fg k'/ofcf] ; . plgx?n] af6fdf cfP/ k bz{g ub}{gg . a? cGo pkfP 4f/f cfkmgf] j]v';L k :t't u5{g .</p> <p>To;]n] dnfO cfzf 5 g]kfnL /fhlglt1x?n] cy{tGqnfO{ ulDe/tfk}'s</p>	<p>Provided there is stability there are many areas that would interest. For example a number of Canadian engineering firms have been very good at development of hydroelectricity and have done a lot of work in India. We are very good at some aspects of infrastructure, if, for example, Nepal decides of development of rail road, it is an area where we are doing a lot of business.</p> <p>We are a big mining country; it is very likely that Nepal is full of mineral wealth. I don't think Nepal has very seriously surveyed it yet. But once it is surveyed, it is going to be very rich at that point. Probably Canadian mining companies might demonstrate a big interest. We are quite good at agricultural processing too.</p> <p>Everything that happened in Bangladesh, India can happen here. But none of them can happen here without stability. And also politicians need to take economy seriously. In Canada we have quite competitive politics but our politicians try not to do anything that would damage the economy. They don't call for street demonstrations; they use other ways that can make their unhappiness known.</p> <p>So I hope the Nepali politicians will take the economy of Nepal to heart, accept that the lack of growth in this country is their responsibility and that they have to do better in the future. That is what the Nepalis deserve from them.</p>

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Contact: Subaltern Forum, 9841 322984, 01 2333 224, 081 524350