



**Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Nepal
New York, 2 May 2005**

The Secretary-General welcomes the Government of Nepal's decision to lift the state of emergency over the weekend and to free in the last few weeks several political party leaders and activists. These were measures the Secretary-General had urged during his meeting with King Gyanendra in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 April 2005.

While welcoming these initial positive steps, the Secretary-General remains concerned about the human rights situation in Nepal. He urges the release of all those still detained under the emergency provisions as well as the early restoration of civil liberties and multi-party democracy in Nepal. He remains ready to assist in any manner that would lead to the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nepal.