



**Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on Nepal
New York, 1 February 2005**

The Secretary-General is deeply concerned at the actions taken by the constitutional monarchy in Nepal on Tuesday to dissolve the government, impose a state of emergency, and suspend civil liberties and freedom of expression.

The Secretary-General views these actions as a serious setback for the country. He does not believe that they will bring lasting peace and stability to Nepal. Steps should be taken immediately to restore democratic freedoms and institutions.

The Secretary-General is very mindful of the safety and well-being of the Nepalese people and their representatives, including political leaders, human rights workers and journalists. He urges calm and restraint by all parties in the country so as to avoid actions that could worsen the situation.