

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



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Session document

13 June 2001

B5-0428/2001 }
B5-0435/2001 }
B5-0443/2001 }
B5-0460/2001 }
B5-0469/2001 }
RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 50(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Thomas Mann and Charles Tannock on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Jean-Claude Fruteau and Pedro Aparicio Sánchez on behalf of the PSE Group
- Reinhold Messner, Jean Lambert and Caroline Lucas on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luigi Vinci on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group
- Gerard Collins and Cristiana Muscardini on behalf of the UEN Group
- Olivier Dupuis, Marco Pannella, Emma Bonino, Gianfranco Dell'Alba, Marco Cappato, Maurizio Turco and Benedetto Della Vedova

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- UEN (B5-0428/2001),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0435/2001),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0443/2001),
- PPE-DE (B5-0460/2001),
- PSE (B5-0469/2001),

on the aftermath of the massacre of the royal family in Nepal

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PE 306.741 }
PE 306.748 }
PE 306.756 }
PE 306.773 }
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European Parliament resolution on the aftermath of the massacre of the royal family in Nepal

The European Parliament,

- A. deeply shocked and saddened at the terrible events which took place on Friday, 2 June 2001 at the Narayanhiti Royal Palace in Nepal and which resulted in the death or injury of 14 members of the royal family, including King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, and other close relatives,
- B. conscious that the death of the royal family has complicated even further the internal political situation,
- C. whereas immediately after the tragedy became known, people throughout the country were confined to their homes and all meetings were prohibited,
- D. whereas, in the ensuing violence, the police fired live bullets and several people were killed, dozens injured and hundreds arrested,
- E. whereas, for the first time since the establishment of democracy, the entire editorial board of the main Nepalese daily was arrested for 'treason', thereby placing freedom of expression in the country under threat,
- F. aware that the late King Birendra enjoyed great popularity and was regarded by many as an anchor of stability among the people of Nepal, particularly since he ceded absolute power in favour of a constitutional monarchy in 1990 with a multi-party parliament,
- G. conscious of the important responsibility, under the present difficult circumstances, that King Gyanendra who has succeeded King Birendra now bears as a constitutional monarch and head of state and the need now for stability in Nepal,
- H. aware of the importance in this regard for the people of Nepal of a rapid, full and transparent investigation into the tragic events which occurred in the Narayanhiti Royal Palace and welcomes in this regard the setting up of the special commission to probe the massacre at the Palace,
- I. conscious of the special and warm relations between the EU and Nepal and the fact that the EU is an important trading partner and that through the EC-Nepal Co-operation strategy the EU is providing assistance to help develop the country, particularly through measures aimed at combating poverty,
- J. conscious of the importance of ensuring also that the recent appalling events do not detract from the efforts being made by the Joint Verification Team of Nepal and Bhutan to resolve the complex issue of the Bhutanese refugees in Nepal

- 1. Conveys its deepest sympathy to the royal family, the people of Nepal and the parliament

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following the terrible shootings in the Narayanhiti Royal Palace and expresses its shock at these events;

2. Expects that King Gyanendra together with the Government of Nepal will, in a multi-party democracy and fully respecting the principles laid down in the country's constitution, do all that is necessary to restore confidence;
3. Calls for the commission of inquiry chaired by the President of the Supreme Court, Keshav Prasad Upadhaya, to include judges, government and opposition representatives as well as international observers, in order to guarantee the complete elucidation of the events, and to restore the confidence of the citizens, and calls on the commission of inquiry into the massacre to submit its report in due time;
4. Expects all political and civic forces to unite in order to allow for relevant security measures to be taken with a view to restoring internal political stability;
5. Considers, at this critical time in the history of Nepal, that it is essential that the European Union demonstrate its support for the people of Nepal by strengthening its commitment through the EC-Nepal Development Co-operation Agreement, the establishment of a fully-fledged EU delegation office in Kathmandu and renewed encouragement for the efforts of both Nepal and Bhutan to satisfactorily resolve, at an early stage, the situation of the Bhutanese refugees, including accelerating the work of the "Joint Verification Team";
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments of the Member States and the government and parliament of Nepal.