

## **“Maoists’ duo meets Beijing Officials in Hong Kong”**

[January 8, 2010]

The Unified Maoists’ Party Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ and Krishna Bahadur Mahara, party’s international bureau chief’s mysterious visit to Hong Kong has drawn much attention and raised eyebrows both within and without.

Even the Hong Kong based Maoists’ cadres who were found chewing their tongue when they heard that their party chief was arriving without prior notice.

And reports being made available from Hong Kong have it that the top Nepali leaders, as was presumed, found very little time to talk to their cadres and straight headed to an undisclosed location.

The two Maoist top-hats were missing for two good hours plus say Nepali journalists stationed in the bustling China administered city of Hong Kong.

Reports have it that Prachanda and Mahara landed at Hong Kong Airport at around 06:45 AM Local time January 7, 2010.

They had left Kathmandu in all haste a day earlier.

Both the Maoists’ leaders were greeted at the Airport by officials of Nepal Government’s Consulate Bureau in Hong Kong.

They were then ferried to a Hotel located at the City Center by a vehicle owned by the consulate office. After a brief rest, they met with the representatives of Nepal-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industries which was followed by a meeting with the NRN-Hong Kong representatives.

They also attended a program organized by Maoists’ Party’s Hong Kong affiliate.

In all his meetings with Nepali nationals in the Chinese city, Prachanda stressed that Nepalese living in Nepal and outside have now the responsibility to save their motherland from turning into a failed state.

“We were at war when we signed the 12 Points Agreement with the political parties, it indeed gave a new direction to Nepali politics but it made no effect in the livelihood of the people”, he said.

Prachanda, however, did not mention that the said 12 point agreement was engineered by New Delhi where he was residing then.

“But something went wrong somewhere...we had made an agreement that until we draft the constitution and bring logical end to the peace process we will not shy away from politics of consensus...I now think that unfortunately, for Nepali politics, our party turned out to be the largest in the constituent assembly.”

“People did not expect that a party at war would come out victorious in the CA elections in a manner we emerged”, he said talking to the representatives of the Nepal-Hong Kong Chambers of commerce.

“And, foreign forces that were having direct influence in the daily lives of Nepali people...their influence in economic, social and political life of Nepali citizens beginning Sugauli Treaty, 1816, they did not expect that we would be the largest party in the constituent assembly”, Dahal said adding, “All these put together there is the current abnormality seen in Nepali politics.”

“We are still optimistic of the prevalence of peace and tranquility in Nepali politics”, the former prime minister also said.

Addressing an interaction program organized by Maoists’ Party affiliate in Hong Kong, Prachanda emphatically stressed that beginning Sugauli treaty, Nepal is being continuously facing alien hegemony.

Perhaps he was referring to the Indian hegemony!

Prachanda, Mahara and a local Maoists’ leader, further reports from Hong Kong have it that after meeting the Nepali community, the Maoist duo headed to an undisclosed location. They then left the Consulate vehicle right at the place and boarded another vehicle.

It is also revealed, though not substantiated, the Maoists’ leaders met with high ranking Chinese Government and Chinese Community Party officials in Hong Kong who had come all the way from main-land China-Beijing.

The presumed meet with the Chinese officials lasted for over two and half hours.

What transpired in between the Nepalese Maoists and the Beijing officials though not made known but could well be guessed.

After the presumed meeting, when Prachanda was asked by a local journalist if he had met the Chinese officials, the BBC Nepali Service reports, a beaming Prachanda in all his smiles requested the journalist not to pose the question in this regard. “No such secret meet has taken place”, Prachanda quipped.

“They then headed straight to Hong Kong airport”, report concludes.

Analysts presume that Prachanda's sudden dash to Hong Kong has provided a new twist to the Nepali politics which will presumably swing now between Delhi and Beijing.

Yet another headache for New Delhi!

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