In sum, the Interim Government of Nepal Act, 1954 laid the foundation of royal absolutism which marked the beginning of a new stage in Nepalese politics. In political terms, it signified a parting of ways between the Crown and the popular forces headed by the Nepali Congress, the one-time ally of the King against the Rana oligarchy. The limited political consciousness of the people, the split in the Nepali Congress, the continuous disintegration of the democratic forces in the face of reassertion of strength by the feudal groups and the resulting political instability helped the Nepalese Crown to transform itself, within less than four years, from a mere titular head into the most powerful political force in the country. This exalted position of the Monarch was stated clearly in a proclamation issued on 14 February 1954:

The inherent sovereignty of the Monarch and his special prerogatives over the executive, legislative and judicial wings as the supreme head have been handed over to Us by the tradition and custom of the country. For sometimes these prerogatives of the Monarch were exercised by the Prime Ministers by virtue of the rights vested in them by Our illustrious forefathers. Since those rights were ended by the Proclamation of 18 February 1951, the supreme authority in all affairs now rests in Us. (107)

VI

The National Cabinet

On 18 February the King reconstituted the Rashtriya Praja Party Cabinet. It was expanded to include representatives of three other parties viz., the Rashtriya Congress, the Praja Parishad and the Jana Congress of Bhadra Kali Misra who was

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It is needless to state that although others have helped me in completing the work, none else but myself is responsible for the statements contained in it.

(J. A. Naik)

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