

LETTER

## 'OLD GUARDS ATTACK'

In regard to the editorial 'Old Guards Attack' (FRONTIER vol. 41, No. 45) this Weekly's readers may be interested to know that to its credit the mouthpiece of world capital, *The Economist* of London (May 9th 2009): 'How fierce will the Maoists be now' has squarely placed India as an important factor responsible for Nepal's present crisis. It writes that 'Nepal's mainstream politicians ,army and Big Brother India did not like Maoists in government'. The journal goes on to say that the Nepalese president was 'egged on' by the 'aforementioned critics' to reverse his earlier decision to sack the country's general R Katwal who 'deserved the boot'. The journal mentions three cases of the general's disobedience of government's order. A devotee of Nepal's deposed monarch, the general had refused to curtail a recruitment drive qualified by the UN as a violation of the peace agreement of 2006, government's refusal to extend the services of eight brigadier generals which Katawal resisted, his order to the army not to take part in an athletic contest because the Maoists' former army was also to take part. Asked to explain himself on all three issues, Katwal replied haughtily, which prompted Dahal's action. The Weekly adds : 'General Katwal with India's blessing has resisted the reforms'.

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