

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
P.O. Box 353, MASERU, Lesotho

Telephone: 2475
Telegrams: "Basinform"

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER
ON NOVEMBER 17

I shall be leaving tomorrow on a state visit to the Republic of China and Japan. I shall be accompanied by my Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Mr. Patrick 'Mota; Chief Leshoboro Majara; my Security Officer, Mr. F.J. Roach; and my Private Secretary, Mr. Mosito Molapo. I have felt it my duty, as I have always done before leaving my country, to make a public statement. I would like the nation to know that my departure for the Far East is for the purpose of putting Lesotho on the World Map and of looking for more friends. As has been the case before, the Deputy Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues will remain in control.

The Independence Celebrations are now over and we have to begin our long, arduous climb towards economic prosperity. To raise the standard of our people and to lift the country out of the stagnant sub-subsistence economy with which we have been left, must be our first priority. As you know, I have just returned from England where I had talks with the Minister of Overseas Development, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and with Mr. Wilson himself. I asked them to give us more realistic aid than that which had been offered in October, and Mr. Wilson has undertaken to give his personal attention to this. We await his reply.

Meanwhile, I have instructed my Ministers to give close attention to the importance of making economies and improving our system of administration in the light of reports which my Government has just received from Sir Walter Coutts and Professor Horwood. I confidently expect that in the New Year we should begin to see results.

To those of our people who allow themselves to be confused about the present status of our country and who still entertain the hope that colonial days will return, all I wish to say is - the die is cast. We are now a free nation, a member of the

Commonwealth / ...