

persisted because I was convinced that I was right. By this I was not in any way trying to please the Republic of South Africa or to respond to the influence of anybody whatsoever. This holds good to the present day, when I still advocate the policy of principled co-existence. What urged me then, as now, and as will always be the case in the future, are the realities of life, of history, geography and economics. These have the same influence on my critics, who nevertheless say things that do not spring from sincere convictions. Even today, if you will allow me to break further new ground - this time in international relations - you may believe me when I tell you that small and poor as Lesotho is, as an independent state we are nevertheless equal in status to Britain, South Africa and any other country which is a member of the United Nations. In this matter of economic inter-dependence, if you give me time and support, as you did when I led you to independence, great success will be achieved. In saying this, I do not want to belittle the difficulties in our way to success, but with patience, tolerance, wisdom and co-operation, I can assure you we shall reach our goal. This we shall reach without having betrayed the principles for which we stand, without having sacrificed our integrity, sovereignty and political independence.

The Prime Minister of Lesotho, unlike the Prime Ministers of other African States, has to walk on a tight rope. This fact is sometimes forgotten by my critics at home and abroad. Without in any way praising - self-praise is no recommendation - but I think all of you, including the bitterest of my critics, will admit it is no small achievement that we are in the third year of our office with relations between Lesotho and South Africa being so good. This is an achievement for which I should really be complimented. Unlike any other Prime Minister on the African continent - every word I say, every step I take, is being thoroughly watched and scrutinised. Nevertheless, while I shall continue to maintain this essential friendship with the Republic of South Africa, our immediate and friendly neighbour, it is equally essential to maintain the same friendship with the outside world. In all these relations the guiding principle is the welfare of the people of Lesotho. At all costs I must protect the interests of the people of Lesotho, because it is in this connection that I cannot afford to please anybody other than you - the Basotho. I cannot afford to sell

your .....