

call a halt to these malpractices.

Another important current matter is that of opening diplomatic relations with the Republic of South Africa. As this matter is still under discussion between the two Governments, I would not like to give my comments at this stage. All I would wish to do is to allay your fears; and to tell you that whatever will be done, your interests will not only be safeguarded but nothing will be done to give the impression that we have been treated in any other way than as an independent sovereign state. We cannot afford to fall below international standards. However, the arrangements between me and the Prime Minister of the Republic of South Africa - Mr. J. B. Vorster - for contacts on ministerial and official levels have so far worked satisfactorily and a great deal has as a result been achieved.

In final conclusion allow me to say a few words on my High Commissioner in London and my Permanent Representative at the United Nations and Ambassador to Washington. These men are respectively Mr. Joe Kotsokoane and Mr. A. S. Mohale. They both have rendered creditable service to present the good image of Lesotho to the world. In your name I must thank them for the excellent work they have done for Lesotho. In their loyalty they have set an example that must be followed by all who serve this country.

Let us remember that governments come and go but the State of Lesotho can no longer afford stagnation and the frustration typical of the past hundred years.

Let us all go forward still having trust in God's Guidance and believing fully that Prayer will lead us to success.