

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

Telephone: 2475

Telegrams: "Basinform"

PRESS RELEASE

36/67.

3rd February, 1967.

THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON BRITISH OFFER OF R28
MILLION PROMPTED BY THE APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS

Mr. Wilson's statement in the House of Commons on the British Government's obligation to make an offer of R28 million to Zambia to counteract the effects of economic sanctions has been of special interest to me.

Congratulating Mr. Wilson and the British Government on this generous act of charity I must express the hope that it has been made free from considerations of tons and tons of copper which Britain, over the years, has received from Zambia.

Notwithstanding the happiness I share with the people of Zambia for the luck which has come their way, I would be failing in my duty if I did not indicate the insufficiency of the offer in view of the many decades of exploitation which Zambia in her Colonial days continued to suffer in British hands.

Though Britain, or Mr. Wilson for that matter, found himself under an obligation to assist Zambia in this her predicament, the whole situation still begs question, how he freed himself from the same moral obligation to help Lesotho. Compared to Zambia, Lesotho labours under grave financial stringency, being without minerals or other resources from which Zambia derives much of her revenue. "To those who have, more is added". This biblical injunction is difficult to understand by human standards and has long been a subject of wild illustration in British aid to her former Colonial Territories. Britain has already been largely influenced by certain vested interests, namely, copper, gold and the presence of the White Settler problem. The reason why Mr. Wilson has accorded Lesotho this "poor last consideration" can be traced to Lesotho being without vitally important considerations for British aid.

The British offer of aid to Lesotho is small and doubtful. Small in amount and doubtful because it has such strings attached as, that the money be used for the purchase of British goods/.....