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PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE ON THE TREND  
OF EVENTS IN LESOTHO AFTER ATTAINMENT  
OF INDEPENDENCE.

The statement I am making to-day is not only an exposition of the trend of events in our Independent Lesotho, but more than that it is my New Year's message to the people of Lesotho and those of the outside world.

My sincere thanks go to members of both Houses of the Lesotho Parliament, namely the Lower House of elected representatives and the Upper House composed of the 22 Principal and Ward Chiefs as well as the 11 nominees of His Majesty the King. The obstacles on the road to independence were numerous and seemingly insurmountable but with the cooperation of these devoted men and women success was assured, and culminating in the historic celebrations of October 4th 1966, independence was achieved.

Yet that is not all. Shortly after independence fresh obstacles to national progress began to manifest themselves. More pronounced in its destructive effects was the spirit of disunity - a legacy of colonial rule - left by the British after their departure. Equally attributable to this spirit of disunity was the influence of aliens to whom I have referred in my recent broadcast speech as the foreign and undesirable elements. As the events of December 27th offer concrete proof - my government was able to defeat these influences because of the support and encouragement received from the 17 out of 22 Principal and Ward Chiefs and above all, from the greater percentage of the Lesotho population who put the welfare of the nation above all things and refused to identify themselves with the ambitions of self-seekers.

At this stage I am able to say we move into the Year 1967 under an atmosphere of calm and political stability.

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