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SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT NATIONAL
PITSO HELD AT MASERU ON SATURDAY, 9TH
NOVEMBER, 1968

On my return from this trip abroad I am pleased to bring you the greetings of the Governments and peoples of Canada and Israel, as well as those of His Holiness Pope Paul VI, with whom I had an audience in Rome.

One of my main objectives on this trip was to strengthen the bonds of friendship existing between Lesotho and the countries which I visited. I have no doubt that these countries were already favourably disposed towards Lesotho because of the sympathetic and realistic approach of my Government to current world problems. Undoubtedly the world is tired of hysterical and superficial pronouncements.

My Government attaches great importance to international friendship because history shows that a nation without friends will almost certainly stagnate and wither in its isolationism. As I have repeatedly said before, international friendship is indispensable, especially to a small nation in our position. Accordingly, I have instructed Lesotho diplomatic representatives abroad, as well as other officials representing the Government at international conferences, to cultivate this friendship. I also told our students abroad that I regard it as their duty to promote this friendship in their various fields of activity. As Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, it is my responsibility to seize every opportunity to cement our relations with friendly states.

On this trip I had the opportunity to exchange views on a wide variety of subjects with the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, and his Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Mitchel Sharp. In Israel I had extensive talks with the President, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. I also had discussions with the Foreign Minister of Italy, Signor Medici.

In Canada I found that our policies were broadly similar with respect to the need for strengthening the Commonwealth and expanding the areas of co-operation. We were similarly concerned about the urgency of resolving the conflict in Nigeria and the necessity of finding a solution to the Rhodesian problem which would be acceptable to the majority of the people of that country.

In Israel we agreed on the pressing need for a permanent and lasting solution to the problems of the region by a negotiated settlement.

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