

Although we value international friendship, it should not be assumed that we are prepared to sacrifice our principles in its pursuit. As a Government we realize that even among friends there should be room for disagreement without prejudice to those areas in which there is agreement.

My second main objective on this trip was to seek technical assistance for our many development projects. I am convinced that the main requirements for the development of Lesotho or any developing country in a similar situation are the united determination and efforts of its people, coupled with appropriate technical and financial assistance. In a sense our country is facing a national emergency in its economic life and, as the Government and people of Lesotho, we must not lose sight of this fact. It is imperative that we should be united and that we should be determined to exploit all possibilities of developing our country. It is also clear that we need the assistance and know-how of other peoples - where we do not as yet have our own qualified people - to ensure the success of our development endeavours.

In Canada I explored with the Minister in charge of their International Development Aid, the possibilities of Canadian assistance for certain specific projects both of a short-term and long-term nature. In Zurich, Switzerland, I had the opportunity of addressing a group of top international financiers and industrialists on the possibilities of investment in Lesotho. Many of them showed keen interest in Lesotho and some will probably be visiting this country within the coming months. In Israel I was deeply impressed by the advanced state of horticulture in the face of unfavourable climatic conditions and difficult soil. I negotiated for the coming to Lesotho of their top expert in horticulture and agricultural planning within the next two to three months. I must mention here that I have turned to Israel for assistance in this branch of agriculture because I have seen the immediate practicality of their methods. This country is sick and tired of the theoreticians who come only to write scholarly reports of no immediate practical use. I have also submitted a few of our top priority requirements for their consideration.

My overall assessment of the visit is that its potential benefits exceed by far our humble expectations when we embarked on it. Even in countries like Italy and Greece, where I stopped briefly on route, I found their respective Governments most sympathetic and willing to extend some form of assistance to Lesotho. What now remains is for us, the Government, Opposition and all people of Lesotho, to create the conditions that are conducive...