

Because His Majesty has not kept his promises, the Government could, in terms of clause 4 of the undertaking, have enforced His Majesty's abdication a considerable time ago. If it were not for the great patience of the Government, and its regard for the monarchy as an institution, His Majesty would today no longer be King of Lesotho.

Though only a few Chiefs seem to support the resolution of 5th March, 1968, and although the resolution has not been signed by anyone, I am glad to see from the resolution that the Chiefs now understand that they have no function to advise the King in things of this sort. It is wrong for the King to seek advice on a constitutional matter of this sort from anyone but his Ministers, and accordingly I propose to ignore the activities of the Chiefs of the 3rd and 4th January, 1967. But I will hold the King to the document since it was signed at the wish of the Cabinet, apart from having been signed on the irregular advice of the Chiefs. Neither I nor they can release the King from his duty to abide by the Constitution so long as he is King. The Constitution obliges His Majesty to carry out certain duties and obligations in the interests of the Basotho Nation. These duties and obligations are inseparable from the office of a constitutional monarch, are designed to promote order and good government, and are necessary for the welfare of all his subjects.

By endeavouring to ensure that His Majesty does what the Constitution requires of him, and by taking steps to safeguard his life, the Cabinet has shown that it is deeply concerned for his welfare and is anxious to preserve in the hearts of the people the love and respect which they owe to the monarch, who might so easily forfeit this high regard should he allow himself to act in a manner unbecoming to his office and inconsistent with the interests of the Basotho Nation, who should be able to look upon him as a unifying force that is above party politics.

By signing this document, His Majesty has, after all, undertaken to do something which it is his plain duty to do, and it is this duty that restricts him in certain ways, just as every person in a high place in a constitutional monarchy is restricted in some way or another. Those who imagine that high office is a carefree existence are mistaken and it is time that they learned this lesson. We must all accept these cares of office if we are to do our duty to Lesotho.

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