

of mutual confidence and stability which are essential to orderly progress. But, in addition to this, friendship and goodwill have manifested themselves in co-operation, material assistance, and technical aid in a variety of new and desirable enterprises. I would like to draw your attention to a few particular examples.

You will be aware from Press Statements, that have been made during the past year, that the Orbow Hydro-Electric project which has been on the drawing-board for the past 18 years, has now engaged the serious and constructive interest of the South African Government and International Agencies. We have made great strides towards the exploitation of the water resources which, in accordance with our declared policy, we regard as our "White Gold" of Lesotho.

Water and power are two basic essentials of economic and industrial development. To turn to the latter, you will remember that this year saw the connection of the ESCOM power supply to Maseru and to Roma. We have also made great strides with our plans to take the electricity supply even further afield.

We have made notable advances, too, in the development of our communications. A major section of the I.D.A. Road Project Alpha, re-Christened the Leabus Highway, has already been completed, and the remainder is rapidly nearing completion. We shall then have a black-topped road from Leribe in the North to Tsoaing in the South. But our plans do not stop there, and already the extension of this highway both north and south is being actively planned and negotiated. We have not, of course, forgotten the needs of the mountain people in planning our roads system. Already we can travel by Landrover from

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