

Radio Speech by the Honourable the Prime Minister
on Wednesday, 21st August, 1968

"MY APPEAL TO THE BASOTHO NATION AND TO
THEIR FAITHFUL FRIENDS"

Once again I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to appeal to you, the Basotho Nation. Now is the hour - If it is not long overdue - when we should appreciate the difference between good and evil; choose our trusted friends from wolves in sheepskins who merely pay us lipservice and are natural enemies.

Let us be alert lest we fall easy victims to cunning jackals.

No one can deny the fact that our people are experiencing serious and heartbreaking famine and need immediate help, for a hungry stomach will not wait until to-morrow. Moreover, starvation has no respect for the colour of a person, his status, creed or even any affiliation to matters of administration.

It is because of this unfortunate famine that I had to appeal to all sympathetic friends for aid. I am happy to tell you that my cry received co-operative response from the United States Government which, through the Catholic Relief Service has already started sending us flour, fish-oil, canned beef, beans, powdered milk and other nutrients, to feed school children, expectant mothers and all those engaged in "Self-Help Projects" such as road construction, building of dams, wells, clinic centres making communal gardens and planting trees, as well as in other activities where the people could do co-operative work in such projects as building schools where even adults can be taught how to read and write and perform some handicrafts.

In addition to the source of help I have just mentioned, we have received food gifts from the World Food Programme to feed schoolchildren and expectant mothers.

But - as the Basotho say - "starvation lurks in the midst of plenty", I am again compelled to appeal to all those who may have compassion to help this Nation in a manner such as was demonstrated by the farmers of Clocolan who, out of love and sympathy, volunteered to assist those in the border