

The affairs of the Middle East and certain other African countries to the North are getting worse by the day. Only one agency is responsible for this disturbance. It is Russian communism. My strong feeling is that we emerging African countries should strongly guard against communist infiltration, which comes under the guise of friendly help - when in actual fact it has never been in the nature of this help to assist in attaining real independence and full self-determination. It would be a most ridiculous and amusing situation to the rest of the world if, after freeing ourselves from the shackles of colonialism, we replaced them by the handcuffs of communism, which are even more restricting than the first.

In this event I am happy to say that, thus far, we self-governing countries South of the Zambesi, have not entered into diplomatic relations with either Russia or Communist China. To do so would in effect mean the harbouring of spies who would acquire first-hand information about us on the spot. There is a major difference between communist diplomatic attachments and those of the free countries. The former disregard trade and co-operative efforts in the promotion of world peace and common understanding among the nations of the world. Their main purpose is espionage and infiltration. I have reason to hope that our brothers in the North will correct the mistake they have made and sever diplomatic relations with all communist countries, lest the danger escalate to the Southern sub-continent and take us unawares.

Turning my attention to the Chiefs and Headmen of Lesotho, I gave the order that each in his village and caretaking should make it his responsibility to implement Government policy by seeing the vagrants are not allowed free movement and unauthorised stay in villages. It is these vagrants who are communist agents and subversive terrorists who disturb the peace of Lesotho and make it difficult for the Chiefs and Headmen to discharge their functions as preservers of the peace. Any Chief or Headman who is indifferent to this injunction, and who connives or harbours terrorists, communists and political refugees, will suffer ruthless penalties. We cannot afford, without serious repercussions, to make our country the springboard of attacks on the Republic of South Africa. I have reliable information to prove the communist affiliations of most of the refugees and with some of the splinter parties in this country.

In addition to this, I wish to clarify my Government's policy in regard to the nine B.C.P. so-called students abroad. The fact is, even before they asked me to intervene on their behalf to remove the obstacles on their way to return to Lesotho, I had already on my own initiative to speak with the Government of the Republic....

Sethabathaba Fund to meet the cost of higher education. I cannot see any reason why they should not once again apply themselves to the task rather than see this University stagnate - when it should, on the contrary, now be growing from strength to strength, to the extent where it can provide all the facilities necessary for this country's development. The performance of this University deserves such consideration. It has turned out men of standing in the African society of today. To mention but a few, I would name the first pre-independence Prime Minister of Uganda, Mr. Benedict Kiwanuka, who is today the Leader of the Opposition in that country's Parliament; Mr. John Tembo, the Minister of Finance in the Government of Malawi is the product of our University and so is Mr. Masinde Muliro, a Minister in the Republic of Kenya. These men represent praiseworthy achievements for which we must be proud of our University and particularly grateful to those friends of the University who have assisted so far in its establishment and development. The United Kingdom, over and above the grant-in-aid to Lesotho, makes a special contribution towards the maintenance of the University; the Americans and the Canadians have in a number of ways also extended a helping hand. Here I would like to express a special word of thanks to Canada, because the establishment of our University was the direct result of the work of missionaries of Canadian extraction.

Like all emerging countries in Africa, we are faced with many problems. We are no exception to the rule that education needs to be adapted to the changing requirements brought about by development. It will require hard work and great effort - but I am positive that the response of all sectors of the population to this appeal which I and my Government are launching will bear wholesome fruits. We shall then go on to build properly for the future on a clear-cut policy which will lead to success.