

I call upon you all to co-operate with the Government in this matter and to accept the vital need for complying with my instructions in a spirit of peace and harmony. In doing so, you will not only be performing a service to your country, but you will also reduce the threat of unlawful activities which continue to exist under the present conditions. I am satisfied that the majority of the diggers are not deliberately breaking the law, neither do they wish to be included in the category of law-breaking persons. I therefore feel sure that they will prefer to carry on their work as diggers knowing that they are part and parcel of the normal community in Lesotho.

Once the diggers are all licensed and the diggings established on a proper basis, Government will arrange for offices to be built as soon as possible whereby dealers can come to Kao to buy the diggers' diamonds at the diggings. The Government also intends to help the diggers with credit facilities for purchasing digging equipment and with the services of a diamond evaluator. We are anxious also to build a road to these places of digging under the Food-for-Work Programme. But the successful implementation of these schemes and programmes depends upon the co-operation of you all and the diamond diggers, and upon the conditions being normalised.

Let us therefore resolve to work together for the advancement of our diamond industry.