

look back to our past and preserve what is good in it, but we would not allow ourselves to be shackled by outmoded institutions. I went on to indicate that we were becoming an independent state in a dangerous and unsettled world, but were fortunate because we had never allowed ourselves to be divided by internal conflicts. I repeat to-day that we shall continue to resist all attempts to divide us through religious or political affiliations. Divergence of opinion should not be allowed to undermine our national unity.

My special word of thanks goes to the Basotho people as a whole for participating in such large numbers in these celebrations, in spite of discouragement from certain quarters. My appeal to you is for unity at home so that we may work together for peace and the unity of Africa, as well as for the peace of the whole world.

We believe in the democratic way of life and in freedom for all - irrespective of race, colour or creed. A distinguished scholar of British parliamentary democracy has written as follows: "It has been argued by some that these freedoms are largely theoretic, that they exist only in the abstract and are not sufficiently exercised in practice. But all freedoms are theoretical and abstract until exercised, and liberty is preserved by giving the citizen the opportunity of exercising, or deciding not to exercise, freedom of choice." These wise words underscore the importance of the individual in a parliamentary democracy like ours. The voter gets the government he deserves.

I am stating these facts because, as you well know, there are many governments in the world who do not tolerate obstructive opposition parties. But because we in Lesotho believe in practical democracy, we have so far refrained from taking action against destructive elements in our community who put their own personal interests above those of the nation.

Notwithstanding the efforts of misguided individuals and organisations, both here at home and abroad, to besmirch our good name, we have over the past three years succeeded in establishing close relations with no less than 21 countries, including four diplomatic missions in London, Washington, New York and Nairobi. We now have friends, well-wishers and sympathisers in Africa, Europe, Asia and the Americas. This is very encouraging indeed and proves that we have established ourselves as a nation and a force to be reckoned with in the

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