

to allow the German people to decide their own destiny. World peace is threatened by the situation in the Middle East which, we believe, can only be resolved by direct negotiations between the warring parties and without interference by the big powers. The people of Eastern Europe continue to struggle in vain against communist regimentation and oppression.

We have observed with alarm the hi-jacking of aircraft by selfish and irresponsible people who have deliberately endangered the lives of innocent men, women and children for political reasons. It is our hope that the international community will soon take appropriate action to protect itself against this contemptible and cowardly form of piracy.

As members of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, we are concerned about the instability of the international monetary system and therefore welcome all efforts aimed at removing parity imbalances, increasing international liquidity and creating order in international finance and trade. We believe strongly in free trade based on mutual respect and assistance.

The Government of Lesotho inherited a very limping economy from the colonial régime. The economy is characterised by a large subsistence agricultural sector, a high level of labour exports, a high level of imports and a high degree of dependence on foreign aid.

This adverse economic situation can only be reversed by deliberate and well-planned action. Our efforts must be directed logically and systematically at economic self-sufficiency through self-help. The nation's energies must be directed towards the achievement of the country's economic emancipation. We cannot afford to leave the economic future of Lesotho to the influences of external and uncontrollable forces. We are determined to free our people from the economic miseries which prevailed throughout the colonial era.

As a means of achieving our economic aims, on 28th March, 1969, I instructed the Central Planning and Development Office to prepare a Five-Year-Development-Plan. I am happy to say that the provisional plan will be ready before the end of 1969. The Development Plan will set out Lesotho's economic objectives together with the means by which these targets can be realised. The Plan will give a clear and honest account of the main problems and weaknesses of the

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