

of land can be pointed out which we have sold since our election into power. Again, they repeatedly alleged that the Government would fall within two weeks or two months from the time of the election, but the Government of the Basotho people is still going strong, while, on the other hand, people are deserting the Opposition parties in great numbers in support of the Government. They are realising the fact that the Opposition lost the elections and that they also failed to topple the Government. They can also see that the nation is deserting the Opposition. Our people are now turning to support the Chieftainship and are not allowing themselves to be hoodwinked by the Opposition's claim that it is the Government's intention to do away with the Chieftainship. The Opposition cannot attest to a single example of a Chief or a Headman being divested of his powers by the Government. Indeed, the ^{Government} has strengthened the Chieftainship and protected it. It is a fact, contrary to the procedure practised by the colonial rulers, Chiefs and Headmen are no longer Chiefs by Gazette but by law and Sesotho custom.

However, Chiefs and Headman must realise the fact that Chiefs depend for their authority on the will of the people and they are there to fulfill the interests of the people.

What we must appreciate is the fact that our life and our welfare and that of our children is of paramount importance and should be given priority before all else - otherwise if, as the Opposition leaders would have us do - we forget the inevitable situation in which we find ourselves and fail to deal peacefully with the Republic of South Africa - because of the influence of foreign countries who have no regard for our welfare and progress and merely use us as a stepping-stone to further their own interests - we could easily commit suicide. Let us therefore stick to our policy of peaceful co-existence with the Republic of South Africa if we wish to continue as a progressive nation until we reach real and practical political and economic independence.

Let us strive also to establish friendly relations with other states for we cannot afford to live in isolation.
