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PRESS STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON HIS
RETURN FROM THE FAR EAST

I have returned from my first visit to the Far East where I had gone at the invitation of the Governments of Taiwan and Japan. During the course of this visit further invitations were extended to me by the Governments of Korea, Thailand and Pakistan. Of these I could only accept the Korea and the Thailand invitations. I had to decline the Pakistan invitation because it was not possible for me to stay any longer abroad.

As I said in my broadcast speech to the nation prior to my departure, I went to the Far East on a goodwill mission to arouse interest among the people of the orientⁱⁿ the welfare and problems of my people and to make friends with them. I am in a position to report with satisfaction that strong bonds of friendship have been made with all the countries I was able to visit. Between me and the Prime Ministers of Taiwan, Japan and Korea it was agreed that we would consider an exchange of diplomatic missions.

All the countries I visited expressed sympathetic interest in our problems and offered assistance by way of technical Co-operation and training of personnel. Here it should be noted that except for Japan most of these countries are still at the developmental stage of their economy subsequent to gaining independence either from Colonial or Military rule. They have therefore a clear understanding of the nature of the economic situation in Lesotho.

Without fear of contradiction, I make bold to say the Lesotho Government, especially the Government presently in power has friends among the free nations of the Far East. They have pledged to give us all manner of support in our struggle against poverty, ignorance and disease. They have undertaken to cooperate with us in International Affairs, at the United Nations and in the fight against Communism and its attendant evils.