

own expert advice, the R22 million offer would be beneficially acceptable to Lesotho if spread over a period of two rather than three years. As the offer stands the amount is enough merely for budgetary needs and not for development.

The British Ministers, including the British Prime Minister, were unable to explain the difference in aid offered to Lesotho and to Botswana. Botswana which is industrially more developed than Lesotho and which has smaller population than Lesotho is offered R27 million as against our own R22 million. No convincing explanation has been given by the British Ministers for this serious discrepancy. Before I left London I made clear to Mr. Arthur Bottomley, the Minister of Overseas Development, that while I accepted the offer of R22 million, I still wished Her Majesty's Government reconsider our plea that the amount be spread over a two-year as against a three-year period.

In conclusion I wish to inform the people of Lesotho that after I shall have consulted with my colleagues in the Cabinet, His Majesty The King of Lesotho and further had the benefit of the advice of my economic and financial experts, I shall proceed to London towards the end of this week or early next week to finalise the financial settlement with the British Prime Minister.

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