

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

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Lesotho

P R E S S R E L E A S E

BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF LESOTHO ON
LESOTHO'S ACCEPTANCE TO MEMBERSHIP OF UNITED
NATIONS ORGANISATION AND ON THE RESULT OF THE
FINANCIAL TALKS IN LONDON - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23rd 1966

Immediately on arrival back home from New York and London respectively I take pleasure in announcing to the people of my country the results of my visit to the two places mentioned and to make it clear that something really worthwhile has been achieved.

In New York I had the privilege to be present when Lesotho's application for membership of the United Nations was considered both in the Security Council and in the General Assembly. Sponsored by Nigeria, Jordan, Uganda, New Zealand and Britain the application received the support of all member states in the Security Council and was unanimously recommended for approval by the General Assembly.

In the morning of October 17th, our application was again unanimously accepted by the General Assembly and, on the same day our delegation led by myself, and consisting of the Minister of Justice, Mr. Feete Feete, and our Ambassador designate, Mr. A. Mohale, took our seats at the Lesotho's table in the General Assembly. After remarks of congratulation on Lesotho's attainment of membership to U.N. by delegates from Britain, Guinea, the Republic of South Africa and the United States, I made an inaugural speech on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

At 2.45 p.m. that day/..

At 2.45 p.m. that day the Lesotho flag was raised signifying full membership of the world body with all rights and privileges thereto attached. At this very imposing ceremony the Secretary General, U. Thant made a moving speech of welcome of Lesotho to membership of the United Nations, and in equally appropriate terms His Majesty the King of Lesotho replied.

These momentous achievements having now been made, it behoves me as your Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs in His Majesty's Government to call for unity here at home in order to work for a greater unity in Africa and among the nations of the world. It is for us to appear as worthy members of this world body - a fact which depends largely on unity action and singleness of purpose towards ideal objectives.

I had just concluded my work in New York and was about to return home when suddenly news came that I had to go to London to join in the financial talks there in progress between the Lesotho delegation and the British Ministry of Overseas Development of Her Majesty's Government. At the conclusion of the talks the British Government decided to make an offer to provide up to R22,000,000 budgetary and development aid during the 3 - year period beginning 1st April, 1967 as a contribution towards Lesotho's needs. While we are prepared to accept the offer we made it clear that the sum of R22 million is almost at exactly the same level as Lesotho's needs as assessed by the Porter Mission and by the Government of Lesotho itself. The said sum will enable the Lesotho Government to continue at best a holding operation; it will not permit a development programme designed to set Lesotho on the road to economic independence.

The Lesotho Government has calculated that the aid needed over 3 years to ensure development as opposed to stagnation is R36 million. Furthermore, and acting on Lesotho's

