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

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BROADCAST BY THE PRIME MINISTER
ON NOVEMBER 17

I shall be leaving tomorrow on a state visit to the Republic of China and Japan. I shall be accompanied by my Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Mr. Patrick 'Mota; Chief Leshoboro Majara; my Security Officer, Mr. F.J. Roach; and my Private Secretary, Mr. Mosito Molapo. I have felt it my duty, as I have always done before leaving my country, to make a public statement. I would like the nation to know that my departure for the Far East is for the purpose of putting Lesotho on the World Map and of looking for more friends. As has been the case before, the Deputy Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues will remain in control.

The Independence Celebrations are now over and we have to begin our long, arduous climb towards economic prosperity. To raise the standard of our people and to lift the country out of the stagnant sub-subsistence economy with which we have been left, must be our first priority. As you know, I have just returned from England where I had talks with the Minister of Overseas Development, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and with Mr. Wilson himself. I asked them to give us more realistic aid than that which had been offered in October, and Mr. Wilson has undertaken to give his personal attention to this. We await his reply.

Meanwhile, I have instructed my Ministers to give close attention to the importance of making economies and improving our system of administration in the light of reports which my Government has just received from Sir Walter Coutts and Professor Horwood. I confidently expect that in the New Year we should begin to see results.

To those of our people who allow themselves to be confused about the present status of our country and who still entertain the hope that colonial days will return, all I wish to say is - the die is cast. We are now a free nation, a member of the

Commonwealth / ...

Commonwealth, of the United Nations and of the Organisation of African Unity. Our Constitution is here and it sets out clearly the position of every citizen in Lesotho.

By way of improving our economy I have invited Dr. Anton Rupert, a world figure in the establishment of small industries, and I am happy to say he has consented to place his expert services at our disposal. I shall also seek the assistance of other neighbours as well who I trust will join hands with us in this grim struggle against poverty, disease, ignorance and unemployment. I shall also like to refer in passing to the success of our Independence Celebrations, which were mainly due to the help received from the people of the Republic of South Africa. This being so, what Mosotho would refuse to admit that friendship works wonders? Who will not realise that in our economic plight we can be redeemed by friendship. Yet there is no price we pay for being friendly with others.

To the people of the Republic of China, who are world renowned for achievements in the use and conservation of the soil, I shall place our agricultural needs. I shall invite the Japanese people to assist our industrial development. My appeal will not end here. I shall go further afield to other countries, big and small. As an example of the many leaders whom we shall approach for assistance, I may mention President Johnson of the United States of America; Prime Minister Peason of Canada; and among the friendly African States, we shall appeal for aid to leaders like President Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, President Hastings Banda of Malawi, General Ankrah of Ghana and Col. Gowon of Nigeria. We should be grateful to receive from them all manner of financial and technical aid; and not only that, but that ever-intangible asset - moral support. We will work with those who will co-operate and avoid areas of controversial views. Political attacks and counter attacks at home and abroad will bring no benefit. The best course to follow at this vital moment of our economic struggle is for every Mosotho to do his utmost in whatever type of employment he is engaged. Work is expected of every person - the man in the fields, the business man, the tradesman, the woman in her domestic duties, the boys and girls at school; and in addition the best is expected of those members of the various voluntary organisations who have already left their mark on the economy of this land and whose services are, and will continue to be, appreciated by this Government. And last, but by no means least are the Civil Servants who are the backbone of the Administration.