

GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION

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P R E S S       R E L E A S E

3rd November 1966

MINISTER DENIES REPORT

The Minister of Education, Mr. A. Manyeli, has issued the following statement in connection with a report in "The Friend" of November 2 on the student strike at the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland :

"I categorically deny a report in "The Friend" that I was approached by some of the expelled students following a meeting over the weekend. I have not met, officially or unofficially, any students from the University in connection with the strike.

"I also categorically deny the statement in the report that 'sources close to the Minister of Education say that he wished to wait for the report of the commission of inquiry before considering possible action.'

"I have no knowledge, other than the newspaper report referred to, that a commission of inquiry into the causes of the strike has, in fact, been appointed.

"I must point out that the University is an autonomous institution and does not fall under the Lesotho Ministry of Education. It is, therefore, ridiculous to state that I am even considering possible action.

"I must emphasise again that the Ministry of Education is not responsible for the running of the University and has no jurisdiction over it."