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LEKHOTLA LA BAHATAMHO
BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY

MOTTO: JUSTICE TO FOE AND FRIEND
TOKA HO SERA LE MOTSOALLE

STATEMENT ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LESOTHO

Issued by the National Executive Committee of the B.C.P.

Gaborone - 2nd January 1980.

The National Executive Committee of the Basutoland Congress Party after a careful review of the current developments in Lesotho, has deemed it fit to sound an alarm to the Basotho People of all political persuasions on these developments. These developments should be viewed not as a continuation of domestic political rivalry, but as a new offensive against Lesotho's sovereignty and therefore threatening to the very existence of the Basotho as a nation and to Lesotho itself as an independent state, and further constitute a most serious threat to international peace.

The National Executive of the B.C.P. appeals to the Basotho People to look at all these developments against the whole background of Basotho National struggle and resistance against colonialism and all kinds of subjugation, and indeed against extermination itself by colonial forces in the last century. It is only when these current developments are viewed against such a background that they can be seen in their right perspective.

In 1843 Lesotho under the leadership of Moshoeshoe I entered into a treaty of alliance with Britain through Britain's Governor in the Cape Colony, Sir George Napier, which was to be called The Napier Treaty of 1843.

This marked the beginning of a long and unfolding struggle of wits which on occasions took the Basotho People to wars which were the direct result of the 1848 declaration of the Orange River Sovereignty, which in effect ended Lesotho's existence as a state, and abrogated the 1843 treaty of alliance. Thereafter the Basotho had to resist the creation of a state run by Boers within their territory - a state created by Britain but run by the Boers. It is significant to note that in the ensuing wars between the Basotho People and the Boers, Britain claimed neutrality, yet the facts of history are that

Britain was providing arms and ammunition to the Boers while refusing to sell same to the Basotho. These wars finally ended with Lesotho reduced to its present mini size.

The Basotho People again successfully resisted being taken over when in 1871 Lesotho was being annexed to the Cape Colony by an act of the Cape Parliament in which the Basotho were not represented. Resistance took the form of resistance and finally war.

In 1910 when the Union of South Africa was formed Article 151 of the Act of Union provided that Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland, all three then British "Protectorates", could join the Union at the "request" of their people.

It is a historical fact that successive South African Prime Ministers made representations to the British Government that these countries be incorporated into South Africa, the last such a representation being in 1954.

When in 1952 the Basutoland Congress Party was formed it became one of its aims and objects that it would fight the incorporation of Lesotho into South Africa.

During the struggle for National Independence the Basutoland Congress Party together with other patriotic forces in the country spearheaded the national struggle against Sir Henry Moore's Report which would have seriously undermined the entire struggle for liberation and prepared Lesotho for incorporation.

In 1963 when Lesotho's progress towards independence became inevitable, Dr. Verwoerd, the then South African Prime Minister, issued a document which was a message or an appeal to the People of Lesotho, Botswana and Swaziland. He was offering to guide these three countries towards independence when in fact he meant to make Bantustans of them. Thanks to the patriotic forces in these three countries, this offer was rejected.

The role South Africa played in Lesotho ever since is well recorded in the country's history:-

1. The general attitude of South Africa towards the B.C.P. members and the Leadership since 1963 which became characterized by their deportations and bannings from South Africa;
2. The role South Africa played in the 1965 General Elections;
3. The role South Africa played in the 1970 seizure of power by Chief Jonathan.

Lesotho had become a neo-colony of South Africa from 1966 when it became independent up till 1973 when after stopping to pay the whole bill of running Lesotho's Police Mobile Unit, and the awakening of those in Government in Lesotho to the shameful truth that Lesotho still had to be independent, the process of a reversal of the situation began.

We give this background to once again alert the People of Lesotho to the need to remain vigilant against all forms of encroachment on their hard-won independence and sovereignty, however subtle such encroachments can be.

Throughout this glorious path of struggle, a struggle in which the highest sacrifices have been paid by generations of our People, a struggle in which all generations have participated since the founding of Lesotho in the last century, and in which the present generation has a challenge also to fulfil its role with honour, the enemy force has always singled out some traitors, and has always been very shrewd in doing so. Our history bristles with such examples of quislings. On the stage at the moment the quisling, the traitor is Ntsu Mokhehle, the former leader of the B.C.P. who was stripped of Party membership by this Executive Committee in December 1976, and now known by the entire progressive mankind to be a traitor of the lowest order, and who has himself confessed.

The People of Lesotho have thus charted this traditional course of strenuously resisting any attempt or hint at incorporating their territory into South Africa or being tainted with the apartheid stigma. When the B.C.P. was founded the corner stone of its policy was resistance to this incorporation and apartheid, thus faithfully endorsing and adopting the course already followed

by the Nation.

Mr Ntsu Mokhehle has now drastically deviated from this correct line and embraced the apartheid consorts. In a nutshell, we quote conclusive, irrefutable evidence to prove our charges:

1. On the 23rd February 1977 he wrote from Lusaka to one Morena Mahopola in Gaborone solemnly asking him, inter alia, to appeal to what he called "3rd Party" as follows:

"Please man, do not spare any moment in reporting any developments to the 3rd Party, and when they have a chance they should assist us in frustrating these criminals". (Our own translation.)

(Notes: 1st Party - Ntsu Mokhehle

2nd Party - Morena Mahopola

3rd Party - the South African Bureau of State Security (Boss)

"These criminals" - the B.C.P. Executive Committee).

In this letter Mr Mokhehle also instructs Morena Mahopola and his colleagues to organize the People to be hostile to what he calls "these criminals".

2. On the 17th October 1977 the AAPSO delegation interviewed Mr Ntsu Mokhehle with some of his followers in Gaborone, and at that interview Mr Mokhehle admitted "going to South Africa to John Vorster Square though he said it was decision of NEC". (See report of AAPSO attached hereto.)
3. In its Circular Letter B/3 dated 12/1/1978 AAPSO announced its solemn decision to derecognize Mr Ntsu Mokhehle. This decision was based on the evidence acquired on the 17th October 1977 and in an earlier interview when Mr. Mokhehle was given audience by the AAPSO Secretariat in Cairo. (The letter referred to here is attached.)
4. In April 1975 Mr Ntsu Mokhehle met members of BOSS at his friend's home in Selebi-Pikwe. On the 25th May 1975 he boarded a plane from Lusaka to Jan Smuts where he was going to meet top officials of BOSS. This meeting was a sequel to the April meeting at Selebi-Pikwe. The REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE FORM B-I 55 testifies to this evidence. (He used the Lesotho passport No. A.0247.)
5. Subsequently many people have seen Mr Mokhehle shuttling between

Gaborone and Pretoria or Johannesburg.

6. According to the radio and press reports there are hundreds of Basotho refugees around Bethlehem in the Republic of South Africa following disturbances in the Butha-Buthe District in Lesotho. The whole attitude of South African authorities and of the mass media shows total support for Mr Mokhehle, and while formerly Basotho refugees have fled to destinations beyond South Africa or unofficially scattered throughout South Africa, the present refugees are reported to have decided to settle permanently in South Africa where they have significantly been placed under the administration of the Department of Co-operation and Development - formerly called Bantu Administration and Development which nurses Bantustans. It is significant that these refugees have not been placed under the administration of the Department of Interior like the Portuguese refugees from Mozambique and Angola. All this orchestrated manoeuvre is clearly done with Mr Ntsu Mokhehle's collusion and understanding.

The National Executive Committee of the BCP issued a statement on developments in Lesotho in June this year, clearly making the Party's position known. These developments have now assumed new and critical dimensions, and we are alarmed at reports that there is open collusion between Mr Mokhehle and the Government of the Republic of South Africa. The Republic of South Africa is known to have trained some Zambian nationals and then infiltrated them back into Zambia to destabilize that country. It is also reported to be assisting dissident elements in Mozambique, who are on a similar campaign in that country, and it is known to be harbouring so-called refugees from Angola, who are being trained and sent back into Angola to destabilize that country.

In the light of the foregoing, it becomes very clear that the collusion of Mr Mokhehle with South Africa falls squarely into pattern.

This is the most serious threat to Lesotho's existence, and we wish to draw this to the attention of all the people of Lesotho and to the international community, that this should not only be viewed

as an immediate threat to Lesotho but to international peace and security.

Ts'eliso Makhakhe
Deputy of BCP /
Chairman of N.E.C.

Koenyana Chakela
Secretary General of the B.C.P.