LESOTHO LABOUR

1975 1976 1977

Legal aid for miners

165

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — A body of Lesotho trade unionists has made a contribution towards the legal defence of Basotho and Xhosa miners involved in last February's disturbances at the Welkom gold mines.

The Lesotho Council of Workers has given R1 300 to be shared for this purpose as well as the Prime Minister's Carletonville disaster victims' fund

14.1.75 STAR (165)

Focus on risks

Lesotho will negotiate in mine strikes

INDUSTRIAL STRIKES

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Lesotho has proposed a unique form of strike action for its mineworkers in terms of which the miners would leave the South African mines to exercise their right to strike within their own country.

Speaking on the Radio Lesotho programme, "Newsreel," last night, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr Joel Moitse, said that when the miners arrived home they would get their Government to negotiate their contracts on their behalf—from within Lesotho territory.

He said the Basotho miners would adopt this course to avoid "going about striking inside South Africa."

CONDITIONS

"If they want improvements in their working conditions they must come home and negotiate with the body created by the Lesotho Government for the purpose," the Minister said.

Mr Moitse said that in this way the Basotho miners would be exercising the right to strike like any "fully fledged citizen of any country."

He said the Lesotho Government was beginning to look into the question of introducing medical services for the miners as many sick men in the past had escaped the notice of doctors when they returned home from the mines.

DISEASES

Many of them brought into Lesotho venereal diseases and miners' phthisis which destroyed them once they settled down in the country.

On the miners' pay, Mr

(1) 211

(2) 165

LABOUR

LESOTHO'S PAY DEFERMENT ACT

THE Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, recently announced that from the beginning of the year 60 per cent of the wages earned by Basotho mineworkers on South African mines would have to be banked in Lesotho. According to Press reports this was believed to have been the cause of disturbances at several gold mines.

By January 7 the death toll on Vaal Reefs Mine, in the Western Transvaal, was reported to have risen to eight, and according to Mr E P Smit, the manager of the mine, the normal underground force had decreased from 23 000 to 17 000 as Basothos returned home.

Dr Jonathan is reported to have said that the management of Vaal Reefs Mine had given information on the scheme "which was so incomplete – and in some ways so inaccurate – as to make a mockery of the entire new system of deferred pay"

"The mine management at the Vaal Reefs Mine had made every effort to explain the new system of deferred payments to mineworkers from Lesotho," a mine spokesman was reported as saying The application of the Lesotho legislation in which the system was contained had also been explained to the miners, he said

Lesotho's director of information, Mr Vincent Malebo, told a South African magazine that "Basuto mineworkers who had been in employment before January 1 this year were not affected by the new law The Lesotho Government would seriously consider the miners' complaints," he added

Papers generally expressed concern at the events on the mines, particularly as they considered the cause as lying outside South Africa A Johannesburg daily commented that "the dissatisfaction of the miners flows largely from a lack of communication between the Lesotho workers and the (Lesotho) Government"

WORLD, Johannesburg (10 1.75), believes that "it is the right of every worker to manage – or mismanage – his own finances", and suggests that Chief Johathan remedy the lack of communication with the workers fast

HOOFSTAD, Pretoria (8.1.75), concerned about future strikes, writes that unless everything is done to prevent them, the matter could develop into an international affair

PRETORIA NEWS, Pretoria (8.1.75), lays the blame for the recent disturbances at the feet of Chief Jonathan but at the same time deplores the "lethargy" of the Chamber of Mines

DIAMOND FIELDS ADVERTISER, Kimberley (8.1.75), discusses the advantages to Lesotho of the new deferred pay system and remarks that "it is likely to mean quite a tidy loss of savings investment in Kimberley alone "

BEELD, Johannesburg (8.1.75), suggests that the time is ripe for a commission of inquiry into the situation on the mines and feels that there are still too many remnants of "the colonial past" in the labour dispensation on the mines

THE ARGUS, Cape Town (9.1.75), asks why the miners themselves were not consulted about how their money should be saved and comments that it is, after all, theirs

OGGENDBLAD, Pretoria (9.1.75), urges intensified local recruiting for mineworkers and comments that because they are "largely strangers" everything that happens to them "affects the State in its relationship with neighbouring states "

(1) 165 (165)
(2) 214

LESOTHO TO REDUCE SA TIES

Argus 21.4.75

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU. — Lesotho is determined to lessen her dependence on South Africa and re-examine links such as the customs union and the currency arrangement.

Lesotho's Minister of Agriculture, Co-operatives and Marketing, Mr K. T. J. Rakhetla, said in the opening address at the Aid-Donor Agencies Conference, major emphasis would be laid on creating more jobs in Lesotho to lessen the country's need for South African labour opportunities.

The unfortunate events that started in late 1973 involving Basuto and other miners in South Africa have brought to the fore the serious problems which are created by this dependence, Mr Rakhetla said.

The entire programme for Lesotho's second five-year plan will cost about R157-million. This is about four times bigger than the estimated expenditure of the first five-year plan.

(165)

RDM
4/7/75

R300 'not enough for a life'

Mail Africa Bureau

MASERU. — While 16 Basotho miners, victims of the East Driefontein gold mine disaster, were being buried at their home towns in Lesotho yesterday it was announced that talks were going on between the Lesotho Government and the South African mining authorities for improved compensation in such cases.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Chief Sekhonyana Maseribane, said R400 was nowhere near enough compensation for what a man would have earned in 20 years of working life.

The government also wanted Basotho mineworkers to be given private accommodation so that their wives could visit them. Mineworker, he said, should be treated like adults and not children.

Page 3 for the same issue

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Cape Times 18/7/75

More miners

MASERU — The number of Basotho mineworkers recruited to the South African gold mines during May this year increased by more than 20 percent over the figure for last year, according to statistics released here yesterday by the office of the mine labour organizations — Sapa

Rand Daily Mail 29/7/75

crawled to safety

'Mail' Africa Bureau

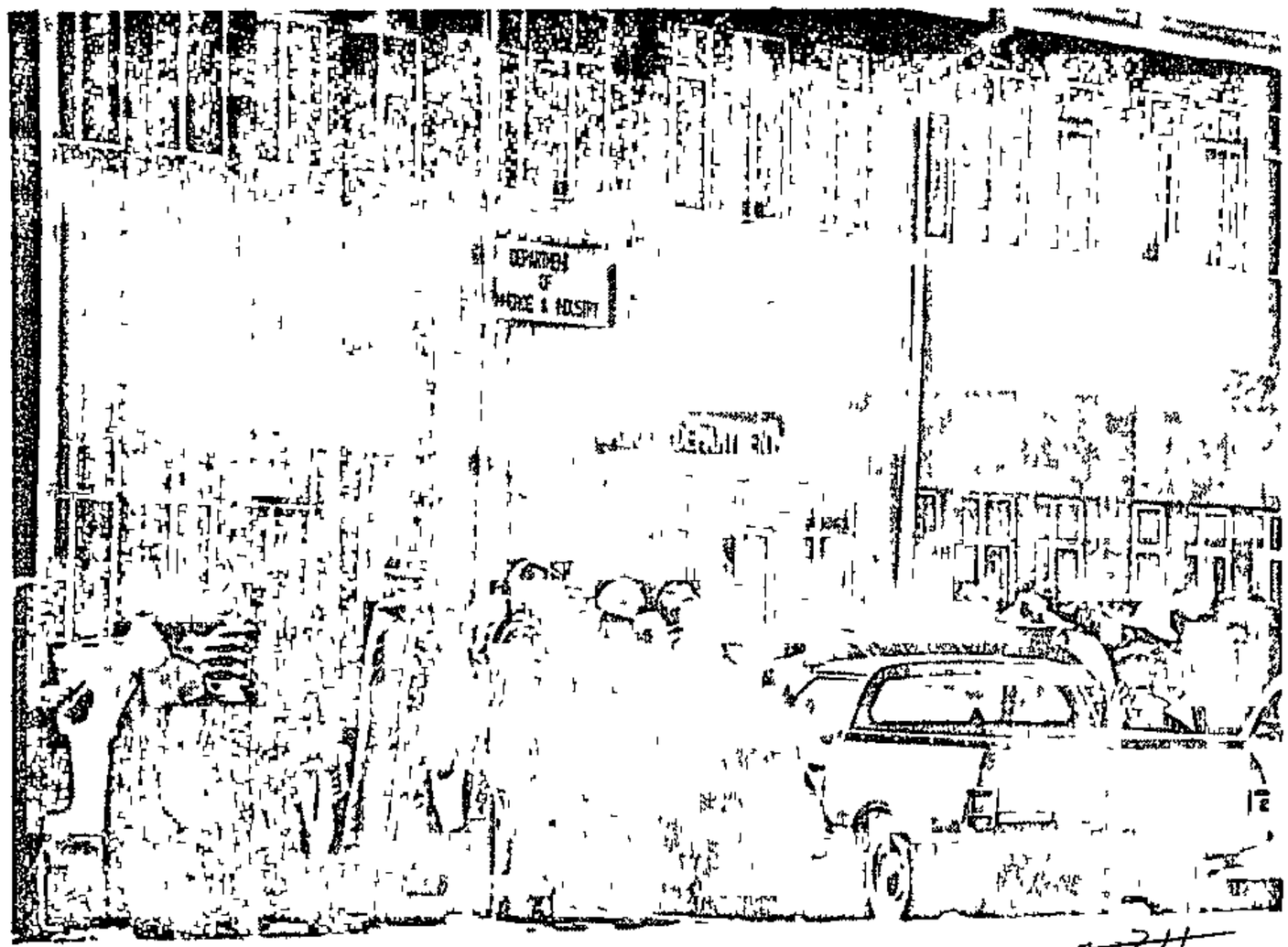
MASERU — A Lesotho trade union leader who was negotiating with the Trade Union Council of South Africa still has a bullet in his leg after surviving an attempt on his life.

Mr Caswell Pitso Mokeki, organising secretary of the Lesotho Mineworkers Union was shot four times at point blank range at his home outside Maseru recently.

With two bullets in his chest and two more in his legs he crawled 50 m to a neighbour who took him to hospital. The blanketed gunman escaped and no arrest has been made

The gunman questioned Mr Mokeki about his "international correspondence on labour matters", then pulled the trigger before he could answer, Mr Mokeki said yesterday.

The shooting happened the day after Mr Mokeki's correspondence to international labour groups had been stolen from his house.



The loneliness of the long-distance job seeker

LESOTHO F.M. 1/8/75

Behind the poverty

Observers of the impoverished mountain kingdom of Lesotho frequently point to the following stumbling blocks in its path to economic success

- The hazardous political consequences of Chief Jonathan's seizure of power in 1970, when the results of an election were clearly running against him Turmoil in the hinterland — and Jonathan's consequent repressive measures — scared off much foreign aid and investment;
- The dilatory policy of government towards the private sector. The recent sacking of the nationalisation-minded Joel Moitse as Minister of Commerce, Industry & Tourism has not yet stilled the (predominantly White) Lesotho businessman's fear for his future; and
- The competition for investment from the BIC, with its tax and other concessions in the Bantustans, and vigorous public relations campaigns abroad.

These factors certainly play their part in keeping Lesotho "the poorest of our Homelands". However, they are negligible in comparison with the true historical origin of Lesotho's poverty· the country's sheer economic thralldom to South Africa. An important new survey of living conditions in Lesotho* starkly reveals the facts.

Full of useful facts, it is published under the auspices of Prof Michael Ward, head of the Department of Statistics of the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, and is a poverty datum line (PDL) survey of the average Maseru and rural Lesotho household

The researchers found that in 1972/73 60% of Maseru households were "unable to satisfy their basic needs" This percentage is unlikely to have changed much, indicating that in January this year at least 60% of the households in the capital (averaging 4,3 persons) were earning less than R61,90 — the PDL figure at that time The rural figure is higher still (R75,19 in January), reflecting larger average households (five persons) and generally higher prices in the countryside

How many rural Basotho are poverty-stricken — earning less than the PDL figure — is impossible to assess But it is from this sector that SA largely draws its labour for the gold mines and collieries, and Black wages on the mines (a minimum of R57,20 for underground work) are currently below household needs.

Related to this is Lesotho's serious soil erosion due to inadequate land use over the years because of the absence of around 150 000 able-bodied men in any year (75-79 000 on the mines), and the pattern of rural poverty accordingly appears irreversible

The researchers go further Pointing out that "the PDL assumes a balanced and rational expenditure pattern and therefore does not convey a realistic idea of the way the money is actually spent", they argue that in Maseru a household requires 195% of the PDL to satisfy basic needs "adequately" This works out to R107 a month — and there isn't the money, and there aren't the jobs, so the migratory labour system continues to flourish

Summing up, Marres and Van der Wiel argue that employers of migrant labourers should pay wages at the "effective minimum level" (150% of the PDL), for rural labourers this means (as at December 1974) R105 a month The big employers — the mines — are not remotely near this and there is no supervision of the private sector's wage practices

"Lesotho's policy", note the authors, "could be to step into the migrant labour market, acting as a union In such a case the PDL and effective minimum level could certainly play a vital role in the negotiations for a rightful remuneration of Lesotho's labour export"

This kind of thinking is very prevalent in Lesotho today, and helps to account for the current chill in relationships between Maseru and Pretoria And the grinding economic facts of life in the territory intimate no early thaw

**Poverty Lats My Blanket*, Pieter J Th Marres & Arie C A van der Wiel (available from the Government Printer, Maseru)

Basotho miners

RDM 3/9/75

MASERU — There was a 45 per cent increase in the recruitment of Lesotho mineworkers by South African gold mines in July this year, according to statistics released in Maseru yesterday by the Mine Labour Organisation

The recruitment figures for July were 7 014 compared to 4 825 in July last year

The number of Basotho employed on the gold mines during July this year was 83 340 compared with 74 341 in July last year — Sapa

(1) ~~all~~

(2) ~~165~~

(165)

Basotho miners' probe

'Mail' Africa Bureau

MASERU — Lesotho is taking steps to improve conditions for Basotho miners in South Africa, the Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, told parliament yesterday.

He said he was aware of working conditions for Basotho miners and his government was considering taking over recruiting for the mines.

There had been talks with mine authorities, but South Africa's help was needed, Chief Jonathan said

The Acting Minister of Labour, Mr K G Rakhetla, said a government official had gone to Europe to study conditions for migrant labourers

Parliament had approved a select committee to investigate recruitment for miners, their wages, compensation and accommodation

(165)

Basotho mineworkers want to leave

Natal Mercury 21/10/76

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Six-hundred Basotho mineworkers at the Buffelsfontein Gold Mine near Stilfontein have demanded to be sent home following a clash in which two died and 14 were injured.

This was confirmed last night by a spokesman for General Mining, who said about 180 others who earlier refused to work had decided to go back today

A murder docket has been opened following the death on Sunday night of a Shangaan mineworker, as yet unidentified, killed in an incident at the mine's Pioneer Shaft hostel. The body of a Xhosa mineworker was also recovered at the same hostel after a reported clash between Xhosa and Mozambique miners.

As news of the deaths spread, a more serious clash developed at the mine's South Shaft hostel on Sunday between Basotho and Xhosa miners.

A security patrol brought this under control using tear gas. Fourteen men were injured and four were sent to hospital. The hostel houses 3 500.

A General Mining spokesman said the cause of the clashes had not yet been established.

After 780 Basothos refused to go on shift and demanded repatriation, a long series of discussions were held with the mine management.

The miners were addressed by the general manager of Buffelsfontein, Mr. Louis Grobler, and Chief Malapa. About 600 remained determined to be sent home.

The mine employs 14 500 Blacks.

160

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Inside Mail

Lesotho's hot seat of learning

R.D.M. 28/10/75
165

MASOABI MOTSETA and STAN MAHER: 'Mail' Africa Bureau

This weekend donors around the world were asked not to give funds to the Lesotho Government or its new child, the National University of Lesotho. And a mass exodus of academic staff from Lesotho to Botswana and Swaziland is expected in the next few weeks. These are the latest developments in a dispute which could well shake the credibility of Chief Leabua Jonathan's Government abroad and make a lot of influential people take a hard, new look at his intolerant regime.

A SENSATIONAL legal battle for international finance and a tug of war over staff is emerging from the continuing row over the crisis-hit University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland

Donors around the world, who keep the university going, were told this weekend not to give any funds to the breakaway Lesotho Government and the National University of Lesotho it created a week ago

At the same time, academic staff at the Roma (Lesotho) campus have been invited to take up jobs in Botswana and Swaziland and many are expected to accept A mass exodus of staff is now forecast and this — combined with the strangling of funds — could render the Lesotho Government's new child stillborn

Crisis

The new crisis poses the greatest challenge to the authority and reputation of Chief Leabua Jonathan's Lesotho Government since it seized power five years ago It could trigger far-reaching consequences, especially in respect of Lesotho's international image

It all springs from the row over the continued appointment of the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cyril Rogers Lesotho implacably opposed his reappointment, in spite of the desire of the other two partners in the joint venture to retain his services

Last week Chief Jonathan pushed emergency legislation through his National Assembly to turn the Roma campus of the joint university into a new National University of Lesotho under direct Government control

His autocratic action has incensed the Botswana and Swaziland Governments, as well as the autonomous university council The result was that the two countries recalled some 300 of their students from Roma at the weekend

Urgently needed accommodation and classroom facilities are now being provided at the campuses in Gaborone and Kwa Luseni The signs are clear Botswana and Swaziland will go it alone together leaving Lesotho to sink or swim

Behind the scenes moves at the weekend included instructions to the UBLS donors in Britain, Scandinavia, the United States and at the United Nations asking them not to release funds except to people nominated by the university council

The intention is clearly to cut off Lesotho's access to these funds

In addition, a Lesotho bank holding R500 000 of the joint university's money has been told not to release it to anyone but the university council

The instruction directly conflicts one issued by the Lesotho Government, which wants the funds released only to itself or the new Lesotho university

A massive legal battle for control of the finances is in the offing

The council also sent a messenger — fearing that a telex message might not reach its destination — to Roma at the weekend He told academic staff to carefully consider their position — if they joined the new Lesotho university they would have broken their contracts with UBLS

Fertile

The seed fell on fertile ground Fifty-nine of the 70 lecturers at Roma are expatriates and they are worried about their jobs Primary and secondary school teachers in Lesotho have been paid irregularly over the past year and the lecturers feel they may be treated no better

Of the 11 Basotho lecturers at Roma, only five have senior degrees Only one is a professor — and his nomination as Pro Vice-Chancellor at Roma was opposed by the Lesotho Government, indicating that he is not beloved by the establishment

Hotel accommodation has already been reserved for Roma lecturers in Botswana and Swaziland and more staff houses are being built in Gaborone

Significantly, there is a growing exodus of civil servants from Lesotho, with as many as a dozen at a time arriving in Gaborone, from week to week

Reasons include the tense political situation in Lesotho and irregular payment of salaries

In fact, highly-placed sources in Swaziland have expressed a willingness to share in the exodus of professional men from Lesotho since almost all have sought exile in Botswana up to now

Doubt

An estimated 85 Basotho lecturers are teaching at universities abroad and will not return to Lesotho to live under Chief Jonathan's regime

The viability of the new Lesotho university must now be seriously in doubt The monthly salary bill for UBLS for all three campuses was R160 000 of which R60 000 went to Lesotho

The bulk of it came from the overseas donors, some of whom are perturbed about the successive crises in the university

The three governments paid one another fees for students attending campuses in one another's countries At present Lesotho owes Swaziland R50 000 and Botswana R20 000 in such fees

Complicated

The nationalisation of Roma has also complicated the Junior Certificate exams which pupils of all three countries are due to write next month Representatives of the three governments are normally present for marking of papers in Maseru, but the current "cold war" makes this highly embarrassing for all

CHIEF LEABUA JONATHAN facing the greatest challenge to his authority

It is clear that Chief Jonathan's government is facing the greatest challenge to its image since it held on to power illegally after the 1970 elections were cancelled

During those five years it has been repeatedly branded as tyrannical selfish and intolerant It has survived all the frequent self-created embarrassments it has had to endure

It may find the present one less easy to throw off Botswana and Swaziland tried to make the joint university work in spite of what they term the interference of the Lesotho Government,

It is the same autocratic intolerant attitude which Basotho in opposition have repeatedly complained of which is blamed for the break-up of the university

Lesotho delegates on the university council have been accused of failing to have mandates on major issues Each and every decision has had to be referred by them to Chief Jonathan's Government making a mockery of the council's supposed autonomy

All this is now in the open A hard relentless legal battle over the university's funds assets and reputation is now in the offing — one which could well end in the International Court of Justice

For the first time accusations made against Chief Jonathan's Government — accusations of intolerance arrogance and double-dealing — have led to an inter-governmental dispute

It is a situation which this time the Lesotho Government will not find so easy to wriggle out of or to whitewash

(1) 165
~~(2) 211~~
~~(3) 200~~

19/1/76 · RDM.

Mines pay gap is widening

By PATRICK LAURENCE

THE pay gap between Black and White miners widened in the early 1970s in spite of a sharp increase in Black wages, Dr Francis Wilson of the University of Cape Town said last night

Addressing a conference on migrant labour in Johannesburg, Dr Wilson said average Black wages on gold mines more than doubled from R208 to R565 a year between 1971 and 1974.

During the same period average White wages increased by a small percentage from R4 329 to R6 974

The higher percentage increase on Black wages meant that during the four year period the ratio of White—Black wages dropped from 21.1 to 12:1, Dr Wilson said.

But the gap in actual money received or what he described as "real terms" widened. In 1971 the difference in average wages was R4 159 and in 1974 it was R4 641

The increased gap amount to a 12 per cent widening in the White — Black wage gap on gold mines.

"Although the gap in ratio terms was getting very much better, the difference in absolute terms was getting wider."

In another address Professor Lawrence Schlemmer of the University of Natal questioned the assumption that migrant workers had a rural base in the homelands which acted as an economic "sheet anchor".

Studies in the Ciskei and the Transkei showed that many households had less than one hectare of land some no land at all.

He went on to question another assumption often used to defend migrant labour — the belief that the cost of living in the homelands or rural areas was markedly lower than in the cities.

"A glance at figures for 1975 shows that the cost of living in rural areas is not markedly lower than that in the large urban areas", he said.

The minimum living level for the rural areas of Natal Midlands was R78 in May, 1975, and that for the Venda and Lebowa border areas in July, 1975, more than R85 — against the Durban figure for February of R81.

In a third address to the conference—organised by the ecumenical industrial mission—Dean Desmond Tutu of the Anglican Church asked whether the time had not come for the church to reconsider its attitude to migrant labourers who took a temporary "spouse" in the urban areas.

Many of these men were forcefully separated from their wives in the homelands because of the migrant labour system.

"There is no deception between the contracting parties since the woman entered into this relationship in the full knowledge that her husband has another family in the rural area," Dean Tutu said.

1. 165

2. ~~200~~

Migrant labour called evil

DD 20/1/76

JOHANNESBURG — The Lesotho Member of Parliament and former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr J. R. Moitse, yesterday described the South African migrant labour system as "exploitation without responsibility"

The migrant worker stood as a reminder, not of aggressive free enterprise, but of "systematic exploitation without social or moral responsibility," Mr Moitse said in a paper circulated at a migrant labour symposium at an airport hotel near here.

Several South African MPs and representatives of most major churches are attending the symposium as well as a strong delegation from Lesotho

"He (the migrant) has provided the apartheid system with profound rationalisation," Mr Moitse said.

"He reminds us of the glorious past — of the civilising mission through teaching the natives good habits, industry andobedience

"The abolition of this evil system would constitute the humanisation of South Africa, the recognition of the sacred institution of marriage, and the restoration of the dignity of the human person," Mr Moitse said

What effects would the impending struggle for independence in Rhodesia and South West Africa have? Would this further harden the line towards greater rigidity or would it produce long-awaited changes which alone could avert the approaching conflict with violence?

"These are questions which will remain unanswered as long as we refuse to frankly face the problem," Mr Moitse said — SAPA.

(1) 165

(2) ~~200~~

RDM 12/2/76

Inquiry urged into migrant labour

By MIKE PITSO
'Mail' Africa Bureau

MASERU — Migrant labour is "a tragedy and a political and economic injustice", says Mr Joel Moitse, former vice-chancellor of the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Addressing students at Roma campus, he said the university should consider establishing an industrial relations centre for research into the plight of migrant labourers.

Mr Moitse described the system as exploitation without social or moral responsibility. Church leaders had denounced it as evil and unchristian.

The South African Government was interested only in the muscles of the labourers and did not provide the social infrastructure to enable families to accompany them.

Home governments should press for a greater share of the taxes now monopolised by the South African Government.

~~(1) 211~~

(2) 165

WAGES ATTRACT MINERS

W/E ARGUS 28/2/76

Argus Africa News Service

MASERU. — Higher wages on the South African gold mines have helped to attract an increasing number of Basotho mineworkers, according to the manager of the mine labour recruiting organisation here, Mr M. S. Hobson.

There was an increase of about 30 percent in the 1975 recruitment figure over that of 1974 — from 66 746 to 86 062.

A poor agricultural year in Lesotho also boosted the recruitment figures, Mr Hobson said.

The total number of Basotho employed on the gold mines reached a record 84 177 in August 1975.

The amount of deferred pay (money held until the miners return home) was R10 865 000 for 1975 compared with R6 571 000 in 1974. The remittance payment (money sent home to relatives by mineworkers) rose to R6 853 000 last year from R4 924 000 in 1974.

(1) ~~211~~
(2) 165

Drop in Basotho miners

RDM 31/5/76

MASERU — The recruitment of Basotho mine workers to the South African gold mines dropped last month, compared with the figure for April last year, the mine labour organisation in Maseru said

Figures released by the organisation show that 8 043 Basotho mine workers were recruited in April this year, and 8 751 in April last year

But the number of Basotho actually working on the gold mines has risen by 6 271, April's figures show Last year there were 77 916 working on the mines

The amount of deferred payments rose to just over R1-million in April, from R735 000 in April last year — Sapa

168. RDM 18/12/76.

Workers cross border again

Staff Reporter

LESOTHO workers are again crossing the border into Transkei on their way to the mines in South Africa

The general manager of the Mine Labour Organisation, which recruits for the Chamber of Mines, Mr A C Fleischer, said recruiting in the south of Lesotho was almost back to normal

Last month recruiters started turning work-seekers away at Qacha's Nek, a village high in the Drakensberg above Transkei A visit to the border at the time revealed that most Lesotho citizens were having no trouble getting over the border

Lesotho claims Transkei has closed the border but Transkei has denied this

In New York, the United Nations Security Council will begin private consultations on Monday on Lesotho's complaint against South Africa, Sapa-Reuter reports

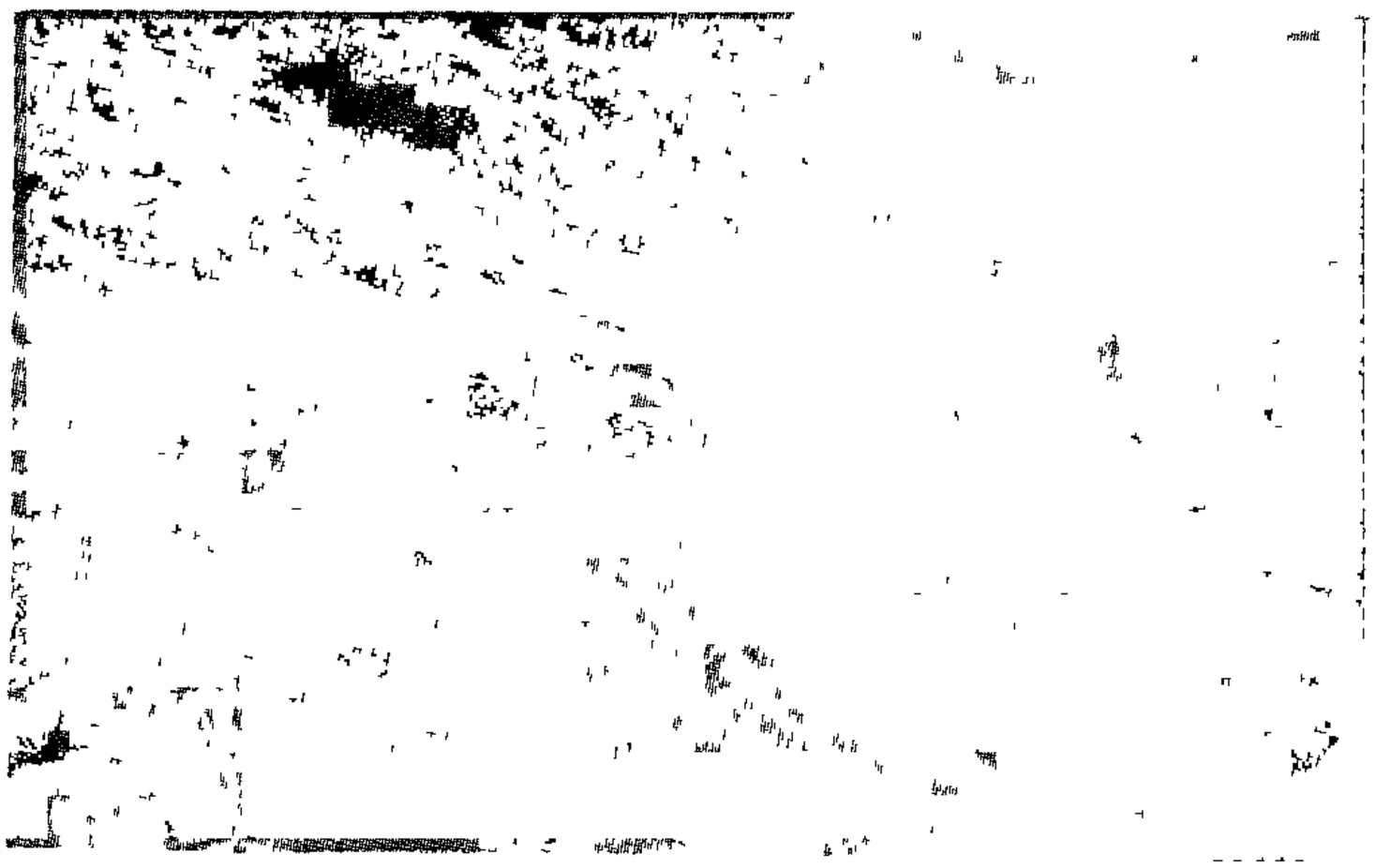
Lesotho asked on Thursday that a 15-nation body consider the situation created by the closing of its border with Transkei

Because Lesotho and the UN consider that Transkei is still part of South Africa, the complaint about the border closure was directed against the Republic

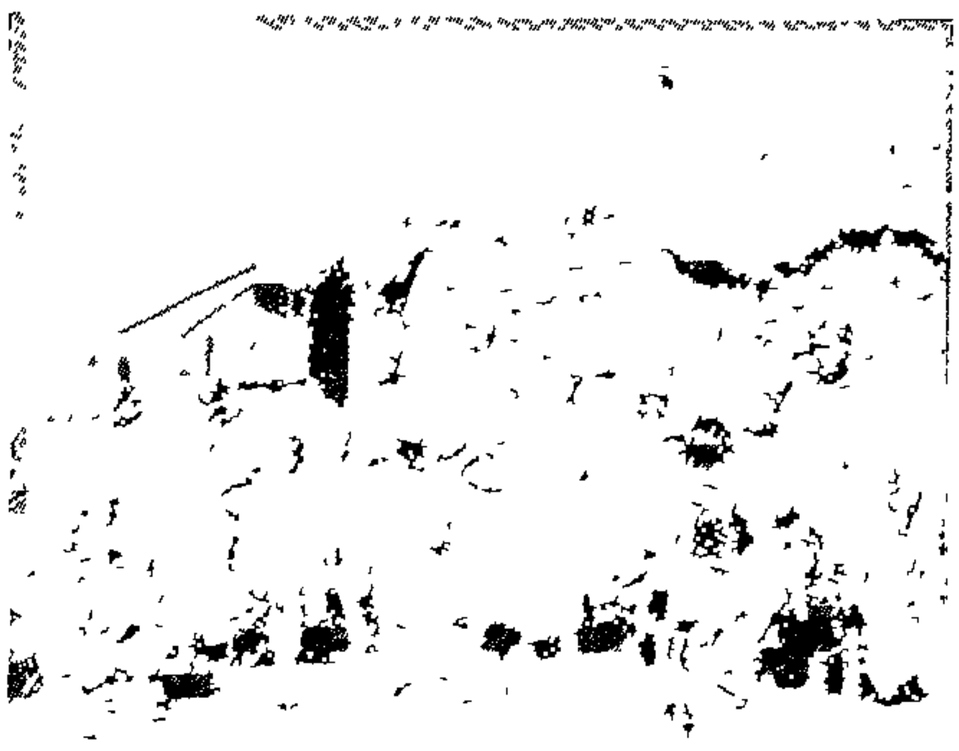
DIMENSION, 3rd JULY, 1977

FEATURE

DREAM FOR LESOTHO



(Above)
Such a road, with its twisting, tortuous tracks linking Semonkong with Maseru, the capital, brings with it greater challenges for the project.



(Right)
Two sticks protruding from the thatch over the door is the Basuto way of spreading the news "New born child here" But who helped this mother to bring her child into the world?

In October 1976, the Conference of the Methodist Church approved the erection of a hospital at Semonkong, deep in the heart of Lesotho

At present 25 000 people in 375 remote mountain villages are served by a small Government Clinic staffed by one sister — there is no doctor

The journey from Maseru to Semonkong takes twelve hours with a four-wheel drive vehicle through dangerous and hazardous passes and several days on horseback. But many are too sick to travel this way and many emergency cases die before they can reach medical assistance That is why a hospital in the heart of this mountainous region is so desperately needed

The Methodist Church has committed itself to raising the money required to provide and maintain the hospital building and doctors and hospital staff.

These pictures, taken by the Rev Malcolm Pearse, capture something of the struggles and determination of the people of Lesotho The Methodist Church has 'pitched its tent' with them and needs R350 000 to make concrete its commitment Building cannot begin until sufficient money is forthcoming

Donations can be sent to the Rev Hedley Sleath, Lesotho Methodist Mission, P O Box 81, Maseru, Lesotho

Cont

The site of the projected hospital lies at the heart of Lesotho. Asterisks indicate other hospitals in the country.

Old age ad infirmity demand medical care . so do childhood and youth

N. Mercury 26/7/77 (168)

SOTHOS' SELF-HELP SET

ENID RHODES

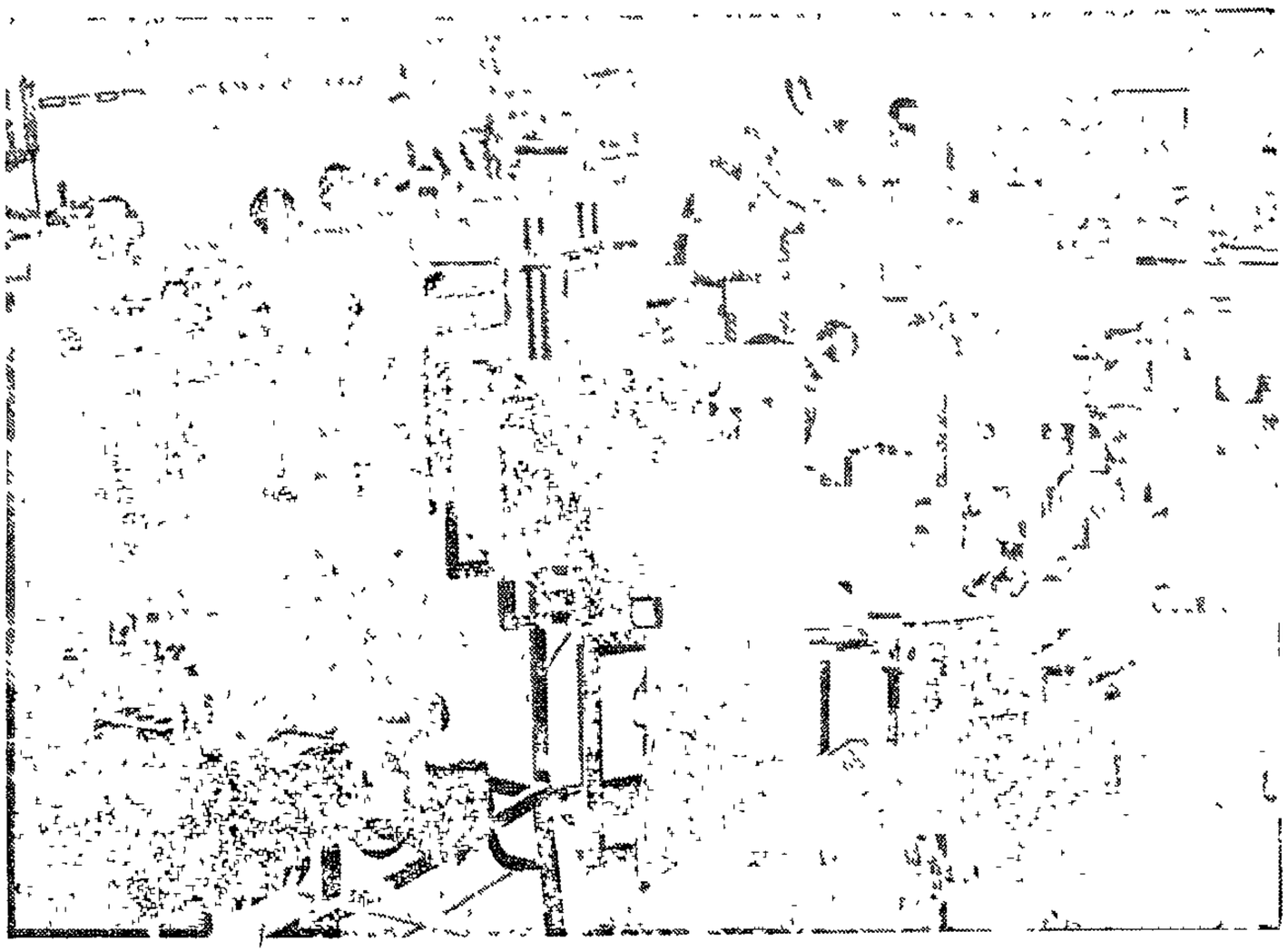
Bloemfontein

TIMES are hard, but a trained worker is a happy and more productive worker who will be of more value to the employer.

Working on the basis that unproductive African labour can only harm the economy of the country, Boithusong — Sotho for "the place where I learn to help myself" — was opened in April 1975.

Boithusong, at the entrance to the African townships of Bloemfontein, was the first of eight similar centres throughout South Africa. It is not a State institution but it does carry the approval of the Government.

Since the beginning of January this year, in terms of the Bantu Employees In-service Training Act 1976 all employers pay a levy for African staff, which is used for the running of centres such as Boithusong.



A FULLY equipped workshop at Boithusong Training Centre, Bloemfontein, offers African workers an opportunity to improve their skills in the motor trade Mr. Len de Kramer (right) is Chief Instructor in the Repair Shop

Tax relief

Mr. Nicholas Olls, Principal of Boithusong, said that many employers of African labour were paying top wages for minimum output. They were reluctant to spend money on training but if the proficiency of African workers was improved greater productivity could be achieved.

A further incentive to employers to send employees on such courses was that substantial tax relief could be obtained. Employers may claim double what it costs to send a worker on an approved training course.

Boithusong can offer about 40 different courses, all designed to improve the ability of African workers to do jobs which they are permitted to do in terms of industrial legislation. Longer, more detailed, courses are also available, but only for Africans who will work in the homelands.

Courses can be developed to suit the requirements of the employer. They will, however, be submitted for approval to ensure that they comply with requirements for work that may legally be undertaken by Africans.

Regular courses offered by the Centre include building — bricklaying, plastering, plumbing, painting, electrical and carpentry, the motor trade — repair shop assistant, service bay attendants, tractor maintenance, gas and arc welding; and for electrical linesmen, cooks, supervisors, switchboard operators, salesmen and shop assistants.

Mr. Olls said that workers who had attended courses at Boithusong were found to have increased productivity — some by as much as 100 per cent. But even a 10 per cent initial improvement could be of benefit to employers.

Induction

All students undergo an induction course during which it is explained to them that the necessity to work and be productive is not "to make the White man rich".

Where the Centre's aptitude tests show that a worker is completely unsuitable for training in a specific field the employer is told immediately, and no charge is made

On completion of a particular course the students take part in an orientation ceremony, where their new status is explained — that they have only learned the basics permitted by legislation, that they are not tradesmen which would take 3 to 5 years; that there will not necessarily be an immediate increase in salary, and that speed will come with practice.

Centres such as Boithusong do not provide formal schooling Workers cannot be sent, as adults, for years of formal schooling, but millions of people who have had no schooling at all can be taught to be more proficient at their jobs.

Gaining

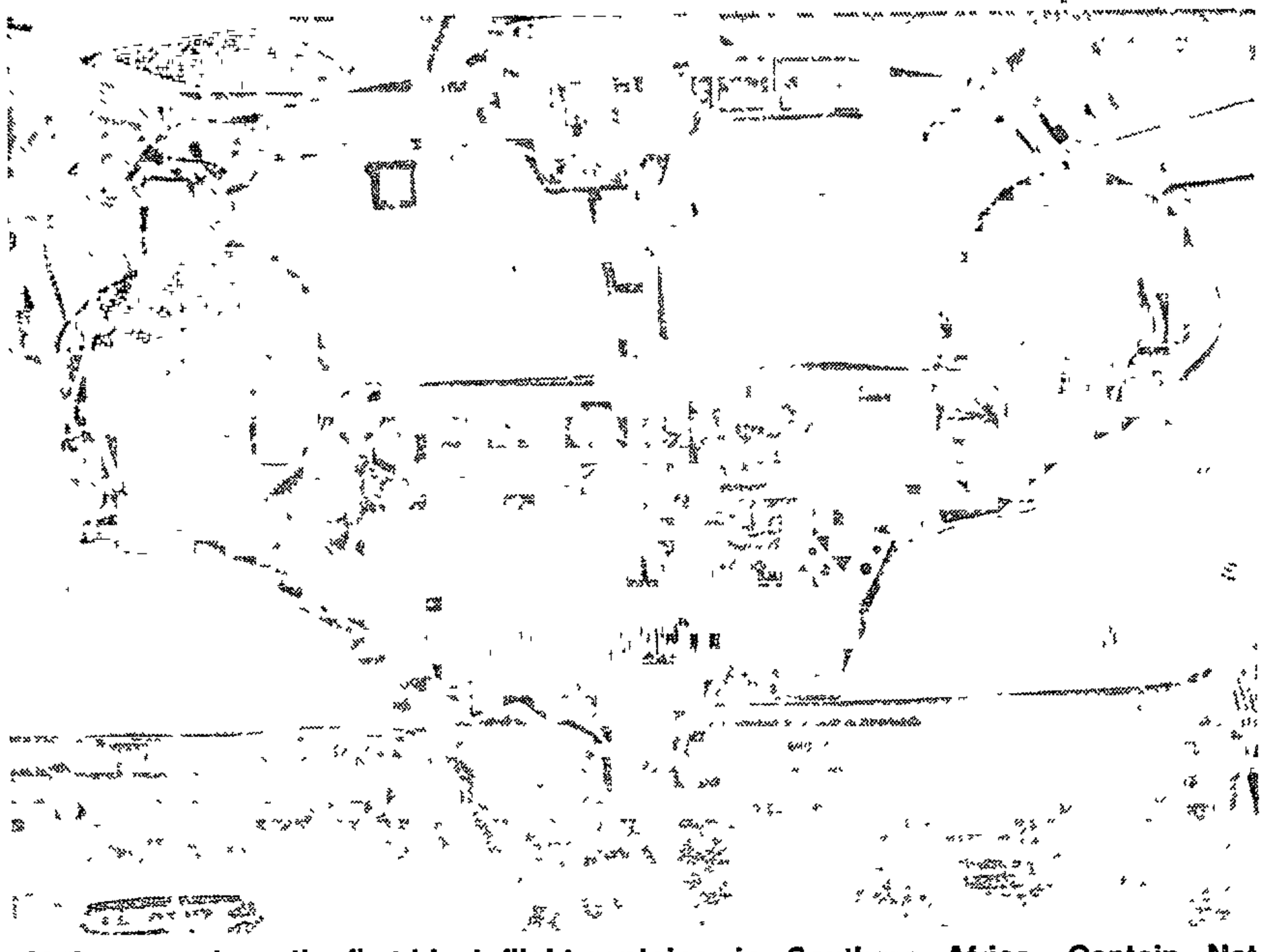
Mr. Olls found that some employers were still reluctant to use the facilities but recognition of the benefits of training was gaining ground.

Figures showed that in the first nine months of Boithusong's operation only 114 workers attended the various courses. In its second year, over a similar period, 900 workers had attended courses.

The centre's cafeteria provides two balanced meals a day and hostel accommodation, within walking distance, is available. A reasonable charge is made for these facilities, and employers also

SUNDAY TRIBUNE, AUGUST 21, 1977

THE FIRST OF THE FEW



At the controls — the first black flight captains in Southern Africa, Captain Nat Ntlaloe, left, and Captain Watson Molapo

By PAT FARLEY

When you hear 'This is your captain speaking' you know it's either pilot Nat or pilot Molapo up front

TWO BLACK pilots schooled in one of the most unforgiving flying areas in the world — among the peaks of Lesotho — have become Southern Africa's first fully qualified black flight captains.

For the past three years they have been building up flying hours at the controls of the aircraft of Lesotho Airways, carrying mail and supplies into the high altitude, short airstrips scattered around the mountain kingdom.

Now after intensive training under Lesotho Airways chief pilot Captain Ritchie de Montalk, the two have been awarded their own captain's stripes.

Ratings

Captain Nat Ntlaloe, 31, and Captain Watson Molapo, 28, began their flying careers only four years ago at a flying school in Perth Scotland. Both had been picked from scores of applicants by a special committee of Lesotho's Department of Civil Aviation for a special pilot-training scheme sponsored by the UN International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Both graduated from the school in September 1974, with their British commercial pilots licences and top marks for the course. They have ratings for single- and twin-engine aircraft, instrument flying and night flying.

Until they won their captain's ratings this month they had undergone continuous training while employed as co-pilots and pilots on non-passenger flights by Lesotho Airways.

"I always used to dream about flying and I used to watch the aircraft landing and taking off here at Maseru," recalled Captain Molapo of his earth-bound days.

"But there was no chance to learn to fly in Lesotho until I saw an advertisement saying training would be subsidised."

A third Basuto pilot aiming for his captain's stripes is Jake Moorosi, 27, who had his initial training in Nigeria under the ICAO subsidy and has 800 hours in his flying log.

"I used to work for Lesotho Airways as ground crew, but whenever there was a spare seat the chief pilot used to let me go along for the ride. Up there among the mountains is when I really started getting interested in learning to fly myself," said Jake.

Said chief pilot De Montalk: "I must say these chaps have done very well — we are really proud of them. After nearly three years of flying in Lesotho they are thoroughly familiar with all our routes and procedures.

QUOTE

By Lesotho Airways' chief pilot Ritchie de Montalk:

I must say these chaps have done very well — we are really proud of them . . They have passed every test I could devise for them. And it's by no means run-of-the-mill flying up here, where most of the airstrips are in the mountains at heights of 2 000 metres, and very short.

Tetsed

"They have worked very hard and have passed every test I could devise for them. And it is by no means run-of-the-mill flying up here, where most of the air strips are in the mountains at heights over 2 000 metres and very short."

Spokesmen for Swazi Air and Air Botswana confirmed that no civilian black pilot has yet reached first officer or captain's rank. It is understood that a number of Botswana blacks are undergoing military flying training.

Last year Lesotho Airways carried 18 000 passengers and 450 000 kilograms of cargo in and out of 25 remote Lesotho airstrips.

STAR 20/12/77

(2) 168

Work conditions in SA slammed

The Star Bureau

LONDON — A Dominican priest, Peter Saunders, who lives in Lesotho, claims that Basotho are working in "sub-human conditions" in South Africa, and that Britons should do something about it.

In a BBC radio interview, he recalled that British investment in South Africa represented 30 percent of all British overseas investment

"Because shareholders in Britain are considerably enriched by the fact that these men in South Africa are working in Sub-human conditions, it is quite plain that there is a responsibility over here both to know about it and to try to do something about it," he said

Britons could do something about it by "bringing the right kind of pressures to bear on the big multinational corporations and so forth

POOR FOOD

Father Saunders said young Basotho were processed through "an extremely inhuman system" of initiation into mine labour

They lived isolated lives, the food was very poor, and they were often compelled to spend their money on buying food from company shops in their compounds

The hostels in which they lived were often extremely overcrowded "In all kinds of ways, the life is extremely inhuman," he said

Forty percent of Lesotho's entire male population, which represented about 100 percent of those between 20 and 40, worked in the South African mines, or other jobs in South Africa, he said.

"Very little has been done either to study their situation, or to see in what ways it can be made more human, and these are the kind of things I'm discussing with people over here"

LESOTHO - LABOUR

1979 - 1987

Chief Leabua blames SA for unrest

RDM 10/12/79

By PATRICK LAURENCE

EXPLOSIVES of South African origin were used by insurgents seeking to topple the Lesotho Government, the Prime Minister of Lesotho, Chief Leabua Jonathan, said at a rally in the troubled Butha Buthe region at the weekend

At about the same time the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, issued a statement rejecting the Lesotho Government allegations as a "mischievous and contemptible" attempt to blame South Africa for its problems

As the number of Basotho seeking sanctuary in South Africa continued to rise at the weekend, Mr P Molahloe, a spokesman for the refugees at the tent camp near Bethlehem in the Free State charged that Lesotho police were systematically shooting supporters of the Opposition Basutoland Congress Party (BCP)

In his speech at Butha Buthe Chief Jonathan invited anyone who wished to verify the origin of the explosives used by Basotho insurgents to contact the Lesotho Foreign Ministry He challenged the South African Government to deny his allegation.

Contacted last night, Mr Botha said: "Basotho work in South African mines. Chief Jonathan knows that very well I have no further comment to make."

In his statement released at the weekend, Mr Botha disclosed that he had instructed South Africa's representative at the United Nations to request aid for the Basotho refugees from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

The number and nature of refugees — there were about 400 yesterday, most of whom were women and children — made a mockery of Lesotho's accusation that they were "terrorists" operating from South African bases, Mr Botha added

Chief Jonathan told the rally in Butha Buthe that he knew of several occasions on which exiled BCP leader Mr Ntsu Mokhele, had visited John Vorster Square to discuss plans to attack the Lesotho Government with the South African Police

South Africa's Security Police chief, Brigadier Johan Coetzee, rejected the allegation as "absolutely untrue"

He added "Ntsu Mokhlele is a prohibited immigrant The moment he sets foot in South Africa he will be arrested and detained."

The most the Lesotho Government could say about the SAP, the brigadier continued, was that they had not intercepted every Basotho insurgent who, after being trained in guerrilla warfare in African countries, had to pass through South Africa to Lesotho

In an exclusive statement to the Rand Daily Mail, exiled leaders of the BCP said members of the Lesotho Liberation Army had been arrested by the SAP and "handed over" to the Lesotho Government — not assisted by them

Brigadier Coetzee declined to comment on that particular charge

But, he said, when the SAP intercepted Basotho rebels who had been trained militarily they were naturally anxious to interrogate them, particularly as they had been trained in conjunction with members of the banned Pan-Africanist Congress of South Africa

When interrogation was completed the SAP might release the rebels to Lesotho immigration authorities, Brigadier Coetzee said

Lesotho: Gateway to black countries

Sun. Tribune 9/11/80

(168)

Finance Reporter

A DURBAN company, O. T. H. Beier and Co, is to set up a footwear factory in Lesotho — the second established there.

The one already operating has been set up by Jaguar Shoes of Pietermaritzburg and it is making a wide range of men's, women's and children's footwear.

O. T. H. Beier has now signed agreements with the Lesotho National Development Corporation to establish a factory making shoes, slippers and similar types of footwear.

Work on the factory will start early next year.

In addition the company has signed agreements with the corporation to set up a wool and mohair processing plant.

Another Durban company, Gallant Clothing Manufacturers, has been making women's and children's clothing in Lesotho since 1978

The managing director of the Corporation, Sam Montsi, said Lesotho was becoming increasingly attractive to South African companies as it provided them with an opportunity to penetrate the European Common Market with goods on a duty-free basis under the Lome Convention

Lesotho also offered an effective location for businesses wishing to expand their exports to African markets which restricted or prohibited trade with the Republic.

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23/2/87

Bank strike in Lesotho

(168) D. Rafatek

JOHANNESBURG — Several hundred employees of the major commercial banks throughout Lesotho went on strike yesterday

The two major banks affected by the strike are the Standard Bank and Barclays Bank International Both banks have their headquarters in London

The only bank not affected by the strike is the Lesotho Bank, which is sponsored by the Lesotho Government

Customers were confronted by notices on bank doors saying that the Lesotho Union of Bank Employees had given notice of industrial action and that the banks would be unable to provide banking services until the dispute has been resolved

It is understood that employees of these banks are complaining about the conditions of service, salaries and other fringe benefits

None of the striking staff were prepared to comment on the issue as the leaders for the union were holding talks with management — DDC

RAND DAIL
WDH 23/2/82

Lesotho banks brought to a halt

(168)

By MIKE PITSO

SEVERAL hundred employees of Lesotho's major commercial banks went on strike yesterday.

The two banks most affected by the strike were the Standard Bank and Barclays Bank International. Both banks have their headquarters in London.

The only bank not affected by the strike was the Lesotho Bank, which is sponsored by the Lesotho Government.

Bank customers throughout the country were confronted by notices explaining the shutdown.

The notices read. "The Lesotho Union of Bank Employees has given notice of industrial action commencing on the 22nd February In the circumstances, the banks will be unable to provide the banking services from that date until such time as the dispute has been resolved."

It is understood that bank employees are complaining about conditions of service, salaries and fringe benefits.

None of the striking staff were prepared to comment as their leaders were holding talks with management behind closed doors.

The Lesotho Ministry of Employment, Planning and Economic Affairs has appealed to strikers to call off their action to permit banks to continue business. A mediator has already been appointed, the ministry added

(2) Premiums Treated as an Asset - Cont'd:

Year 02 - same as year 01

03, Jan 1:	Life Policy	300	
	Bank		300
Dec 31:	Income Statement	60	
	Life Policy		60
	Policy written down to surrender value (See Note 1 below)		
04, Jan 1:	Life Policy	300	
	Bank		300
Jan 2:	Debtor (Insurance Company)	24 000	
	Life Policy		540
	Income from Life Policy		23 460
	being accrual of proceeds receivable		
Jan 2:	Income from Life Policy	23 460	
	Income Statement		23 460
	being closing entry		
Jan 31:	Bank	24 000	
	Debtor		24 000
	being receipt of proceeds		

Note 1:

At the end of year 03, the life policy would be reflected on the partnership balance sheet as a non-current asset at its surrender value of R240.

Note 2:

The death of a partner automatically dissolves the partnership as legal and accounting entities. For this reason a partnership income statement would have to be drawn up for the period up to the date of death of the partner so as to ascertain the correct balance on his capital account. The proceeds from the life policy would be shown as inco tatement and NOT credited direct to the partners' capital acco

Bank strike continues

Mail Correspondent

MASERU. — The strike by employees of Lesotho's two major commercial banks continued yesterday.

Employees of the Standard Bank and Barclays Bank International began their strike on Monday. Sources yesterday said the Ministry of Finance was expected to intervene in the dispute and staff may return to work today.

ROH 24/3/82 (168)

Bank staffs strike

By MIKE PITSO

MASERU. — Several hundred staff members of two major commercial banks in Lesotho went on strike yesterday.

The two banks affected by the strike are Barclays Bank International and Standard Bank, both of which have their headquarters in London. Only the government-founded Lesotho Bank was open for business.

Members of the Lesotho Union of Banking Employees (LUBE) are angry over an alleged discriminatory salary structure imposed by the London headquarters of these banks

Banks strike goes on

168

ppu 29/5/88

By MIKE PITSO

MASERU — The strike by bank employees in Lesotho entered its second day yesterday without any sign of a settlement with the managements of Barclays and Standard banks

Several hundred members of the Lesotho Union of Bank Employees (Lube) went on strike over an alleged discriminatory salary structure set by the banks in London

Only the Government-founded Lesotho Bank was open for business yesterday

At the doors of both banks the customers were confronted with notices by the management informing them of the strike and advising that the banks would be re-opened when the dispute was resolved

There is a growing fear that if the strike continues indefinitely, it would will have serious effects on the economy

Some businessmen may decide to bank their money in banks across the South African border, as the Lesotho Bank cannot cope with the volume

Lesotho bank strikers hold out

(168) ECON 26/3/82

By MIKE PITSO

MASERU — The strike by several hundred bank employees throughout Lesotho entered its third day yesterday with many customers stranded, including some of the most prosperous businessmen in Maseru

The two major commercial banks affected by the strike are the Standard Bank and Barclays Bank International, both of which have their headquarters in London

Members of the Lesotho Union of Bank Employees (LUBE), who engineered the strike, are complaining about an alleged discriminatory salary structure imposed by the headquarters of these banks in London

Only the Government-owned Lesotho Bank was open for business this week

The Lesotho Minister of Economic Affairs, Employment and Labour, Mr E R Sekhonyana, said in a radio broadcast yesterday that all attempts made by him to make the management and employees serve the public while their dispute is being negotiated had failed.

He disclosed that he will now take up the matter with the headquarters of the banks in London and, if there is no satisfactory response, the Government will take appropriate action

He said the trade union movement in Lesotho was free

(168) RDM 27/3/82

Leabua ultimatum to Lesotho strikers

Mail Correspondent

MASERU. — The Prime Minister of Lesotho Chief Leabua Jonathan has ordered the Lesotho Union of Bank Employees to end their four-day strike and resume work today

The Lesotho Cabinet has urged Chief Jonathan to enforce powers vested in him by the Lesotho Order of 1975 which relates to national emergencies

In terms of these powers Standard and Barclays banks in Lesotho have been ordered to start serving customers from today.

The order by the Prime Minister is contained in Gazette Extraordinary No 11 which appeared yesterday.

Chief Jonathan will also appoint an arbitrator, who will act in the deadlocked dispute between the managements of the banks and the bank employees.

The employees went on strike because of dissatisfaction over a change in their salary structures They want their salaries to be on par with those applying to the banks' branches in South Africa

The managements on the other hand argue that salaries are decided by the cost of living structure in the countries.

De Beers closing mine in Lesotho

CAPE TIMES 15/5/82 (167) (168)

By JOHN MULCAHY

JOHANNESBURG — The Letseng-la-Terai diamond mine in Lesotho, which is jointly owned by De Beers and the Lesotho Government, is to close, and at least 700 workers will be retrenched

Letseng mine employs 792 workers and De Beers says they will, "to the maximum possible extent be reabsorbed within the De Beers and Anglo American groups, and where this cannot be achieved, compensation will be paid as required by law

It is believed that about 70 of the workers are expatriots and will be absorbed elsewhere, but the rest of the work-force is likely to be retrenched

Yesterday s announcement of the Letseng mine s closure came hard on the heels of the decision to cut the work-force at De Beers Premier mine in the Northern Transvaal by 498 people, and highlights the continuing depression in the diamond market.

De Beers which has a 75% interest in Letseng, says the mine has for some time been operating at a loss, because of cost inflation and the depressed state of the diamond market 'particularly for the larger high-quality stones which the Letseng mine produces'

Letseng produced 52 921 carats last year compared with 53 714 carats in 1980, at an average grade of 2,80 carats/100 tons and diamonds bigger than 10 carats constituted 12% of the mine's production

The Letseng closure will come about "on an orderly basis over the coming months', says De Beers and it is believed the mine will finally close in September

De Beers is clearly keeping its options open however, and says ' the plan to extend the mine's life by developing the satellite pit is for the time being uneconomic'

In the annual report, published last month De Beers said that in August last year it was decided to limit the planned depth of the satellite pit at Letseng to 100 metres subject to the economic feasibility of mining to greater depths being kept under review

On current plans the pit has a remaining life of about four years " the report added, but circumstances have clearly deteriorated since then

Mr Harry Oppenheimer chairman of De Beers hinted at the possibility of a mine closure in an interview with the Wall Street Journal published earlier this week

With the exception of one small mine about which discussions were taking place, Mr Oppenheimer said 'There aren't going to be any mine closures this year we're going to go more slowly We've got these stocks We aren't going to be in need of diamonds for some time "

In further disclosures to the Wall Street Journal Mr Oppenheimer said falling gem sales could cause De Beers to trim 1982 diamond production slightly more than the estimated drop to 13 800 000 carats from 15 500 000 carats in 1981, excluding output from Jwaneng in Botswana

He said De Beers was encouraging a decline in attendance at the Central Selling Organisation's regular sights, because "we mustn't push more diamonds on to this very bad market than can be properly absorbed"

On a recent visit to Israel — only the second time he has been to that country — Mr Oppenheimer told representatives of the Israeli diamond industry " we have got to be in a position when times are bad to accept the fact that we are not going to sell very many diamonds because if we try to force diamonds on to a market we will cause a disaster"

In an obvious reference to the discouragement at CSO sights, Mr Oppenheimer told the Israeli cutters "It means that we don't sell to some of our oldest and most valued customers, and this is sad for them and very sad for us"

Dismissing speculation that De Beers was losing control of the world's diamond production, Mr Oppenheimer said "it is important for us and for you that we at the producing end of the business control as large a proportion of the production as possible'

The new diamond discoveries and the new sources of diamonds controlled directly by De Beers were far higher than the diamonds produced outside the group s direct control Mr Oppenheimer said

I do think it worth mentioning to you — because I think it may encourage you — that in spite of the things that have been much publicized, like our no longer buying diamonds from Zaire in spite of discoveries of diamonds in Australia the proportion of the total world production of diamonds which are directly produced within our group is very much higher than it was a few years ago, and this is largely due to increased productive capacity in South Africa and to major discoveries which we are responsible for running in Botswana

"Therefore, our position of control in this industry is greater — not less — than it has been for very many years and I hope you too will find this encouraging "

De Beers was strong enough not to force diamonds on an unwilling market said Mr Oppenheimer ' We have made sacrifices not to do so'

'We have cut our dividend but this has not happened in all the years since I have been in business

"It is not agreeable that we do this but we are economizing to save money and we are doing this to give ourselves the financial strength to hold this industry together and it is our intention our determination to do so

"I can tell you that we have the resources to see this through and we intend to see it through "

Year	African																		White	Total
1970																				
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1973																				
1974																				

23 fired: banks closed

168

Dispatch 9/7/82

MASERU — Two commercial banks here — the Standard and Barclays banks — were closed indefinitely yesterday morning Notices to this effect were posted on their front doors yesterday

Twenty-one employees were summarily dismissed from the Barclays Bank on Wednesday because of a disagreement between management and staff on the question of overtime working conditions

The Standard Bank followed suit yesterday morning and dismissed two of their employees for the same reason The rest of the Standard Bank staff walked out in sympathy. The management of the two banks put up notices to say that the banks would be closed indefinitely

This follows a similar occurrence in April this year when employees claimed similar pay conditions to those operating in South Africa The banks disagreed because of differences in the cost of living between Lesotho and South Africa At that time the banks closed for two days.

The government intervened and persuaded employees to go back to work — DDC

Charles

Banks' short weeks

Mail Reporter

MASERU — The Government of Lesotho has ordered the Standard Bank and Barclays International Bank to remain closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 20 to August 12

This is to enable the banks to clear a backlog of bank statements and other correspondence to their customers

Mr H Phoofolo, Commissioner of Financial Institutions in Lesotho, yesterday made a statement concerning circumstances at the two banks

They were placing customers at an inconvenience and they were suffering financial loss as a result, he said

The government had to protect the public against illegal work stoppages such as had been experienced on several occasions this year and had found it necessary to apply the provisions of the Essential Services Act, which makes such work stoppages illegal

RDM 17/7/82

(168)

Week on Pyne

Brewery on stream

168

Financial Reporter

THE R10-million Maluti Mountain Brewery outside Maseru in which SA brewery interests have a stake is now in full production

The brewery has an initial capacity of 80 000 hl of beer a year and 20 000 hl of soft drinks

Castle, Lion and Black Label brands, which constitute 90% of Lesotho's market, are brewed and marketed under licence

The Lesotho National Development Corporation holds 51% of the shares in Maluti Titagel, a Dutch company owned by European and SA brewery interests, holds 39% and the Commonwealth Development Corporation 10%

Titagel also has brewery interests in Botswana, Swaziland and Zimbabwe

BUSINESS 4

Minister appeals to SA investors to help create employment

'Lesotho will never nationalise'

(168)

Star 12/11/82

By Stan Kennedy

Potential South African investors in Lesotho have been given an undertaking that their enterprises will not be nationalised.

Lesotho's Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Mr Mookho Molapo, told a Management power and Management Foundation seminar on Lesotho in Johannesburg yesterday that about $0 foreign companies had established ventures in his country in the past 10 years.

"We have never nationalised and we will continue with this policy.

He appealed to South African industrialists to help increase employment in his country

"My government recognises that we do not have the technical knowledge and capital to make an impact on our industrial and commercial sectors, and that we have to import such knowledge and capital. Thus would not happen if we set about a policy of nationalisation.

"Promises we make will be kept. We recognise the element of good faith and we shall keep our word when we enter into commitments with investors."

The legitimacy of private investors' demand for profits was not questioned, but such a demand must take into account Lesotho's equally legitimate concern over equity and fairness.

Lesotho, he said, would be much better off if the peoples and governments of South Africa and Lesotho agreed on a framework of co-operation that was founded on common interests and the recognition of the exploitation of their common resources.

"If sometimes political rhetoric has seemed to confuse the interests of our two countries, let me say that neighbours often quarrel over broken fences but seldom over recognised neighbourly interests"

He said Lesotho had trade agreements with a number of African countries, including the SADCC member countries, and was moving to extend its trade links and export markets to cover the entire continent

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered), leave columns (2) and (3) blank

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4 Do not write in the left hand margin

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

'Basotho jobs in SA jeopardised'

ARGUS 7/12/82

168

Argus Bureau

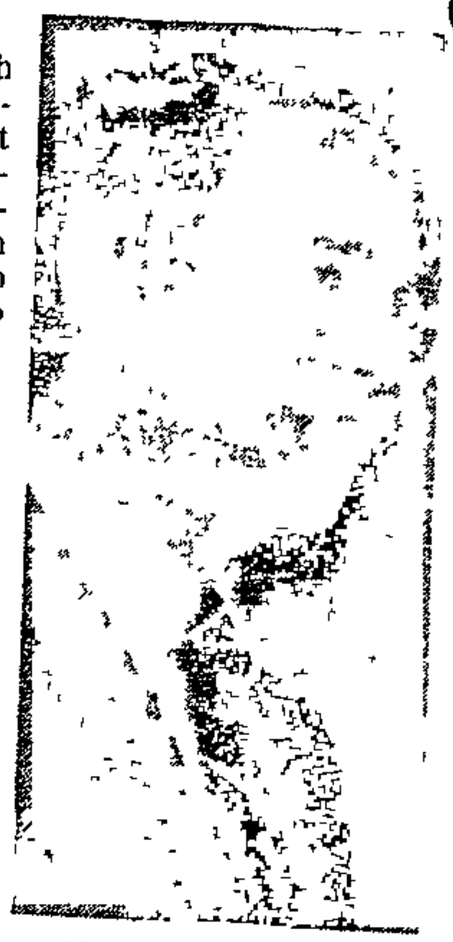
NEW YORK — South Africa warned land-locked Lesotho last night that the jobs of its citizens working in the Republic would be placed in jeopardy if the Lesotho Government continued to "harbour terrorists"

Mr David Steward, South African Ambassador to the United Nations, told the Security Council that his country would consider tightening border controls if Lesotho failed to clamp down on the activities of the African National Congress (ANC)

CONDEMNED

Mr Steward was replying to a two-day debate that has heard repeated condemnation of South Africa for the strike against ANC members based in the Lesotho capital of Maseru last week, which resulted in the deaths of more than 40 people

The South African delegate also attacked the United Nations for "urging war" in Southern Africa and "forgetting peace"



Mr David Steward

Mr Steward spent a large part of his half-hour speech detailing Lesotho's ecnomic dependence on South Africa and said his government wanted to make an "urgent appeal to Lesotho to reconsider its attitude to the harbouring of terrorists'

He said the Government believed that the majority of Basotho did not support the Lesotho Government in the stand it was taking regarding the ANC

" and the Government of Lesotho will have to accept the responsibility if employment opportunities for its citizens are placed in jeopardy as a result of more stringent movement control measures which South Africa will have to introduce on the border unless the Lesotho Government changes its attitude," he said

"It would be a matter of great regret to the South African Government were it to be compelled to consider instituting more restrictive measures to control movement across the border"

NO CHANCE

Mr Steward also accused the British Government of "turning a blind eye" to terrorist attacks against the Republic

Britain was the only Western country he named in his bitter criticism of the Security Council for not giving the Pretoria a chance to speak before a vote was taken condemning the South African raid

Huge increase in Lesotho miners' payout from S A

13/1/83 Star (168)

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — South African gold mines last year paid Lesotho more than R111 million in deferred pay and remittances for Basotho miners

The R111 477 262 paid out was more than double the 1981 figure of R55 514 689

The Lesotho manager of the Employment Bureau of Africa, which recruits labour for the South African mines, Mr J A P Fitzsimmons, attributed the increase to big wage rises on the mines in the past year

The number of Basotho employed in the gold mines increased by only 2,59 percent from 71 196 in 1981 to 73 040

Lesotho anxious over labour loss

168

RDM 21/3/84

By MIKE PITSO
Mail Africa Bureau

MASERU — The Lesotho Minister of Transport and Communications has expressed concern over the erosion of Lesotho manpower to the South African homelands

Speaking during a budget debate involving more than R2-million, Dr Kenneth Maphathe said because of a lack of patriotism, a large number of highly qualified Basotho had left the country to go to Transkei and Bophuthatswana because they are being attracted by higher salaries

The Lesotho Government had to train other Basotho as replacements and this was costly as it involved overseas training

He thanked the European Economic Community for helping to build 18 post offices in remote areas of the country This had brought the number of main post offices to 45

He disclosed that the West German Government has given Lesotho about R10-Million to improve air fields in remote areas.

Dr Maphathe has warned taxi owners in Lesotho to stop using small taxis. They should use mini-busses to cut the accident rate.

(168) RDM 29/3/84

Lesotho unemployment 'serious'

By MIKE PITSO
Mail Africa Bureau

MASERU — The Lesotho Minister of Foreign and Economic Affairs, Mr Everistus Sekhonyana, has expressed concern over rising unemployment in Lesotho

Speaking in the National Assembly this week during a debate on development estimates of R157-million for the 1984/85 financial year, Mr Sekhonyana said unemployment had reached unprecedented proportions and the situation was expected to worsen by the time Basotho mine workers in South Africa are returned home

Mr Sekhonyana said South Africa was coercing Lesotho to recognise bantustans

He warned the people of Lesotho to be prepared for more hardships when the country is forced out of the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and the Rand Monitary Union He said it was unfortunate that the membership of two unions were made up of unequal partners with South Africa being the giant within both unions

Lesotho, Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland were members of the SACU The Rand Monitary Union was made up of Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa

According to reliable sources South Africa wants the "homelands" to be accepted to the membership of the SACU but Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland have argued that the "independent homelands" were not signatories to the union since its formation which was renegotiated in 1979

Meanwhile, the Lesotho Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr Desmond Sixishe, said the over-riding problem facing the Southern African region was South Africa's apartheid policy

Mr Sixishe was interviewed by SABC radio and TV commentator Cliff Saunders and the interview was relayed on Radio Lesotho this week He said Mr P W Botha must open the gates of Robben Island and talk to ANC leader Nelson Mandela over the problems of South Africa

Fewer Basothos for gold mines

MASERU — There has been an 8% decrease in the recruitment of Basotho mineworkers to the South African gold mines in the nine months from January to September this year compared with the same period last year, according to statistics released by the Lesotho Department of Labour in Maseru yesterday

The statistics show that about 54 000 Basotho were recruited this year, whereas almost 60 000 were recruited in the first nine months of last year

The manager of the Employment Bureau of Africa (Teba), Mr Mike Hobson, who recruits labour for the mines, attributed this trend to the scarcity of vacancies on the gold mines at present The total strength of black labour (about 440 000) had reached saturation point

The average monthly total number of Basotho workers employed on South African gold mines was about 100 000

Their remittances to families and relatives in Lesotho amounted to about R10-million from January to September 1979, as against R8-million the previous year, while deferred payment made to mineworkers at the end of their contracts was R11 500 000 this year and R10 500 000 during the equivalent period last year

According to official estimates, about 50% of Lesotho's adult male population worked in South Africa

The substantial increase in the remittances of migrant workers constituted about 42 % of the country's gross national product — Sapa

XVI

	W		A		B		C		M		E	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,51	0,34	2,10	1,24	7,00	6,86	19 69	23,83				
1-4	0,04	0,04	0,21	0,35	0,75	0,77	2,58	2,48				
5-24	0,01	0,01	0,09	0,06	0,08	0,03	0 21	0 23				
25-44	0,[illegible]											
45-64	0 4											
65+	1,5											
ALL	0,2[illegible]											
NO.	46[illegible]											

XVII

	W		A		B		C		M		E	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0 85											
1-4	0,49	0 21	0,31	0,27	0,63	0,61	0,32	0,19				
5-24	0,71	0,42	0,65	0,26	1,40	0,38	0,68					
25-44	1,18		1,43	0,57	3,32	0,70	1,22	0,26				
45-64	1,45	0,42	1,55	0,40	2,89	0,76	1,10					
65+	1,26	0,71	1,34	0,91	2,19	0,90	1,02	0,53				
ALL	0,95	0,33	0,95	0,29	1,91	0,56	0,89	0,20				
NO.	1973	677	333	104	2175	652	1868	324				

ALL CAUSES

	W		A		B		C		M		E	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	21,76	16,18	49,44	27,1	91,30	58,18	139,70	139,02				
1-4	1,17	0,94	2,42	2,39	10,23	9,93	17,22	16,21				
5-24	1,05	0,46	1,31	0,74	1 64	1,12	2,26	1,25				
25-44	3,02	1,47	4,33	2,48	4,78	3,7[illegible]	8,80	4,96				
45-64	17,46	9,49	26,27	18,72	18,26	15,57	24,27	17,87				
65+	73,62	54,55	92,20	82,93	53,38	45,89	96,30	71,79				
ALL	9,44	7,40	8,03	5,51	8,77	3,13	14,62	11,00				
NO.	1[illegible]600	15374	2828	1967	18348	13062	16632	12847				

Basotho on SA mines 'hostile to Jonathan'

① 24 ② 168

By PATRICK LAURENCE

MOST OF the 95 000 Basotho migrant workers on South Africa's mines are hostile to the Lesotho Government of Chief Leabua Jonathan, according to a report commissioned by the Anglo American Corporation.

Although the report was submitted three years ago, its findings seem highly relevant to the civil war in Lesotho because of the central role which Basotho mineworkers appear to play in it

In a speech at the weekend the Lesotho Prime Minister, Chief Jonathan, alleged that explosives of South African origin were used by insurgents of the Lesotho Liberation Army who are trying to topple him from power

The South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, hinted strongly in his response that if South African-made explosives had been used, they were acquired by Basotho on South African mines

During an interview with exiled leaders of the opposition Basutoland Congress Party last week, the Rand Daily Mail was told that recruitment and organistion of Basotho mineworkers was one of its key objectives

The report commissioned by Anglo American was carried out under the direction of Professor Dunbar Moodie, former professor of sociology at the University of the Witwatersrand

The report spoke of the "bitter opposition" among Basotho men on the mines to the Jonathan regime, in contrast to the "deep commitment" to the Frelimo administration among Shangaan workers

"Most Basotho mine dance teams wear BCP colours and support for the opposition in Lesotho is well-nigh universal," the report said

The Department of Cooperation and Development yesterday gave the latest total of Basotho refugees in South Africa as 429

Chief Jonathan has accused South Africa of backing the Basotho rebels, claiming that Pretoria wants to overthrow his regime and replace it with a "puppet government" His accusations have been rejected by Mr Pik Botha as an attempt to blame South Africa for his problems.

In September Chief Jonathan attended a conference of non-aligned states in Cuba, where he launched a scathing attack on South Africa's "pestitential system of apartheid" and charged South Africa with "acts of harassment, shooting and humiliation" against Lesotho citizens.

South Africa's Prime Minister, Mr P W Botha, responded sharply to Chief Jonathan's speech. "You are playing with fire if you allow Cubans to enter your country," he told Chief Jonathan "Don't push things too far."

91,30	10,23	1,64	4,78	18,06	53,38	8,77	18348
88,18	9,93	1,12	3,70	15,57	45,89	8,13	13062

XVI

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
		54	2,10	1,24	7,00	6,86	19,69	19,83
		04	0,21	0,35	0,75	0,77	2,58	2,48
		1	0,09	0,06	0,08	0,03	0,21	0,23
		5	0,28	0,17	0,42	0,31	0,72	0,78
		18	1,73	1,04	1,73	1,02	3,80	3,64
		5	8,32	6,56	8,55	5,71	14,69	14,84
		3	0,56	0,38	0,83	0,65	1,80	1,96
NO.	463	485	199	134	943	761	3765	3145

XVII ACCIDENTS, POISONINGS AND VIOLENCE (EXTERNAL CAUSE)

	W		A		C		B	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0,85	0,69	0,70	0,31	1,18	1,24	0,32	0,19
1-4	0,49	0,21	0,31	0,27	0,63	0,61	0,21	0,20
5-24	0,71	0,22	0,68	0,20	1,40	0,38	0,68	0,12
25-44	1,18	0,30	1,43	0,37	3,32	0,70	1,22	0,26
45-64	1,25	0,42	1,55	0,40	2,89	0,76	1,10	0,31
65+	1,26	0,71	1,34	0,91	2,19	0,90	1,02	0,53
ALL	0,95	0,33	0,95	0,29	1,91	0,56	0,89	0,20
NO.	1973	677	333	104	2175	652	1868	324

RDM 17/7/84 (168)

Union attacks UIF card move

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN
Labour Correspondent

MIGRANT workers whose employers refuse to renew their contracts — or end them by firing the workers — will now see this fact recorded on their Unemployment Insurance Fund cards

According to the director-general of Manpower, Dr Piet van der Merwe, this move is designed exclusively for workers from "independent" homelands whose UIF money is paid over to separate unemployment funds in the four homelands.

He said it was necessary for the authorities in these areas to know whether workers' contracts had been terminated and that the change had been made for this reason

But yesterday the Metal and Allied Workers Union issued a statement sharply criticising the move.

It charged that the move "prejudged" court cases in which the right of employers to terminate or refuse to renew contracts was being challenged

The UIF cards must be submitted to the authorities by workers if they have lost their jobs and want to claim unemployment benefits

Employers are required to fill in on the card the reason the worker has lost the job Until now, three reasons were listed — resignation, retrenchment or "other". Now a fourth has been added termination or non-renewal of a contract.

Mawu's spokesman said this would enable UIF authorities to identify whether workers were migrants

If they were, they would not be able to claim benefits in the cities but would be sent back to the homelands to claim them.

"We also believe this new clause endorses the right of employers to end or refuse to renew contracts

"This right is being challenged in several court cases at the moment and the new cards are prejudging the issue," he said

Dr Van der Merwe rejected this charge, adding that the change was the result of recent changes to the law allowing migrants from "independent" homelands to contribute to the UIF

Don't fuss with us, miners beg

By MONTSHIWA MOROKE

A LESOTHO mineworker, employed in one of the Republic's gold mines, has strongly complained about "harassment" by South African authorities at border posts.

Now Mr Thabo Mphahama, on behalf of his countrymen, has appealed to the South African Government — through the Rand Daily Mail — to intervene on behalf of Basotho mineworkers

Mr Mphahama cited the Maseru Bridge border post as one place where Lesotho nationals have to queue for up to five hours before being attended to

"One would wonder if the inhuman treatment and harassment suffered by mineworkers from Lesotho at the hands of border authorities has come to the notice of the South African Government," he said.

"And if at all this maltreatment of Basotho mineworkers is a direct order from the Government, we would like to know why we are being treated that way. What have Basotho mineworkers done to this government?"

Mr Mphahama said Basotho had helped build South Africa's economy by "whole-heartedly" digging gold, coal and other resources from underground, for a long time.

He said mineworkers were non-political and had nothing to do with what he called "the political debacle" between Lesotho and South Africa.

"As far as it is known, there is no friction between Basotho mineworkers and the South African Government, so we are appealing to the South African Government to come to our aid."

A telex from the South African Police Directorate of Public Relations yesterday said the SAP was not aware of any unnecessary delays at border posts

"If the border traffic is heavy, however, as is the case on certain days and times of the year, one must expect the occasional unavoidable delays", the SAP said.

Sapa-AP.

Miners sacking: Lesotho plea

Sowetan 6/5/85

MASERU — The Lesotho Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan, has called for Basotho workers sacked by South African mines to be reinstated, and for the establishment of a fund to set up industrial projects that could absorb Basotho mine workers locally if they lost their jobs in South Africa.

Addressing a public meeting in the Malimong constituency at the weekend, Chief Jonathan said such a fund would enable Lesotho to create at least one major industry a year, and brace itself for hard times that would follow an influx of repatriated mine workers

He said there were more than 3 000 Basotho men among the 17 000 workers recently fired from South African mines

His Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Vincent Makhele, would ask the South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Pik Botha, to intercede with the mining houses on behalf of those 3 000 Basotho miners — Sapa

168

'Trek' from rural wages

CAPE TIMES 16/5/85

Political Staff

SHOCK minimum wage rates in the Transkei and Lesotho encouraged workers to trek to the urban areas, a University of Cape Town study has found

It found that the official minimum wage levels in Transkei and Lesotho were often less than a third of that earned in the building industry in South Africa and less than half that earned on the mines

"It is no mystery that so many workers trek from these impoverished rural areas to find jobs in developed South Africa, often defying legal prohibitions and certainly encountering discrimination and forfeiting the comforts of family life

"Yet those who have jobs in the reserves, though paid perhaps one-third of the poverty datum line, must be counted fortunate against those who have no jobs," the study said

The study, released yesterday by the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (Saldru) at UCT, said minimum wage rates in both Transkei and Lesotho were "remarkably low".

It said no South African industrial and wage agreements applied in the reserves and the minimum wage rates which had been fixed were so low that enforcement was redundant

In some parts of Transkei, labourers were entitled to as little as R12,70 a week, it said

Although low wages should in theory attract labour-intensive industries to the rural areas, the failure of the decentralization policy showed that the low-wage factor was a small one in the decision to relocate an industry

The study found that every wage determination in Transkei "falls far below the Household Subsistence Level"

However, there was no reason why a worker in Umtata should earn less in Umtata while doing the same job as a worker in Cape Town or Durban

"Low-wage regions represent a constant threat to the standards won by organized urban workers

"The history of South Africa's wage board and industrial council system shows that without an effective union presence there is unlikely to be effective minimum wage regulation"

E Cape board's R55m liquor trade for sale

Mail Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — The Eastern Cape Administration Board's R55-million a year retail liquor interests — representing practically the entire "legal" market in its area — is up for sale

There was immediate reaction to an advertisement yesterday inviting tenders for the board's 22 bottlestores and beerhalls in the area extending from Aliwal North to Port Elizabeth

The move is in line with announced Government policy to sell the trade to private enterprise, but a spokesman for the Taverners' Association, representing more than 300 shebeen owners, said no members would benefit or take part.

A source in the liquor industry said some companies had already been approached by black interests because of the huge capital expenditure which would be required to obtain outlets

However, he pointed out that current legislation outlawed the big wholesaling companies having an interest in retailing

The chief director of the Ecab, Mr Louis Koch, said yesterday all the administrative measures had now been completed for the sale and individual blacks as well as companies with a minimum of 51% shareholding of black people could tender to buy the outlets

Eight of the outlets are in Port Elizabeth, two each in Uitenhage Grahamstown and East London and one each in Alexandria, Port Alfred, Somerset East, Middelburg, Tarkastad Aliwal North, Dordrecht and King William's Town

Mr Koch said the prices had been determined by the board, but refused to give details except to say these were based on the turnover of the outlets

There would definitely be sales of over R1 00 000 Some of the outlets had turnovers of over R5 000 000 a year

Mr Welcome Duru, chairman of the Port Elizabeth Taverners' Association, said yesterday that while the association's membership welcomed the move the outlets were 'practically out of reach"

"We do not have that kind of money This is in effect a golden opportunity for the big businessmen who were never involved in the liqour business

"We have been running shebeens for as long as we can remember but by the look of things we will not be able to make use of this opportunity'

Mr Duru cited as another prohibiting factor a clause in the advertisement for tenders which says that applications are expected from persons who have not been convicted of any contravention of the Liqour Act

"Just about every shebeener in the township has been arrested on no less than one occasion"

The outlets would be sold on a 99-year leasehold basis

Vacant posts on the board had not been filled in anticipation of the sale of the liquor outlets so that staff employed in them would not lose their jobs, Mr Koch said

According to information tabled during Ecab's budget meeting last month net sales of liquor, including sales tax, have been estimated at R55 178 837 for the 1983-84 financial year with profits of R1 886 653 expected

Spokesmen for the Federated Hoteliers' Association of SA (Fedhasa), the Eastern Cape Hoteliers and Licensed Victualers Association and the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce have welcomed the sale of outlets as a step in the right direction

Dr Ernst Uken, executive director of Fedhasa, said "We welcome a free enterprise system where free market forces determine prices provided liqour is being distributed in a fair and responsible manner"

Mr Chris Egbrink, chairman of the Victualers' Association, did not believe that the sale of the outlets to black entrepreneurs would have an adverse effect on the liqour trade in town

"We have got to compete on an equal basis," he said

R96m paid to mineworkers

(168) B. Day 11/7/85

MASERU — The total amount of deferred pay, remittance and other payments paid to Basotho mineworkers employed on South African gold mines in the first half of this year amounted to R96m, compared with R86m in the corresponding period last year.

The figures were released in Maseru yesterday by the Employment Bureau of Africa

Lesotho bureau manager Jock Germond attributed the higher deferred pay and remittance payments to the more remunerative wage structure on the mines — Sapa

More pay sent home

The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Basotho mineworkers last year sent home 18 percent more money than they did the previous year, according to figures just released.

Remittance payments last year amounted to R16 585 873 as compared with R13 975 528 in 1979 There was also an increase in deferred payments — R19 398 182 in 1980 and R17 484 058 the previous year

Many miners apparently chose to have their pay deferred until the end of their contracts so they could take it home in a lump sum.

168 STAR 23/3/81

Civil servants' pay hit by Lesotho cash crisis

Star 28/8/89 (168.)

By Keith Klewiet
The Star's Africa News Service

MASERU — Severe cash flow problems have left the Lesotho Government unable to pay civil servants salaries without drawing on emergency sources

Confirming the problem, the country's Finance Minister said he was convinced it was now coming to an end

The cash flow problem has meant that the Government has been unable to meet its salary bill for the past few months and has been forced to draw on normally untapped sources

Lesotho has a direct line of credit with the South African Reserve Bank under its membership of the Rand Monetary System

However, according to Lesotho's Finance Minister, Mr K T J Rakgetoa, the Government used other resources to fill the money gap He did not disclose what these were

Confirming that the Lesotho Government has had severe cash flow problems, leading to rumours that it was bankrupt he said the country had a massive aid programme and the way this programme operated had led to the problems He was confident however that the difficulty was coming to an end

'When an aid programme is undertaken with the approval of an aid agency we pay for the programme out of our own reserves and we are only reimbursed when we send a detailed account to the aid agency' he said

"What has happened is that the aid agencies had been slow in coming up with the money owed to us and our reserves have been so depleted we have run into troubles

He said, however, that some of the aid agency money had started flowing in — he was expecting some of it within days

Lesotho's revenue is about R126-million while the capital expenditure estimate for this year was about R135-million

Minister denies kingdom harbours terrorists

BUS DAY 15/1/86.

Lesotho rations fuel in border boycott

168

ALAN RUDDOCK

MASERU — Lesotho yesterday began rationing petrol and called for an emergency airlift from the world community as South Africa tightened its stranglehold around the land-locked country.

Information Minister Desmond Sixishe said at a Press conference yesterday — following an urgent Cabinet meeting — the boycott, which began on January 1, was "total".

"We have started rationing petrol and have grounded all government transport, so that remaining supplies may be kept for essential services.

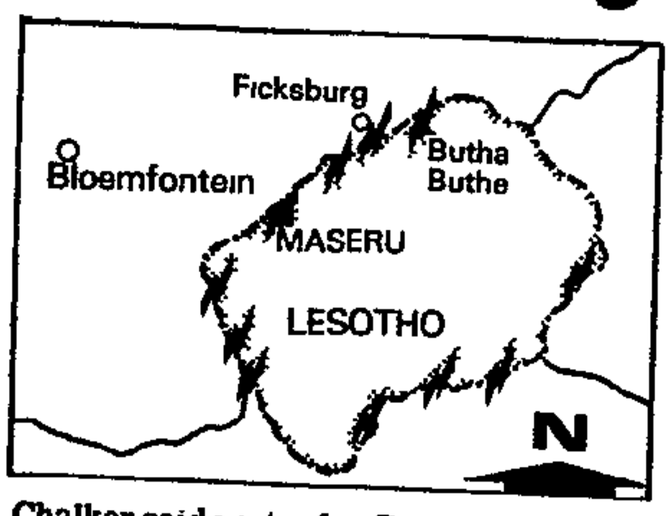
"Basic foods and medical supplies are running out and the South African post office has stopped handling any Lesotho mail.

"We are a hostage country"

Sixishe also claimed there was a threat by South Africa to cut off the electricity supply to Lesotho.

Lesotho has appealed to United States President Ronald Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to intervene in the dispute.

Making her debut in the House of Commons as Junior Foreign Office Minister responsible for South Africa, Linda



Chalker said yesterday Britain had intervened with Pretoria

"We are making known to the South African government our concern that the restriction on border traffic be lifted and that both sides should embark on a dialogue to resolve differences without delay," Chalker told the Commons.

In another development yesterday, the five Lesotho opposition leaders who held talks in Pretoria with Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha over the border dispute between the two countries were detained by Lesotho Security Police, SAPA reports.

State-controlled Radio Lesotho said in repeated broadcasts the men had "not only encouraged the South African authorities to tighten the blockade on Lesotho, but had also provided the South African government with advice on how the government of Lesotho could be brought down"

The radio said the five men had also offered themselves as the alternative government in the event of "an economic blockade that succeeded in bringing the Lesotho government down".

Sixishe said his government had tried unsuccessfully to communicate with Pretoria "We have agreed to form a joint security council to discuss our mutual security problems, but we cannot do South Africa's police work for it, we cannot stop refugees coming to Lesotho."

Rail tankers bringing petrol supplies to Lesotho have not entered the country since last weekend, part of a total embargo on oil and other essential commodities imposed by SA, Radio Lesotho reported

Botha yesterday denied allegations that South Africa was blockading Lesotho, saying border delays were caused by the need to examine vehicles thoroughly for terrorist weapons

He said he had received a telex yesterday from Lesotho agreeing to set up a

● To Page 2

Lesotho stranglehold

BUS DAY 15/1/86

(168)

committee to discuss South Africa's claims about the harbouring of terrorists and to defuse tensions between the two countries.

Botha said he was not aware of any government decision to apply an intentional oil boycott against Lesotho

"Whether anything went wrong with the channels through which oil is supplied, I cannot tell. South Africa does not believe in economic boycotts," Botha said.

Sixishe rejected Pretoria's assertion that Lesotho harboured African National Congress terrorists.

"Since our independence we have pursued a policy of not allowing Lesotho to be a base for attack on SA

● From page 1

We are fully aware of our vulnerability and of the suicidal nature of any other stance.

"They are trying to treat us like a bantustan", he said.

"I wish South Africa would pick on someone its own size," Sixishe added.

He said the boycott was a vindictive move. "The SA government says we have ANC guerrilla camps here. There are no such camps We have invited South Africa to come and show us the so-called camps, but they haven't come".

Army seeks to crush rebellious youth wing

16/1/86 BUS DAY

Lesotho emergency amid coup rumours

168

ALAN RUDDOCK and PETER HONEY

MASERU — Combat troops swarmed through Lesotho's capital yesterday as the kingdom's Cabinet met in emergency session over the country's state of crisis.

Amid persistent rumours, Information Minister Desmond Sixishe "categorically denied" any coup attempt, but this failed to douse speculation, especially when he described troop action as a "routine military excercise"

Business Day learnt from reliable Maseru sources that the military action, apparently led by Para-Military Force Commander General Lekhanya, was to press home an army demand for the sacking of an unidentified cabinet minister and the disbandment of the ruling Basotho National Party's youth league

The offices of the BNP youth wing were reportedly raided in yesterday's action and all weapons were removed.

Political sources said there was a serious split between the BNP youth wing and the ruling clique

The youth wing, some of whose members are said to have been armed and trained by North Korea, has for weeks been making public statements accusing army members of disloyalty to Lesotho Prime Minister, Chief Leabua Jonathan

The army chose yesterday to strike back — at a time when Jonathan needed it most — with Lesotho choking in the grip of SA's 16-day constriction of food, fuel and medical supplies to it

Sources close to the military said several youth leaders were detained in yesterday's army crackdown

Jonathan is now clearly under immense pressure to submit to the military will to discipline the youth wing or face a revolt in the one organisation vital to sustaining his regime, which has lingered for several years without an election

By late yesterday afternoon the troops surrounding his the Prime Minister's offices had returned to their barracks, and only a few guards remained on duty.

Attempting to stifle coup rumours, Sixishe first said the morning's activity was a 'routine military security exercise", and then said there had been a bomb scare at Jonathan's offices and that people were frightened because they feared another attack by the SA Defence Force.

Maseru was in a state of confusion yesterday

It took nine hours for a load of animal feed to pass through the Maseru border post but, amid petrol rationing and the strong possibility of further rationing of essentail foodstuffs, it was revealed that substantial amounts of aid had been pledged by Eastern Bloc countries.

No positive response to Lesotho's plea for airlifted aid has yet been received from the Reagan administration. Sources close to the United States embassy in Maseru say the situation is considered "extremely serious".

The British government was closely monitoring Lesotho developments last night, but was not contemplating any action, a Foreign Office spokesman said.

Any change in the Lesotho government would be a swing to the West, say government sources

Lesotho's closest allies are said to be the Soviet Union, North Korea and China

☐ Sixishe said it was "obvious from comments made by South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha on Tuesday that SA wanted Lesotho to hand over political refugees "This we cannot do," he said

Bottleneck squeezes Lesotho into talks

BUS DAY 17/1/86 (168)

PETER HONEY

AS LESOTHO and SA prepared for joint security talks in Pretoria, either today or on Monday, speculation mounted in the face of official denials from Maseru that Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's 20-year tenure of power was sliding into the hands of the military

SA's border bottleneck of crossing to Lesotho completed its 16th day yesterday with reports that the the tiny mountain kingdom was in dire economic straits

Pretoria imposed a go-slow on supplies of fresh food, fuel and medical supplies on New Year's Day, to drive home its demands for Lesotho to crack down on ANC insurgents it said had been operating from that territory

Lesotho Information Minister Desmond Sixishe ordered the expulsion of an SABC TV crew after *Netwerk* presenter Colie van Coller asked him about an alleged ANC training centre in Maseru, the SABC said yesterday

Meanwhile, Botswana disclosed it had arrested 18 illegal immigrants in and around Gaborone since last week Although there was no official confirmation, most of these were believed to be members of the ANC

One man — 45-year-old South African Nelson Selepe — had already appeared in court charged with illegal possession of Kalashnikov assault rifles and ammunition

Lesotho Premier Jonathan had made no public statements by late yesterday and was said to be in his office

His Press secretary Tsoeu Ntsane told *Business Day* yesterday there was no truth in reports that the an extraordinary cabinet meeting on Wednesday had decided to transfer the Prime Minister's functions to King Moshesh 2 and that Jonathan had been placed under virtual house arrest

"Everything is very calm It's business as usual," he quipped

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said yesterday that senior officials of his department, the Defence Force, police and Home Affairs department were to meet Lesotho government officials on SA's proposal that a special sub-committee on security should be set up as part of the existing bilateral liaison committee

"In view of the urgency of the matter it is suggested that a meeting be held as soon as possible, either tomorrow or Monday at Union Buildings in Pretoria," he said.

● See Page 2

Good chance of holding fuel price

BUS DAY 14/1/86 (244)

Business Day Reporter

PROSPECTS improved yesterday for a cut in the fuel price as the rand rose to $0,4325/35

But a Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs spokesman said Third Party insurance could become part of a levy on fuel this year

He added that Mineral and Energy Minister Danie Steyn had said in November — when the petrol price had been increased by 6c/l — that if the rand improved to $0,42, a price increase could be avoided

"All the increases in the past year were a result mainly of the deteriorating exchange rate Should it improve dramatically, say to $0,45 and above, the increases could be reversed," he said

Dougie de Beer, ...
the Decentralisation ...

Relationships: the ANC factor

(168) STAR 23/1/86

By John D'Oliveira, Editor of The Star's Africa News Service

The military coup in Lesotho has heavily underlined the degree to which the African National Congress dominates regional relationships in Southern Africa

Ever since uhuru spread to the subcontinent, South Africa's relations with its neighbours have been tempered by their attitude to the ANC (although in Angola's case, more by their attitude to Swapo)

In Mozambique, South Africa assisted the rebel Mozambique National Resistance movement in a successful attempt to force the Samora Machel Government into the Nkomati mutual non-aggression pact

While South Africa agreed to cease all help to the MNR, Mozambique agreed to expel ANC activists and to prevent the ANC from ever again using Mozambique as a springboard for attacks on South Africa

Following a series of accusations from Mozambique that South Africa was continuing its aid to the MNR (including the broadside from President Samora Machel at the weekend), the vaunted Nkomati Accord appears to exist in name only — and there are mutterings in Pretoria about a continued ANC presence in Maputo

Had it not been for the prospect that the MPLA would help Swapo, South Africa would have been less eager to help Dr Jonas Savimbi's bid for power in Angola in 1975 And had the MPLA Government in Luanda not given massive facilities to Swapo, Dr Savimbi would have been much leaner militarily than he now is

It is also possible that the Namibian issue may have been settled

The Lusaka Agreement of 1984 laid down that Angola would keep Swapo out of a specified area in Southern Angola while the South Africans agreed to pull their troops out of the same area

Ironically, despite all the propaganda from Angola, the Lusaka Agreement is more adhered to than breached

South Africa has few problems with Swaziland, which does everything within its limited powers (as much for its own political purposes as for South Africa's) to keep ANC activists from using facilities in the country

Crossed border

Botswana has claimed repeatedly that it does not allow the ANC to use its territory to plan or launch attacks on South Africa, but the South African Defence Force, nevertheless, crossed the border on June 14 last year for a raid on Gaborone in which 2 people were killed and six were injured

Tension between the two countries has flared over the last few weeks following the landmine explosions in the Northern Transvaal and Mr P[illegible] Botha's warning that South Africa would exercise its right to take whatever action it deemed necessary to protect its citizens' lives and property

The less than warm relationship with Zimbabwe also cooled dramatically over the same issue

While both Botswana and Zimbabwe denied that they had encouraged the ANC or allowed the ANC to cross their territory to lay the mines in the Northern Transvaal, the South African Government remains suspicious — and, with every landmine explosion, it comes under increasing pressure to strike back

The real problem, however, developed in Lesotho where Chief Leabua Jonathan's Government allegedly looked the other way while the ANC effectively transferred its main operations base against South Africa from Maputo to Maseru

In December 1982 South Africa had sent its Defence Force into Maseru to clean out what South Africa believed to be an ANC stronghold A total of 43 people were killed and a number injured

Towards the end of 1985 South Africa was ready to act again

When the Jonathan Government failed to "address South African concerns" over the ANC presence in the country South Africa intensified its security measures on the common border — and reduced the flow of goods into and out of Lesotho to a trickle

And this triggered the military coup

There have been reports over the past few days that ANC members have been leaving Lesotho for Zambia and Tanzania (many travelling via Maputo) and there are firm indications that the new government in Lesotho will do what it can to satisfy South African demands

Whatever it does, it knows that its relationship with its powerful neighbour will be determined by its own relationship with the ANC

Where does this leave the region?

Assess tactics

About the only certain fact is that if the Lesotho coup proves to be a setback, the ANC will regroup, reassess its tactics and then seek to intensify the "war" against the South African Government and its supporters

As a formality, the ANC claims that its attacks come from within South Africa

The South African Government says it assesses the situation differently and it has made clear that it will act against any country it believes offers an operations base to the ANC — or is less than vigilant about the ANC's use of its territory and its facilities

So, any increase in ANC activity in South Africa will almost certainly lead to increased tension between South Africa and its neighbours — and the ANC knows this well

23/1/86 STAR

ANC worried about refugees in Lesotho

LUSAKA — The African National Congress is extremely worried about the fate of South African refugees in Lesotho, according to diplomats

The sources said about 700 anti-apartheid refugees were in Lesotho when the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan was overthrown on Monday.

Chief Jonathan denied South African claims that he allowed ANC guerillas to operate from Lesotho, but said he offered sanctuary to those he considered refugees

The ANC has made no public comment on the Lesotho coup

Diplomats in Lusaka also believe that the numbers killed in Lesotho in the run-up to the coup were substantially greater than has been acknowledged in Maseru.

Shortly before the coup Jonathan's government said five people had died, four of them paramilitary mutineers.

The secretary-general of Zambia's ruling United National Independence Party, Mr Grey Zulu, said the fall of Chief Jonathan was a clear sign of the destablisation of independent states in the region by the South African Government — Sapa-Reuter

Warning to Basotho miners

21/7/86 SOWETAN

MASERU — Basotho mineworkers in South Africa have been warned by the head of the military government, Major General Metsing Lekhanya, not to get involved in South African politics through membership of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The general also announced that a Lesotho ministerial delegation will visit South Africa this week for talks on improvements in the working conditions of Basotho migrant workers, especially those in the gold mines

168

He did not say with whom the talks would be held but it is believed they will include representatives of the South African Government and the Chamber of Mines

Speaking at a rally at Sehonghong over the weekend, General Lekhanya said Basotho who joined the NUM must be careful not to endanger their employment.

Remitted earnings of the 150 000 Basotho migrant workers in South Africa form nearly half of Lesotho's gross national product. About 100 000 of the migrants work on the gold mines, where the NUM has become increasingly active and influential. — *Sowetan Foreign Service*

Minister warns foreign workers

BLOEMFONTEIN — The estimated 1,3 million workers from neighbouring states who are in the country illegally are depriving unemployed South Africans of a livelihood and strong action against them and their employers can be expected, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Pietie du Plessis, said yesterday

"Irresponsible" behaviour by the 300 000 foreign workers legally in the country, such as participation in illegal actions, "will result in their repatriation and a reduction in their numbers", Mr Du Plessis said at a lunch for a visiting labour delegation from Lesotho

The minister tempered his warning with an offer to Lesotho, and other neighbouring states, to share South Africa's technical know-how and experience in the training of workers in the private and public sectors

One of the problems all faced was unemployment In South Africa this was growing as a result of the prolonged recession, growing threats of disinvestment and sanctions which created uncertainty, a high population growth rate and illegal immigration

Statistics showed that at the end of March this year, there were 703 000 unemployed people in South Africa, excluding Transkei, Bophutatswana, Venda and Ciskei. Unofficial estimates for the region as a whole indicated a much higher figure.

Mr Du Plessis said· "Despite the high rate of unemployment, large numbers of workers from neighbouring countries are legally and illegally in South Africa"

Of the 300 000 legal workers 140 000 were from Lesotho.

"An estimated 1,3 million workers from neighbouring countries are illegally in South Africa and holding jobs, thereby depriving unemployed South African workers of a livelihood

"All of these enjoy the same protection and rights, including access to training as South African workers," Mr Du Plessis said

South Africa was willing to co-operate with its neighbours in finding solutions to common problems and to share when it came to training and development of human resources

'Obligation'

But when it came to employment of foreigners in South Africa, it should be appreciated that the government had an obligation towards it own citizens, "and that it cannot allow illegal entrants from neighbouring states to seek and take up employment.

"This is not in the interest of the South African worker nor in the interest of our neighbours, nor in the interest of the dependants of such workers, who have to stay behind

"Such illegal workers and their employers must expect strong action to be taken against them," Mr Du Plessis said

When it came to legal foreign workers "it should be appreciated that South African workers must receive preference in filling vacancies"

'Skills'

"The number of foreign workers employed in the Republic will therefore depend on the unemployment situation in South Africa, the availability of South African workers, the skills of such foreign workes and their compliance with South African laws

"Economic sanctions applied against South Africa will inevitably seriously jeopardize available job opportunities in the country for foreign workers and result in unnecessary and untold hardship," Mr Du Plessis said — Sapa

LESOTHO LABOUR

1995

Lesotho teachers in stayaway over pay

(168)

■ BY JOE MOLEFI
STAR FOREIGN SERVICE

Maseru — Thousands of Lesotho schoolteachers stayed away from classrooms yesterday in protest against low salaries

Finance Minister Moeketsi Senaoana had announced in the National Assembly a 15% pay increase for all public servants — including schoolteachers

The three main teacher organisations in the country led demonstrations and toyi-toying by a large crowd of schoolteachers as they marched on the offices of the ministries of education and finance

The angry teachers presented a petition to the authorities, stating their complaint that after their salaries had been increased by 80% for the months of February and March, the government had suddenly decided to revert to old pay scales

In the petition, the teachers appealed to the minister of education to present their grievances to Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle, asking him to review the matter.

The teachers' stayaway is scheduled to last until Monday.

The teachers had turned down the offer of a 15% salary increase at a meeting held between their representatives and the government at the weekend

Star 9/5/95

Lesotho teachers stay away

ARG 10/5/95 (168)

The Argus Foreign Service

MASERU — As thousands of teachers throughout Lesotho stayed away from classrooms to protest against a salary crisis, Finance Minister Moeketsi Senaoana announced in the National Assembly that all public servants and schoolteachers would get a 15 percent pay increase.

The three leading teacher organisations led demonstrations and toyi-toying by a large crowd of teachers as they marched to the offices of the ministries of education and of finance

The teachers presented a petition to the authorities setting out complaints that after their salaries had been increased during February and March, the government had now decided to revert to the old scales

In the petitions the teachers appealed to the minister of education to present their grievances to Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle who was asked to review the matter.

The teachers stayaway is scheduled to last until Monday.

They turned down the offer of a 15 percent pay rise at a meeting between their representatives and the government last weekend

NEWS INTERNATIONAL

Lesotho forces to get pay rise

(168)

Sowetan 7/6/95

MASERU — Lesotho Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle has agreed to grant police the 15 percent pay rise they demanded during a go-slow strike in the last two weeks

The government announced yesterday it had decided to grant the salary increase to all members of the armed forces — the police, army, National Security Service and prison officers — with effect from April 1 this year

The police had demanded a 15 percent increase to bring them in line with the rest of the civil service, granted in April

Mokhehle's announcement said "The decision took into account the unsatisfactory financial situation in the country but the government nevertheless gave top priority to the protection of the people and maintenance of peace and stability."

His statement added that the government carried out negotiations with representatives of the police over the salary dispute which not only affected the police alone but they also saw fit to "harass the public in a most humiliating manner" Police erecting roadblocks at all entry points in Maseru on Monday where they searched vehicles and passengers and delayed their travel to work As a result, large numbers of people arrived late at work and at schools.

The government expressed its appreciation to the public for "disregarding this provocation" and appealed to the people not to take the law into their own hands in future

Meanwhile, opposition parties in Lesotho have called on the presidents of Botswana, South Africa and Zimbabwe to persuade Mokhehle's government to resign and seek a fresh mandate to rule Lesotho They said elections they proposed should be held under the supervision of an independent electoral commission. — *Argus Africa Service*

Lesotho police pay increase

(168)

Argus Foreign Servce

MASERU — Lesotho Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle has agreed to grant the police the 15 percent pay rise they have demanded during a work go-slow over the past two weeks

The increase will be granted to the police, army, national security service and prison officers ARG 7/6/95

Taxi protest as SA, Lesotho sign treaty

CAPE TOWN — As SA and Lesotho signed an extradition treaty yesterday to improve mutual co-operation in combating organised cross-border crime, minibus taxis held up peak hour traffic in Maseru in a large demonstration against the signing of the treaty.

More than 200 taxis drove three abreast along Maseru's main street, blocking traffic and delaying commuters on their way to work.

A taxi owners' spokesman said they staged the protest because the people of Lesotho had not been consulted on the treaty.

Minister of Justice Dullah Omar and Lesotho Justice Minister Kelebone Maope signed the agreement at a ceremony in Cape Town.

Omar said the agreement enabled the two neighbouring states to fight organised economic crime such as drug trafficking, money laundering and corruption.

"No country in southern Africa can stamp out illegal cross-border activities on its own. It is possible to break the back of these crimes if there is closer co-operation between countries in the region," Omar said.

Lesotho had resisted signing an extradition treaty with SA for decades because of fear that the agreement would be "one-sided".

"This agreement provides the legal foundation for us to deny sanctuary to fugitives in each other's territories. I hope (it) will help combat crime, which has reached serious proportions on both sides of the border," he said.

Such illegal activities included motor vehicle theft — which appeared to be operated by organised syndicates — as well as drug smuggling and cattle theft.

Referring to a taxi drivers' demonstration against the extradition treaty in Maseru yesterday, Maope said the decision to sign had been approved by Lesotho's parliament after wide media debate. — Sapa.

Teachers in Lesotho strike

Maseru — Teachers in Lesotho yesterday went on strike over demands for an 80% pay rise they were promised at the beginning of the year.

They were told in April that the increase "was a mistake".

Also, about 200 striking lecturers have forced the National University of Lesotho to close until further notice — Sapa.

(168) Star 16/8/95

(168)

Pay freeze

Star 9/10/95

Maseru – Striking teachers in Lesotho have had their September salaries stopped by the government as the strike threatened to paralyse the education system

The teachers began striking on August 15 to demand the reinstatement of an 80% increase introduced in February 1995, but revoked in April – Star Foreign Service

LESOTHO - LABOUR

1998 - 1999

Sactwu is asked to mediate in Lesotho

(168)

SHIRLEY JONES

KWAZULU NATAL EDITOR

CT (MR) 18/2/98

Durban — The South African Clothing and Textile Workers Union (Sactwu) would become involved in the labour dispute which had paralysed the Maseru garment, leather and textile sector, Jabu Ngcobo, Sactwu's general secretary, said yesterday

He said Sactwu had been asked by the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation to mediate in the dispute at CGM, a clothing manufacturer, which had culminated in gunning down eight workers last week. A 19-year-old woman died and seven employees were hospitalised with serious bullet wounds.

He said Sactwu would suggest setting up a meeting in Bloemfontein. If this did not resolve the Lesotho Clothing and Allied Workers Union's (Lecawu) problems, Sactwu would consider pressurising CGM's management via strike action at related companies in South Africa, especially those also owned by Taiwanese nationals.

Ngcobo said Lesotho workers had downed tools late last week to protest against management's decision to lock the factory gates and not allow workers to leave at lunch time, and the practice of docking at least R30 off wages for late arrivals and at least R100 off wages if workers refused to work overtime on Saturdays and Sundays.

He said further deductions were made if workers failed to reach daily targets and escalated to one- or two-month-long suspensions without pay for so-called transgressions "Bear in mind that there's a minimum wage of R90 per week in Lesotho for a machinist, against the South African minimum of R347 per week," he said

CGM's refusal to recognise Lecawu was also on the employees' list of grievances This refusal prevented the union from addressing the problems of the 2 500 workers it had recruited out of the staff total of 3 000

Ngcobo said CGM had fired its entire workforce on Thursday The workers then staged a sit-in at the factory gates

Sactwu intervenes in Maseru dispute

CT (BR) 19/2/98 (168)

Shirley Jones
KwaZulu Natal Editor

Durban — The South African Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (Sactwu) had become involved in the labour dispute which had brought the Maseru garment, leather and textile sector to a standstill this week, Jabu Ngcobo, Sactwu's general secretary, said yesterday

He said Sactwu had been asked by the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation to intervene in the dispute at CGM, the clothing manufacturer, which had culminated in the gunning down of eight workers last week He said a 19-year-old woman had died and seven employees had been hospitalised with serious bullet wounds

Despite Tuesday's meeting between factory owners, labour and the Lesotho government — at which an agreement was reached for employees to return to work — four out of 12 factories remained locked yesterday

The Lesotho Clothing and Allied Workers' Union (Lecawu), which agreed to submit proof of membership in the area and a draft proposal for recognition, said manufacturers still feared further violence

Ngcobo said Sactwu, which had supported Lecawu since the '80s in its bid for recognition, would keep an eye on developments If Lecawu continued to battle for recognition it would step up pressure on CGM and other factories through action at related companies in South Africa

Lecawu had recruited 2 500 workers out of a total of 3 000 at CGM, he said

According to Ngcobo, CGM's workers downed tools late last week to protest against management's locking the factory gates and not allowing workers to leave at lunch time, and against the practice of docking at least R30 off wages for late arrivals and at least R100 off wages if workers refused to work overtime on Saturdays and Sundays

He said further deductions were made if workers failed to reach daily targets, escalating to one- or two-month-long suspensions without pay for so-called transgressions "Bear in mind that there's a minimum wage of R90 a week in Lesotho for a machinist against the South African minimum of R347 a week," he said

Ngcobo said CGM had fired its entire workforce last Thursday The workers then staged a sit-in at the factory gates to ensure nothing could move into or out of the factor, culminating in the police being brought in to "free" the management The workers took this move as provocation and started throwing stones The police then opened fire

Embattled doctors turn to nursing

(168) Star 5/12/96

By Joe Molefi
Star Foreign Service

Maseru – The 30 doctors at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital here stepped into the breach and doubled up as nurses as the nurses' strike entered its fourth week yesterday.

Their task was made all the more difficult because the hospital is understaffed by 170 doctors.

One doctor said yesterday: "Until now, we have only known the theory of nursing, but are now putting it into practice to avert a crisis."

The Maseru hospital is the largest in the country and handles numerous cases from many smaller outlying hospitals It is regarded as the country's main referral hospital

Hospitals in the outlying districts have been hard hit by the strike, and the maternity ward of the Teyateyaneng hospital in the Berea district of northern Lesotho has been closed

An undisclosed number of nurses have been suspended at several hospitals in the country because they have not heeded a call by Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle to end the strike while negotiations over their grievances and demands for higher salaries continue

Mokhehle has urged management and staff of the Ministry of Health to meet and find a solution to the problem, which threatens to cripple hospital services.

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**Star will keep a daily count
l serious, violent crimes
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not listed here, please call
(011) 633-2410/1.**

Lesotho PM's plea ends nurses' strike

(168)

By Joe Molefi
Star Foreign Service

Star 6/12/96

Maseru – A four-week strike by nearly 1 000 nurses at government hospitals throughout Lesotho ended yesterday in response to an appeal by prime minister Ntsu Mokhehle

The Lesotho Nursing Association said Mokhehle had asked nurses to return to work while the administrators of the ministry of health and nurses' representatives sought "a negotiated settlement"

The association said the nurses had taken into consideration that some of their grievances may not be met at once due to Lesotho's economic situation

It said that, although nurses have resumed their normal duties, grievances which led to the strike have not yet been resolved

Nurses' demands include better pay and working conditions, and shorter working hours

The strike was so serious that at the main hospital in Maseru its 30 doctors did nursing work with the help of inexperienced staff

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reamline Mpumalanga government

'Management has the right to choose workers'

Lesotho strike leaders lose their jobs

(168) CT (BR) 15/10/96

JAMES LAMONT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Johannesburg — The workers' committee which brought out 2 300 local workers on an illegal strike on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project in early September will not be returning to work as operations resume on the water transfer scheme this week

David Darcy, the contractors' project director, said at the weekend that those behind the strike on the project would not be re employed by its management. "It is management's right to choose whom it wants to employ," he said

The workers' committee had campaigned against wage disparities between local and expatriate workers The September strike was sparked by the arrest of four men for the theft of cement and fears of harassment by police

Management has insisted that the project workforce is the best paid in Lesotho with a minimum hourly wage of R3,80 But strike leaders claimed unskilled workers were paid R2,50 an hour until last August

The strike, which halted operations at the tunnel and hydro-electricity components of the $4 billion project, resulted in the sacking of the local workforce of 2 300 and a clash with police in Butha Buthe during which six people died

Darcy said three illegal strikes since May had lost 46 working days on the project, had cost about R20 million and tarnished Lesotho's chances of attracting new investment He said the futile strike had contributed to the "economic suicide" of the impoverished country

At the beginning of October, the contractors, including South Africa's LTA and four European companies, signed an agreement with the Construction and Allied Workers' Union of Lesotho (Cawule) to rehire 1 700 of the sacked workers under new contracts The agreement made provision for the union, whose presence on the project disintegrated last year, to be reintroduced as the representative body on the project The contractors have agreed to pay for the training of shop stewards at the six sites

> ***About 600 workers will collect their severance packages***

The 40 members of the workers' committee and its subcommittees, who insisted they were democratically elected, would find themselves among the 600 workers who will collect their severance pay, but would not be rehired, a strike leader said on Sunday

Joseph Peete, a committee member who spoke to Business Report shortly after the clash with police, was said by fellow workers to have been told that his job as a team leader was no longer available

The remnants of the committee remain at the catholic mission at Butha Buthe, where about 200 workers are taking refuge They still fear a witch-hunt by the police

"We feel very disappointed about this situation We have been leading the people, but as committee members we feel like thrown-away people It seems we are alone Cawule is not loyal to the workforce," one strike leader

"The company seems to select who it wants to hire We have been told the company does not need us We think it's illegal," he said

As workers drifted back to the project sites at the weekend, the committee vowed it would not die "We are not going to let it disperse into thin air We will see what we can do for our future and the future of workers," one member said

But she said future strike action on the project was unlikely

Lesotho pressed to end standoff with strikers

(168) Star 19/9/96

Maseru – Pressure mounted yesterday for the Lesotho government to end a standoff with strikers that has already claimed five lives

Some 600 of the 2 000 workers who went on strike in May have taken refuge at a Catholic church in Butha-Buthe, 100km north-east of Maseru

The strikers had lived in a camp run by Lesotho Highlands Project Contractors and Muela Hydropower Contractors

All 2 000 workers have been sacked Five were allegedly shot and killed by Lesotho police on Sunday and 13 were injured.

The Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (LCN) demanded yesterday that the government stop the police "killing, assaulting and hunting down workers" employed on the Lesotho Highlands project

In its petition to Prime Minister Ntsu Mokhehle, the LCN asked the government to inform the next of kin about the deaths, account for all the dead and release the bodies to the next of kin

The group accused the police of removing corpses from mortuaries and denying proper medical attention to the injured

The government has been urged to set up a commission of inquiry to investigate the killings and to provide basic relief to workers who have sought refuge at the church – Sapa-DPA.

Union insists on being reinstated at water project

New move to end Lesotho strike

(168) CT (BR) 20/9/96

By James Lamont
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Johannesburg — The Construction and Allied Workers' Union of Lesotho has insisted that it reestablishes its presence at the Lesotho Highlands Water Project if work is to resume on the key water-transfer tunnel and hydroelectricity components of the scheme

Union representation at six sites on the $4 billion water-transfer project run by five European and South African contractors disintegrated in April last year But the severe deterioration of labour relations at the South African-funded project since May has both the union and the employers calling for the return of organised labour representation

Work ground to a halt on the project two weeks ago after workers went on the third illegal strike The strike precipitated the sacking of 2 300 workers, half of the project's workforce, and a clash with the police in Butha Buthe last weekend which left up to 10 people dead

"We are prepared to get in between workers and management to try to obtain normality," said Maxwell Makahasane, the union's regional organiser "The workers should be reinstated and we will start from there It has become apparent to everyone that a workforce on the project cannot work with management without the representation of an official union"

HOLED UP *Joseph Peete, a workers' spokesman, says sacked workers won't leave or return to work unless they are paid* PHOTO JOHN WOODROOF

The 4 000-strong union yesterday appealed to the government that the dismissal of workers should be revoked

A non-governmental organisation and trade union committee also threatened to call a national strike if concerns over worker safety and an investigation into the clash at the weekend were not undertaken The number of dead is still unknown

The union was replaced last year by a workers' representative committee, which has complained of a wage gap between local and expatriate workers, racist practices by their employers and, lately, police harassment

Mpho Mofolo, the workers' attorney, said management had deliberately undermined union representation "Management made it impossible for us to represent workers The company said we did not have a majority membership, but that was not the case," Makahasane agreed

But David Darcy, the contractors' project manager, said he would welcome the mediation of a "strong responsible union" because labour relations had become unmanageable He said management did not know what worker demands were, even though the two had been involved in a mediation process up to the strike

He said the contractors would rehire from among the dismissed workers to rebuild a scaled-down workforce of between 1 700 and 1 800 people after a cooling-off period

But Joseph Peete, a member of the workers' representative committee holed up at the Catholic church in Butha Buthe, said the sacked workers would not leave the town or return to work until they were paid properly in terms of their dismissal

After 'massacre' reports, new crisis looms for Lesotho project

(167)

There are fears that the Lesotho Highlands Water Project which is to supply water to Gauteng is in danger of being delayed if not suspended indefinitely

Tensions are mounting in the Lesotho mountains around Butha-Buthe after five men working on the project were killed and 13 wounded when police opened fire on them on Saturday while they were on strike

There are conflicting reports about the number killed, some claiming that bodies are still being recovered from rivers and dams since the clash between striking workers and police

Eyewitnesses claim some strikers fell into the river while trying to escape the shooting

The project is designed to draw water from the mountain kingdom to Gauteng by 1998 Its other crisis arises from Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal recalling his permanent delegate to the project after Hans Pettenburger made "unwarranted" statements about Phase 2.

Asmal is reported to be "angry", but no details of that likely crisis are available so far Concerning the strike, Asmal says he has written to Lesotho's minister of natural resources offering help and it was now up to the minister to respond

He said the violent incidents would not deter the resolve of the two countries to complete phase 1 of the project on schedule

The department's spokesman for international projects, George van der Merwe, said reports of a massacre were "devoid of truth"

Last Saturday's shooting at Butha-Buthe, 160km from Maseru, followed the dismissal of 2 000 workers of the Muela Hydropower Contractors and the Lesotho Highlands Project Contractors who had been on strike at intervals since May The workers claim they had gathered at the work site to collect their last payment when police opened fire

Major Molefi Kholokholo, commander of the Butha-Buthe police, said, however, the police were attacked by the dismissed workers after receiving a court order to "remove" the workers if they failed to vacate the premises

About 600 workers were still holed up at a Catholic mission in Butha-Buthe last night, saying they were too scared to go back home for fear of police reprisals

"The workers have been here since Saturday," said Father Constantine, head of the mission – Staff Reporters and Sapa

Star 20/9/96

After 'massacre' reports, new crisis looms for Lesotho project

There are fears that the Lesotho Highlands Water Project which is to supply water to Gauteng is in danger of being delayed if not suspended indefinitely

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There are conflicting reports about the number killed, some claiming that bodies are still being recovered from rivers and dams since the clash between striking workers and police

Eyewitnesses claim some strikers fell into the river while trying to escape the shooting

The project is designed to draw water from the mountain kingdom to Gauteng by 1998. Its other crisis arises from Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal recalling his permanent delegate to the project after Hans Pettenburger made "unwarranted" statements about Phase 2

Asmal is reported to be "angry", but no details of that likely crisis are available so far

Concerning the strike, Asmal says he has written to Lesotho's minister of natural resources offering help and it was now up to the minister to respond

He said the violent incidents would not deter the resolve of the two countries to complete phase 1 of the project on schedule

The department's spokesman for international projects, George van der Merwe, said reports of a massacre were "devoid of truth".

Last Saturday's shooting at Butha-Buthe, 160km from Maseru, followed the dismissal of 2 000 workers of the Mueda Hydro-Power Contractors and the Lesotho Highlands Project Contractors who had been on strike at intervals since May. The workers claim they had gathered at the work site to collect their last payment when police opened fire

Major Molefi Kholokholo, commander of the Butha-Buthe police, said, however, the police were attacked by the dismissed workers after receiving a court order to "remove" the workers if they failed to vacate the premises

About 600 workers were still holed up at a Catholic mission in Butha-Buthe last night, saying they were too scared to go back home for fear of police reprisals

"The workers have been here since Saturday," said Father Constantine, head of the mission

Staff Reporters and Sapa

Star 20/9/96

Lesotho remains tense in wake of killings

Star 21/9/96 (168)

Maseru – Lesotho remained tense yesterday following the discovery of the bodies of two more strikers from Muela Hydropower Contractors and Lesotho Highlands Project Contractors, killed by police in the Butha-Buthe area a week ago

The official death toll now stands at five, with 13 injured Workers' committee member Halibone Peete said the committee believed 10 strikers had been killed

The two bodies found on Thursday were discovered in a dam near the campsite where police opened fire

The Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations on Wednesday accused police of removing corpses from mortuaries It was alleged that the bodies were dumped in the dam, 160km from Maseru

Earlier this week the Construction and Allied Workers' Union demanded that police be brought to justice It said workers had a right to strike, and that the illegality of any strike could not justify killings or assault

The contractors fired 2 000 employees after a strike last week The strikers were demanding non-discriminatory working conditions and benefits

The shootings occurred as the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority was preparing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the signing of a treaty between Lesotho and South Africa on the sale of water to South Africa – Sapa-DPA

Students protest in Lesotho

(168)

Star 25/9/96

Maseru – More than 1 000 students of the National University of Lesotho toyi-toyied along Maseru's streets yesterday to protest against the killing of five workers of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project in Butha-Buthe 10 days ago.

A delegation led by student union president Pitso Pitso handed a petition against the killings to the offices of the prime minister, the Speaker of the National Assembly and the ministers of home affairs and natural resources

The petition urged the government to ensure that those responsible for the deaths be brought before the courts

The students also demanded in the petition that all the families of those killed and wounded should be adequately compensated – Sapa

International communication cut as Lesotho workers strike

Star 26/7/96 (168)

Maseru — Lesotho was cut off from the outside world yesterday because of a national strike by state telecommunication workers

Members of the Lesotho Telecommunications Union, which has been locked in a dispute with the government since 1994 over allegations of corruption and unfair dismissals, went on strike on Wednesday

The domestic telephone network is still operating, but all international lines to Lesotho were cut early yesterday

Talks between the government and the union degenerated into a slanging match yesterday, with the union saying it was not satisfied with the government's proposals to resolve the issue – AFP.

Strike isolates Lesotho

(168) ARG 27/7/96

MASERU. – Lesotho has again been cut off from the rest of the world as a strike by hundreds of Lesotho Telecommunications Corporation (LTC) workers ended its first week.

A spokesman for the strikers said they would continue to push for their main demand of an improvement in the management of the corporation.

The entire Basotho nation was unable to communicate with the outside world because all telecommunication facilities and services are provided by the LTC.

The cellular phone company Vodacom was also unable to operate as its exchange is on premises owned by LTC.

Employees said the management had failed to comply with a pledge to offer workers and the public a 20 percent shareholding in a joint venture between the LTC and Vodacom.

Transport and Communications Minister Mamoshebi Kabi failed to reach a compromise with workers over their long list of demands. – Sapa.

Fewer Basotho head for mines

(~~167~~) (168) ( ) ( )

Maseru — The number of Basotho mineworkers recruited to South Africa's gold mines during the first quarter of this year has dropped by more than 1 000, compared with the figure for the same period last year

Statistics from the Employment Bureau of Africa showed that 23 507 Basotho mineworkers were sent to the gold mines from January to March this year compared with 24 617 in the same period last year

Graham Gregory, the bureau's general manager in Maseru, said the retrenchment of Basotho mineworkers and declining recruitment had had an adverse effect on the Lesotho economy since the economy was dependent on the money miners sent home to their relatives — Independent Foreign Service

CT(BR) 22/4/96

Leaner, meaner Telkom aims to cut 10 000 jobs

Unions vow to fight telecom giant's downsizing plan

(168)

ARG 7/7/99

COEN VAN KRANENBURG AND SAPA

Telkom is planning a three-step operation to reduce staff numbers by about 10 000 and leave the company leaner and meaner, better able to compete with future competitors

But the unions have objected

Dick Heyns, who heads the Telkom division of the Mine Workers' Union, said "What I cannot understand is that President Thabo Mbeki has promised to create a million jobs, while Telkom, which is 70% government-owned, wants to retrench staff"

But Telkom has denied that it planned, at this stage, to retrench anyone Instead its three-part plan includes voluntary early retirement, getting rid of non-core activities, and helping employees to set up in small businesses of their own

The company has 61 000 employees

Spokeswoman Amanda Singleton said the first step was to offer early retirement to staff, and already 2 100 applications had been approved

The second step was to outsource non-core business activities

"At this stage we are focusing on fleet management, workshops and non-infrastructure properties"

This move is expected to reduce staff by another 2 600

Telkom was also investigating the option of outsourcing other activities, to release further workers

The third stage would be to help people willing to go to set up small businesses

Ms Singleton said "Only as a last resort will we deal with the issue of retrenchments We would obviously put in place plans to assist affected employees and would actively strive to minimise the impact"

Mr Heyns said his union had met Telkom management in Randburg last week to discuss Telkom's poor financial results and labour matters

At the meeting Telkom chief executive Officer Sizwe Nxazana announced the three-step plan to improve the company's financial results

Telkom had refused to reveal its business plan to the unions and this was a transgression of the Labour Relations Act, he said

"We are going to prevent Telkom from executing this plan We want to know whose jobs are going to be affected"

Mr Heyns said he understood Telkom expected the three-part lay-off plan to be completed by April next year