

FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

newsletter



Issue Number One

Summer, 1987

HOSPITALITY PROGRAM PROVES POPULAR, OVER 60 MEMBERS OFFER TO BE GREETERS

The first Friends of Lesotho program underway in 1987 is a network of over 60 "friends" across the country willing to serve as greeters or hosts to new Basotho residents in the U.S. and travellers to their area. The hospitality program ranges from having a brief meeting over a cup of coffee at the local bus station to a weekend of touring the regional attractions.

FOL members might also provide an overnight accommodation for a student during a school holiday, or help a newcomer find an apartment. The type and frequency of participation is strictly up to FOL members and their guest.

Members participate by letting the FOL office know of their interest and the kind of hospitality they wish to offer: a meal or a brief visit. They are then

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FRIENDS OF LESOTHO SERVICE GROUP GROWS TO 80 MEMBERS AFTER INITIAL MAIL SOLICITATION; CONTRIBUTIONS TOP \$1,000.

The FRIENDS OF LESOTHO (FOL) service group has more than tripled in size from 25 when the organization formed last September at the 25th Anniversary RPCV National Conference in Washington, D.C. As of June 30, 1987 membership had climbed to 80 RPCVs and others friends supportive of strong ties between Americans and the Basotho people.

Operations and Projects

Financially, the group begins on fairly solid footing. Total contributions to date stand at \$1,105. Of that amount, \$355 was raised at the organizational meeting in September. Members responding to a solicitation by mail to join contributed another \$750, of which \$270 was given towards establishing our first service project. In-kind contributions to the group for getting out that mailing and this newsletter have helped substantially. The group's bank account balance was \$966.22 as of June 18, 1987.

Given the group size and the funds now available, the FOL organizing committee plans to send out to all members later this summer the following:

- The first edition of the FRIENDS OF LESOTHO DIRECTORY, including Basotho living or currently visiting the U.S.;
- The second issue of the FRIENDS OF LESOTHO NEWSLETTER; and
- An updated LIST OF names and addresses of KNOWN RPCVs AND OTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED IN LESOTHO.

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HOSPITALITY con't from p. 1, col. 2

sent a copy of BASOTHO IN THE U.S.-- names and addresses of Basotho living or visiting the U.S. provided by the Lesotho Embassy in Washington, D.C.-- whom they may contact.

Lists to be Distributed

The FOL office actually produces and distributes two lists.

- The BASOTHO IN THE U.S. list is sent to all FOL members periodically. An updated list will be mailed to everyone later this summer and as frequently thereafter as possible.

- The FRIENDS OF LESOTHO HOSPITALITY PROGRAM MEMBERS list is distributed to all Lesotho Embassies, the U.S. Embassy in Maseru, and the Peace Corps offices in Washington, D.C. and Maseru. These organizations, as well as the FOL office, will then distribute them to Basotho who plan to come to the U.S. and who wish to meet Americans who have lived in Lesotho. They are encouraged to make contact as well.

Newly Returned RPCVs

Because the number of FOL members participating is growing steadily, and

HOSPITALITY con't on p. 14, col. 2

MEMBERSHIP con't from p. 1, col. 1

The growth of FOL is largely due to the mass mail solicitation for members in November, 1986 using an easily accessible, though somewhat dated, compilation of 300 known RPCV/Lesotho names and addresses. Each of the 20 years of Peace Corps operation in Lesotho is represented in the group.

Building the Membership

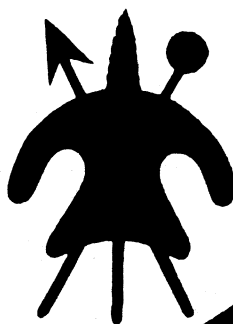
The ability of the group to continue growing by reaching other Lesotho RPCVs (over 950 Peace Corps volunteers have served since 1967) and other friends looks promising. Although over 100 solicitation letters were returned for lack of a forwarding address, new members sent in with their dues the names and addresses of over 125 RPCVs and others to contact. With FOL now firmly established, Peace Corps/Washington, the National Council of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and the Lesotho Embassy in Washington, D.C. have also offered to assist us in locating and updating names and addresses.

Please use the coupon on the last page of this newsletter to provide us with the names and addresses of Lesotho RPCVs and others you believe would be interested in the purposes of the group.

New Lesotho National Flag Chosen. See Story p. 17



1966-1987



1987

AUSTIN/MASERU SISTER CITIES SOCIETY IS A
9-YEAR SUCCESS STORY

Friends of Lesotho is not the first people-to-people program established between Americans and Basotho. One outstanding program is nearly 10 years old. A Sister Cities relationship between Austin, Texas and Maseru, Lesotho initiated in August, 1978 by Bertha Means, retains the enthusiastic support of local officials and citizens of Austin.

The Sister Cities concept, originating out of a 1956 White House conference, encourages U.S. cities to form lasting ties with cities in other countries by exchanging people, ideas and skills, covering the entire community spectrum. The goal of the international program is to further world peace and understanding by fostering cultural, youth, education and technical assistance programs between U.S. and foreign cities.

Major projects and activities of the Austin/Maseru Sister Cities Society, as it is named, have focused on technical assistance and global education.

Technical Projects

The technical projects have involved upgrading surgical and post-operative care of burn patients at the Queen Elizabeth (QE) II Hospital in Maseru. Interest in this project escalated following visits to Austin by His Excellency T. Makeka in 1978 and the Hon. David Masupa Seeiso, Chief of Maseru and Administrator for the Maseru Capital Area, in 1979.

Since 1978, several American reconstructive surgeons have traveled to Maseru to perform operations, train hospital staff and other Basotho medical personnel in the treatment and care of burn victims at the QE II Hospital. The Society has also hosted several visitors from Lesotho who have demonstrated interest in the continuation of the project, including Mr. John Nthongoa, Chairman, Lesotho Chamber of Commerce

SISTER CITIES con't on p. 13, col. 2

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION
EXCHANGE PROJECTS IN LESOTHO: PEACE
CORPS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

/Two School Projects Already Completed
In Lesotho/

FOL is searching for opportunities to support sound development and other worthy projects that would directly benefit communities, schools, families and local development organizations in Lesotho. Some RPCVs have told us they remain connected to Basotho whom they know well, providing cash or in-kind support. Others likely contribute through private voluntary organizations working in the country, such as Save The Children or the Catholic Relief Services. These, plus the program described below, are examples of efforts FOL could support relatively easily and quickly.

Tom Carroll (RPCV/Lesotho '67-69) recently reported to us that Peace Corps has an established development assistance program that seems to meet a number of our group's interests. Their program, the Partnership Program, seemed especially appropriate so we are giving it attention in our first newsletter.

Peace Corps/Washington runs the Partnership Program directly through PCVs. Volunteers bring proposals for local development or education projects to the attention of PC/W; the Washington office staff bring the project details to the attention of funding sources in North America. These proposals, which must include at least a 25% contribution of resources (money, materials or labor) from a Lesotho community, are circulated to philanthropic foundations, schools, churches, businesses and civic organizations for their support. Contributions are fully tax deductible.

Lesotho School Projects

During the past few months two Partnership Program projects were funded in Lesotho. The first one involved rebuilding a school in Ha Rankakala that

PARTNERSHIP con't on p. 15, col. 2

WELCOME BY LESOTHO AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON THE

It is my singular honour and pleasure to welcome the first issue of "The Friends of Lesotho Newsletter."

My particular pleasure derives from the fact that what appeared to be a dream - at the 25th anniversary conference of the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers in September, 1986 - has become a reality, i.e. the formation and development of the Friends of Lesotho Association. There is no doubt in my mind that this Association will be a catalyst and promoter of contacts between the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers and Basotho. This extends to the former volunteers who wish to re-establish contact with the people of Lesotho whom they served and those that they befriended.

It is my hope and desire that this newsletter will disseminate information about what is happening in Lesotho, what Lesotho's development needs, opportunities and priorities are today, what progress has been achieved in the cities and villages in which the former volunteers lived, and what has become of the work and projects they were involved with during their stay in Lesotho. Again, the newsletter should serve as a source of information to the people of Lesotho about the Returned Peace Corps Volunteers' interest and goodwill in promoting a better understanding of Lesotho among Americans, as well as their desire to continue to support programs and projects between Americans and Basotho that benefit the people of both countries.

It is my belief that people-to-people grass-roots contacts, work, trust, understanding and sharing of knowledge and cultures are the most effective, long-lasting instruments of peace, as well as the bricks with which a peaceful world can be constructed.

In welcoming this first issue of "The Friends of Lesotho newsletter", I wish to thank the President of the Association, Mr. Scott Brumburgh, who has, since the formation of the Association, worked tirelessly to have this newsletter launched, and I pledge my office's readiness to support the work and aspirations of the Friends of Lesotho Association.

Long live the Friends of Lesotho!

W.T. Van Tonder
AMBASSADOR
Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho

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Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
tel. 202/628-4833*

OCCASION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

G.P. 139

SAVINGRAM

FROM: PLANNING
TO: LESOTHO WASHINGTON

RECEIVED DATE STAMP

REF. NO. CPO/6/01.
RMM/LT.



SIGNED: (Full Signature)

NAME: K.M. MANYELI
(Typed)

FILE NO.:
(Receiving Min./Dept.)

DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 1987.
GPL

FRIENDS OF LESOTHO.

Your LW/PC/1 of January 21 1987 to Foreign and copied, among others, to me refers.

2. I believe that the creation of "Friends of Lesotho" in the US is, perhaps, the most significant development in contemporary Lesotho-US relations. I sincerely hope that we, who constitute the Lesotho half of the partnership, will be able to nurture and develop this relationship until it fully matures. It is not the potential material contribution to our development that I consider most appealing in this arrangement, but the depth of understanding between us in Lesotho and the people of the US - and indeed through them, the people of the whole wide world - which can be fostered from these beginnings. I write to record my personal pledge to contribute as best I can to this new association. Kindly request Friends of Lesotho to include me in their mailing list.

3. We hope to develop a cooperation division this year. Until such time as we establish relations office, this division will be charged to promote better relations between us and it will be useful if you kindly advise on how we wish us to send from time to time. Perhaps this with the President and may be put him

cc: Foreign
Government Secretary
Secretary Military Council
LNDC.



LESOTHO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PRIVATE BAG A96 MASERU 100 LESOTHO, CABLES "DEVCOR" TELEPHONE 322012 TELEX 4341 LO

Our Ref PD/PR/9
(When replying please
quote Reference)
Your Ref

March 6, 1987

H.E. Mr. William T. Van Tonder
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Lesotho
to the United States Lesotho Embassy
Suite 300 1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,
WASHINGTON D.C. 20009

Dear Mr. Van Tonder

I read with great interest your correspondence on the formation of the "Friends of Lesotho", copied to the LNDC.

The formation of such an organisation can only serve as a useful medium through which the existing warm and friendly relations between the governments and people of Lesotho and the United States can be strengthened further.

This is to pledge my fullest cooperation from my desk in the LNDC to provide the relevant material to all the persons on the mailing list of the "FRIENDS OF LESOTHO". I will appreciate it very much if I could also be placed on the mailing list of the "FRIENDS OF LESOTHO" to read about the activities of the United States arm of the FRIENDS OF LESOTHO".

Yours Sincerely

Joe Molefi
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

LESOTHO IN THE PRESS

A number of members have requested that Friends of Lesotho provide reprints of articles concerning Lesotho found in major newspapers, magazines, journals and the like. So, to begin what will be a regular feature of this newsletter, several articles which have appeared in recent months in the Washington, D.C. press and other publications are reproduced below.

Your contributions of media articles are a way of keeping us all better informed of current events in Lesotho. Please send articles even if you believe the topic may have already reached us through a different source. There may be a differing viewpoint we can report.

The newsletter will also provide a bibliography column listing in-depth articles and texts on Lesotho. Included in each newsletter will be 10-15 titles and references. Again, members' assistance in adding to our compilation of Lesotho references will be greatly appreciated. Please use the coupon at the end of the newsletter to inform us of titles we should include.

MULTIPLE MURDERS IN LESOTHO *AFRICA News 12/8/86*

[AN] The motive behind the Nov. 15 abduction and murder of two former senior Lesotho ministers and their wives continues to puzzle many watchers of the political scene in the small mountain kingdom.

Desmond Sixishe and Vincent Makhele, respectively former information minister and foreign minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan, were abducted along with their wives by three heavily armed gunmen, said to be dressed in military uniform. They were taken to a remote mountain spot and shot dead on Nov. 15. The owners of the house from which the victims were abducted, Tsolo Lelala, and his wife, Mantsane Lelala, were injured.

Mrs. Sixishe and Mrs. Lelala were nieces of Jonathan, who was ousted on Jan. 20 after South Africa imposed a blockade on the country it completely surrounds. Pretoria accused the Jonathan regime of harboring guerrillas of the African National Congress (ANC). (See AN, Feb. 10.)

The siege caused severe shortages of food and other supplies, resulting in the military takeover by Maj. Gen. Justin Lekhanya. Five days later, the new regime expelled 60 ANC members in exchange for the lifting of the blockade.

The government has blamed the killings on vengeful internal enemies who have not accepted the military's "call for peace and reconciliation." Friends of the former officials, however, claim that the killers were members of a South African death squad that has been hunting down South African fugitives in Lesotho since the January coup.

Meanwhile, South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha and Lesotho officials signed a treaty on Oct. 24 in Lesotho's capital, Maseru, to implement the \$800-million Lesotho Highlands Water Project which will supply electricity and water to

the economic heartland of South Africa, the Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vaal (PWV) triangle. The signing ended 40 years of negotiations. When water flow reaches its capacity in 1995, Lesotho may earn nearly \$100 million a year in revenue. ■

2 Ex-Officials Assassinated In Lesotho

Post 11/18/86
By William Claiborne
Washington Post Foreign Service

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 17— Authorities in Lesotho confirmed today that two ministers in the deposed government of Leabua Jonathan, both outspoken critics of South Africa and supporters of the African National Congress, and their wives were abducted by armed men over the weekend and shot to death.

The bodies of Desmond Sixishe and Vincent Makhele, ex-ministers of information and foreign affairs, and their wives were discovered on a mountain roadside yesterday, said Lesotho's commissioner of police, Maj. Gen. James Dingizwayo.

He said the owner of a house from which the victims were abducted, Tsolo Lelala, a university lecturer, was missing, and that Lelala's wife had been hospitalized with serious wounds.

Sixishe's wife was a niece of Jonathan, who was toppled in a military coup on Jan. 20 after South Africa imposed a virtual blockade. It accused Jonathan's government of harboring guerrillas of the ANC,

the main insurgent movement seeking to end minority white rule in South Africa.

The South African-imposed border controls caused a severe shortage of food and essential supplies in Lesotho, resulting in the overthrow of Jonathan's government.

As minister of information and broadcasting in Jonathan's government, Sixishe was Lesotho's most outspoken critic of South Africa and was regarded in Pretoria as the main obstacle to efforts to have Jonathan expel ANC guerrillas from the country, which is surrounded by South Africa.

After the coup, in which a military junta led by Maj. Gen. Justin Lekhanya took power, Sixishe remained as chairman of the pro-Soviet Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization. He and Makhele were reported to have retained strong ties to the youth league of Jonathan's Basotho National Party and in August both had restrictions placed on their movements by the new military government.

Five days after the coup, the new government deported 60 South African political fugitives, described as ANC supporters, in return for the lifting of the blockade.

Lesotho, a kingdom of 1.4 million, has been heavily dependent on South Africa since independence from Britain in 1966. It recently signed an agreement with Pretoria to sell the only commodity it has in abundance, water. It also supplies cheap labor to South African mines.

Pretoria has its way in Lesotho

Maj.-Gen. Justin Lekhanya's bloodless military coup that abruptly ended Prime Minister Leabua Jonathan's 20-year tenure in mid-January was cheered by many in Lesotho, but it was Pretoria that gave the new government its stamp of approval. The coup, marking the first civilian government overthrown in southern Africa's post-colonial history, followed several days of mounting civil unrest instigated by South Africa's three-week economic blockade of the landlocked kingdom.

Pretoria had put the squeeze on Jonathan by strictly regulating the cross-border flow of people and goods—controls ostensibly intended to prevent arms from reaching African National Congress (ANC) insurgents based in Maseru. South Africa, in reality, was demanding much more of Jonathan: a full-blown security pact of the kind concluded with Mozambique and Swaziland in which Lesotho would promise to deny all support to the ANC and prevent its members from using the territory as a refuge or springboard for armed insurgency against apartheid.

In recent weeks, 13 white South Africans had died in landmine and bomb explosions allegedly caused by Lesotho-based ANC members. Under pressure, Jonathan had agreed to establish a joint security committee with Pretoria but refused to hand ANC activists over to the South African regime. "Never in my life," said Jonathan just prior to being toppled. "I would rather die."

Severe shortages of consumer goods and other necessities brought about by the blockade exacerbated dissatisfaction among the people with Jonathan's autocratic and repressive rule and especially strengthened opposition within the military. The first signs of internal dissent came a week before the coup when units of the 1,500-strong Lesotho Paramilitary Force (LPF), headed by Lekhanya, surrounded Jonathan's home to "protect" him.

Lekhanya allegedly told Jonathan of the military's discontent with his approach to the blockade and warned that the controversial youth league of the ruling Basotho National Party would have to be kept under control.

The LPF crushed a military mutiny several days later when 35 soldiers sympathetic to the North Korean-trained youth league and to the ANC rebelled at an army barracks south of Maseru. Officially, four people were killed in the bloody confrontations, but the count was said to be much higher. The clash followed months of resentment within the LPF and the police at the activities of youth league members who argued that Lesotho should resist South African demands to clamp down on the ANC and to weaken its diplomatic ties with Eastern bloc countries. Jonathan's recent decision to provide weapons to the youth wing also angered the army command who saw the move as a threat to its own position.

As soon as Lekhanya—who met with South African officials to resolve the security issue days before the coup—broadcast his victory, Pretoria showed its approval by allowing a trainload of supplies to enter Lesotho. The new government immediately demonstrated a more conciliatory policy toward South Africa by deporting 57 ANC supporters to Zambia "for their own safety." A further 50 political refugees were expelled a few days later, although Lekhanya resisted demands to hand them over to Pretoria. Lekhanya also indicated that he would drop the support for sanctions against South Africa which Jonathan had lately adopted, concluding, "After all, who gets hurt most by sanctions?"

Following a meeting with Lesotho officials, South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha announced that the blockade had been lifted in exchange for a security agreement. "The two governments subscribed to the principle that nei-

ther would allow its territory to be used for the planning or execution of acts of violence or terror and that they would take steps to see that this principle is effectively applied," said Botha.

Ironically, South Africa was largely responsible for putting Jonathan in power in 1965, providing him with substantial financial and logistical support. When the opposition Basutoland Congress Party led by Ntsu Mokhehle was on the verge of winning the 1970 election, Jonathan declared a state of emergency, put King Moshoeshoe II under house arrest, and jailed all opposition leaders who did not flee into exile. In a bid to overcome his lack of popular legitimacy at home, Jonathan had undermined his relationship with South Africa since the mid-1970s by tolerating an ANC presence in Lesotho and projecting himself as a leading opponent of apartheid.

In contrast to Pretoria's previous attempts to use overt military aggression against Lesotho and the ANC, including commando raids in 1982 and December 1985, South Africa this time flexed its economic muscle to destabilize a neighboring state. Bishop Desmond Tutu called Pretoria "the bully-boy of southern Africa," denouncing the government for holding "Lesotho to ransom" and for "flouting international law by refusing to let Lesotho give refuge to real refugees." Leaders in southern Africa unanimously condemned South Africa's role in staging the coup, which they point out is a clear warning to other independent black governments to end support for refugees linked to the ANC. ■

AFRICA REPORT MAY-JUNE 1987

OBITUARY

The Chief passes away

Chief **Leabua Jonathan**, Lesotho's prime minister for 20 years before he was overthrown in a military coup in January 1986, died of stomach cancer in early April at the age of 72.

The controversial autocrat, who ruled Lesotho with an iron hand after it gained independence from Britain in 1966, had in recent years adopted an increasingly critical and on occasion, openly hostile attitude toward South Africa in a bid to develop a more popular base of support within the country. This ultimately led to his downfall, as Pretoria flexed its muscle and imposed a crippling three-week economic blockade on Lesotho in December 1985 in retaliation for Jonathan's refusal to expel members of the banned African National Congress (ANC). The new military government, led by Maj.-Gen **Justin Lekhanya**, promptly ordered dozens of ANC members and supporters out of the country and adopted a more conciliatory policy toward Pretoria.

Ironically, South Africa had been largely responsible for putting Jonathan in power, providing him with substantial financial and logistical support during Lesotho's pre-independence poll. Shortly thereafter, he became the first leader of an independent African state to visit Pretoria and hold talks with a South African prime minister. In 1970, Jonathan declared a state of emergency and suspended the constitution when it appeared that his ruling Basotholand National Party was about to lose the country's only post-independence election. He repressed all opposition parties and established a paramilitary youth league in the decade that followed, while at the same time weakening his relationship with South Africa in an effort to overcome his lack of popular legitimacy at home.

In September 1985, Jonathan called off Lesotho's first general election in 15 years when opposition parties boycotted the nomination register. They charged that they had not been allowed to in-

spect the voters' roll and said the election procedures had been rigged in the government's favor. Four

months later, Pretoria helped bring Jonathan's rule to an abrupt end and gave the new government its stamp of approval. ■

WASHINGTON POST

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1987

DOROTHY GILLIAM

Third World Strategies

Margaret Schuler knows full well that the time has come when Americans must stop talking about the Third World and start listening to persons in it. In an attempt to dispel misconceptions and provide a forum for those struggling with civil rights in their countries, she has edited a new book, "Empowerment and the Law: Strategies of Third World Women."

Says Schuler, director of the Women, Law and Development Program of OEF International, "I am always very leery of First World Women speaking for Third World Women. I just play a facilitating role."

Women constitute 53 percent of the world's population, perform two-thirds of the work and earn one-tenth of the world's wages. For Third World women, the inequities are magnified. Schuler's book allows one to find out with certainty how Third World women are trying to confront the oppression their societies create and reinforce:

- In Jamaica, women are trying to get legislation passed requiring equal pay for equal work. In an ongoing campaign that included lobbying, a public education drive and an effort to improve the education and training of women in all occupations, activists secured the assistance of trade unions, educators and employer organizations. They also focused on changing attitudes to bring about lasting results.

- In Bangladesh, where more than 80 percent of the people are poor and illiterate, a national association of women lawyers organized a project that traveled to the 68,000 villages of Bangladesh to teach about 50 million women (and in some places, men too) their basic rights under existing laws. Later organizing a women's health coalition, patterned on an international family planning program, they coordinated their efforts with other development agencies.

- In India, women have come up with a multifaceted strategy to deal with the issues of harassment, torture and murder of women related to the custom of dowry. Including a campaign to educate the public on the evils of dowry, the strategy assists victims through counseling programs and provides litigation to bring the issue to the attention of the courts. By mobilizing women through marches and demonstrations in order to pressure the media and other authorities, women are

lobbying for legislative changes in the dowry law.

- In Lesotho, many of the men have left the country to work in the mines of neighboring South Africa. Although women are de facto administrators of their joint estate, they remain minors during marriage and cannot enter a contract without their husband's permission. Fighting to change this law, female lawyers and activists have recommended a series of reforms.

To deal with such oppression, concludes Radhika Coomaraswamy of Sri Lanka, one of the 55 writers, "women must preserve their ethnic identity while fighting for social reform and social change within their own ethnic group."

Noting that "awareness of the whole women's issue is relatively young in the Third World," Schuler used the 1985 International Women's Conference in Nairobi as a focal point to begin figuring out what strategies women were using to overcome the legal constraints that cut them off from development benefits.

She found common tactics with women all over the world, and decided to organize regional women's rights forums to culminate in a future international conference. Asian women met in Manila earlier this year, and later conferences in Latin America and Africa are planned.

A former nun, Schuler's insight into how to achieve change emerged from her work with a community group in Chile organizing against illiteracy. Deciding she needed a conceptual framework in order to avoid just being a "do-gooder," she earned a sociology degree at the University of Chile. Leaving Chile at the time of the coup, she went to work for OEF International in 1979.

With few exceptions, Schuler points out that it is primarily urban women who are engaged in the Third World movement for women's legal rights, but thinks their drive will empower women who aren't educated. "Until the middle-class women are engaged, little will happen for the rest. It's a multiplier effect."

During the civil rights and women's movement in this country, real change occurred only when people understood the laws and how they affected their lives and organized to change them. Make no mistake about it, the first steps in the process of civil and women's rights are being taken in the Third World, and that is an encouraging sign indeed.

U.S. African Aid Plan Appears to Offer Less

... THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1987 A11

Than Anticipated

By David B. Ottaway
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Reagan administration yesterday announced its long-awaited initiative to aid southern Africa's black nations, but the plan appeared to fall far short of expectations here and there.

At a meeting of the nine-country Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in Gaborone, Botswana, M. Peter McPherson, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), said the Reagan administration is offering a package of \$93 million in additional economic assistance this year and next.

"This will be a first installment on what we believe will be the development of significant new areas of cooperation between the United States and the region," McPherson said.

At the same time, Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Lowell P. Weicker Jr. (R-Conn.) and Reps. William H. Gray III (D-Pa.) and Julian C. Dixon (D-Calif.) and 21 cosponsors introduced legislation calling for \$100 million in supplemental aid this fiscal year and an additional \$700 million over the next five years for the black nations.

Last July, President Reagan promised a comprehensive, multiyear program for the landlocked black nations bordering South Africa. Subsequently, the antiapartheid act passed by Congress last October ordered the administration to produce a special southern Africa aid initiative.

The administration had been considering a proposal for a five-year, \$500 million package, but the amount was unacceptable to the Office of Management and Budget, according to congressional and administration sources.

Instead, the administration is seeking \$36 million in supplemental aid this fiscal year and another \$57 million for fiscal 1988, far short of its first tentative proposal. It is not clear how much would be made available in subsequent years of the initiative, but McPherson said the amount would be subject to "the normal annual budget process."

The most pressing concern of the black nations involves lessening their heavy dependence on South Africa's rail and road network for exports and imports by expanding outlets to Indian Ocean ports in Mozambique and Tanzania.

However, conservative members of Congress have expressed objections to ear-

marking aid for Mozambique or its railroads and roads because it is officially a Marxist-Leninist state and faces a serious anticommunist insurgency. Some of the critics have said they would like the administration to support the rebels.

The administration's proposed aid sets aside only about one-third of the total for transportation, none of it for the Beira corridor railroad, the main west-to-east line from landlocked Zimbabwe to the Mozambique port of Beira, according to an AID official.

"Right now, we're not making any commitment to Beira," said Thomas R. Blank, assistant administrator for AID external affairs. "When fiscal year 1989 rolls around, we don't know at that point."

Other AID officials said that most of the \$200 million needed for the first phase of a multiyear plan to upgrade the Beira corridor has been pledged by western European nations and that no additional U.S. assistance is needed.

They said most of the proposed transportation funds would go for the Tazara railroad from Zambia to the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam.

Another one-third of the proposed aid would go to promote private-sector policy improvements and the remainder to facil-

itate trade among southern African nations.

The legislation introduced yesterday specifies that at least half of the requested \$700 million over the next five years go solely for transportation and at least 60 percent of the requested supplemental \$100 million be spent for the same purpose, particularly for upgrading Dar es Salaam port and the Tazara railroad.

Worldwide Food Stocks Rise, United Nations Study Finds

By Richard M. Weintraub
Washington Post Foreign Service

NEW DELHI, March 2—Abundant rains, combined with expanding use of high-yield grains, fertilizers and irrigation, have led to dramatic increases in worldwide food stocks in the past two years and have minimized for the time being the specter of famine in all but a few isolated pockets of the globe.

African countries that only a couple of years ago were the subject of major international appeals last year registered crop increases of 4

percent to 25 percent over the average for the past five years, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) "Food Outlook." It was the second consecutive year of vastly improved production.

India and Pakistan, two countries closely identified with famine in the 1940s through 1960s, now enjoy a surplus of grains and have become net food exporters.

Only Angola, Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Mozambique were judged by the FAO to be "in need of exceptional emergency assistance."

Problems of distribution—getting food to those who need it—remain throughout Africa, the report noted, and locust and grasshopper plagues are threatening many areas.

But for all the real and apparent gains, experts warn that the positive trends could well prove illusory.

While the relative abundance minimizes the prospects of profound starvation, there still are millions of people, especially in South Asia and Africa, who cannot afford to buy more than minimal amounts of food. This means that farmers here are disappointed, and countries that had hoped to export food find their markets limited.

DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION PROJECTS PART 2:
The LNDC

An additional mechanism to that of the Peace Corps' Partnership Program through which Friends of Lesotho may promote grass-roots development programs may be started. The Lesotho ambassador to the U.S. has suggested that FOL could work with the Lesotho National Development Corporation (LNDC) to establish a revolving fund.

Mr. Caleb Sello, First Minister at the Lesotho Embassy in Washington, D.C., presented the arrangement at a June FOL organizational committee meeting. Basotho could draw upon this revolving fund to set up a small business or other revenue-generating enterprise that they then pay back into the fund.

To establish such a fund the FOL would raise monies through membership donations and contributions from other funding sources. The fund may provide other valuable business-related resources than money alone. For instance, a U.S. corporate co-sponsor with FOL might provide a personal or microcomputer or other essential equipment along with or in place of the up-front cash needed to help a qualifying business get off the ground.

That this program is similar to the Partnership Program in being part of a well established organization, yet different in being run by Basotho, made it a viable alternative for FOL involvement in the eyes of the organizing committee. Mr. Sello stated that the Embassy will pursue the necessary coordination with representatives of the LNDC for FOL to become a funder should the group choose to participate.

DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION PROJECTS PART 3:
ONE-TO-ONE CONTACT

It was pointed out in other articles that at least a few Friends of Lesotho members are maintaining close contact and providing support of one kind or another to families or communities where they lived and served. Other individual members of the FOL may wish to establish one-to-one working relationships with individuals in Lesotho.

This relationship may be focused on a particular community; an area of work such as agriculture, education or health; or with certain individuals whom you know from your time there. To do this FOL can serve as a liaison between the Peace Corps and/or the Lesotho Embassy to link you with the right people.

Funding Arrangements

As a general practice we would like to establish separate accounts for membership dues and funds donated for development or education projects. Members' donations for development projects would be channeled directly to their end purpose-- the Partnership Program, Lesotho National Development Corporation revolving fund, one-to-one working relationships or other agreed-to efforts. Membership dues would be used to operate, expand and strengthen the organization, including covering mailing costs and other overhead expenses of these projects.

Are these approaches to development and education programs the most appropriate means for us to begin this type of service as an organization? Do you have other ideas? We'd like to hear from you.

SETTING A COURSE FOR THE FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

/The Group's President Reflects On What
Members Say They Want From The
Fledgeling Service Organization-- And
What Some Are Already Doing/

In The Beginning...

For the 25 RPCVs who met during the heady weekend of the 25th Anniversary Conference, the decision to form a permanent service organization happened in a quick night's work. At its conclusion I was amazed that in one impromptu meeting a group of such varied individuals from across the country would come to agree on a few basic ideas to which we were ready, willing and eager to commit some of our precious time (and money!).

True, several other service groups had formed in recent years and succeeded-- Ethiopia and Togo to name two. And with momentum growing during the 25th anniversary year, were heard more groups had just started-- Kenya and India. Still more would be born out of the conference reunions, including Liberia, Gambia-Senegal and Malawi. So why not Lesotho?

Still, as brand-new president of this emotionally united but geographically far-flung organization, I wondered. I wondered a lot. For instance, "Would other people share in the enthusiasm we felt at the idea of forming the group? How many others have imagined what a group like this really could, or would, do if it formed? And when we get going, would others contribute their creativity, time and labor to see the ideas and concerns they also may have nurtured over time come into reality?"

The response of recent months has made it clear that I need not have been concerned.

What New Members Say

Many of the new members wrote notes when

they subscribed, providing insights into their reactions to the group and what they wanted to see done. Here is what they seem to want:

- To help people find others they served with, who now live near each other, or have common interests sufficient to come together under the purposes of a people-to-people program with Basotho.

Phil Seder (Washington, D.C.) works at Peace Corps and will help us build our list of volunteers. Greg and Marge Scieszka ('71-'73) of Manchester Center, VT like the idea of regional sub-groups of FOL to help out in getting people together.

William and Patty Dunn ('79-'81) of Denton, MD suggested that the FOL directory to be produced should not only include when people served but in what community they lived. This should include the homes of the Basotho presently living in the U.S. (Betsy McKay Bashaw ('76) of Barnet, VT). Therefore, the directory will furnish that information in its first edition as a way to encourage people to get in touch with others who may have more local knowledge about conditions in various regions of Lesotho, and communities and projects important to them.

- To stay current with political, cultural and development events in Lesotho.

Some, like Ed Miliano of New York City, wanted to know what U.S. AID and other assistance programs were doing now in Lesotho. Others, including Clark and Peggy Tibbits ('67-'69) of Burnsville, NC, wanted news about the fate of political friends in Lesotho amid the country's new military rule. Doug Mayo ('67-'69) of Edina, MN has helped out already, having sent along an article from AFRICA NEWS included in this issue. The newsletter will regularly include reprints of articles and reports on these and other topics.

DIRECTIONS con't on p. 12., col. 2

DIRECTIONS con't from p. 11, col. 1

- To promote the Hospitality Program For Basotho in the U.S.

We asked in the initial mailing whether friends were interested in meeting Basotho visiting the U.S. as students, government officials, etc. The response was terrific. Over three-quarters of the members are now on the list for Basotho visitors to their community.

- To find meaningful ways of supporting development in Lesotho

Not only did we hear from a number of members that they would be willing to donate cash or in-kind contributions for grass-roots assistance in Lesotho, we learned of several returned volunteers who, on their own, are actively involved in supporting schools or communities or families through donations of money, clothing or other needed resources (Florence Brooks ('78-81) of Long Beach, CA; Mary Walter ('67-69) of Corvallis, OR).

It seems there are a number of opportunities available to us for supporting development work in the country given the liaison FOL members already have established in Lesotho, with Peace Corps, other RPCVs, etc.

- To build People-to-People Programs Between the U.S. and Lesotho

When Ambassador Van Tonder announced at the Friends of Lesotho organizational meeting that a Sister Cities International program was in place between Maseru and Austin, Texas. I, and many others there were ignorant of that project. I wonder if other established, on-going cooperation between Americans and Basotho also exist? FOL will report on other people-to-people programs as we become aware of them.

One example suggested by a member was for a faculty exchange between the Lesotho National University and a U.S. college or university (Gail Hughes-Weiner, an evaluator for the Minneapolis Community College system). Nearly a dozen other members indicated they were interested in promoting

American-Basotho educational activities in their communities. It seems FOL has people who can play a role in providing information or other assistance to get these good ideas off the ground.

Starting with an Organizing Committee

A handful of Washington, D.C. RPCVs involved in the organizational meeting last Fall agreed to help get the Friends of Lesotho started. The committee has primarily included:

David Bertocci ('69-70), Tom Carroll ('67-69), John McCoy ('69-71), Ted Hochstadt ('67-70), Don Spicer ('76-78), myself and, from the Lesotho Embassy, Caleb Sello.

This committee got the initial solicitation mailing out late last Fall, then met twice in June to review new members' comments, and develop some organizational structure from which to work on a permanent basis. As a result, we offer the following start toward developing a strategy for Friends of Lesotho:

- * Keep the organization simple and flexible; encourage the energy and ideas of many people to give shape and focus to its direction;

- * Stay apolitical; cover important political events and issues through media reports rather than presenting various personal points of view or endorsing any particular political position on U.S.-Lesotho relations or Lesotho internal politics;

- * Use membership dues to sustain organization services, i.e., the directory, newsletter and other communications; use other contributions, and conduct fund-raising when appropriate, for special the people-to-people programs;

- * Encourage non-Peace Corps membership, including Basotho residing in the U.S.; involve current volunteers if possible;

DIRECTIONS con't on p. 13, col. 2

DIRECTIONS con't from p. 12, col. 1

* Support development and education projects financially only with the agreement of the general membership; FOL can otherwise act as a broker for many types of individual and group efforts;

* Make Friends of Lesotho a tax-exempt organization (501(c)(3)); and

* Recognize and promote Basotho interest in FOL as well as American's.

The committee, I believe, has done a superb job in beginning the work of this group. This first newsletter is their accomplishment. The potential clearly is there. It needs more energy and vision, though, than a handful of people can provide. We welcome your ideas, labor and leadership on the organizing committee and in developing a permanent structure. It may be worth it to yourself and others to share with other FOL members some ideas you may have had about Lesotho over the years. Thoughts about what might be if such an organization existed to make things you care about happen. Well, it now exists-- and awaits your move. We're waiting to hear from you.

Khotso,



Scott Brumburgh ('67-69)
President

SISTER CITIES con't from p. 3, col. 2

and Industry.

During 1983-4 two Austin-based reconstructive surgeons, Drs. James Cullington and James Fox, volunteered their time to this project. As a result of their efforts, a therapeutic whirlpool was donated to QE II Hospital by occupational therapists at the Austin Hand & Upper Extremity Clinic. Ms. Maureen Syler traveled to Maseru to

train hospital personnel in its uses for burn victims.

Global Education

In 1979 the Society initiated the "We Agree" Global Education Workshop, which was sponsored by Sister Cities International and its regional staff. Since this workshop was held, members of the Society have served as resource persons to school and community groups in developing long-lasting methods to increase international awareness and understanding. The Society has also been actively involved in identifying international visitors who are willing to share their experiences with students and adults.

Lesotho Ambassador William Van Tonder has expressed deep interest in expanding the number of sister city relationships in the U.S. Certainly the Austin/Maseru Society serves as an example of the value derived from this kind of cross-cultural linkage. FOL is willing to support efforts by individuals and groups interested in exploring a sister cities program with their community and a Lesotho counterpart.

(This edited article is reprinted with permission from Austin/Maseru Sister Cities Society, Inc. literature)

For more details about the Austin/Maseru Society contact:

Ms. Bertha Means
Austin/Maseru Sister Cities Society,
Inc.
7400 Valburn Drive
Austin, TX 78731

For more information about Sister Cities International contact:

Mr. Peter Long
Sister Cities International
120 South Payne Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703/836-3535

HOSPITALITY con't from p. 2, col. 2

the number of Basotho are relatively fewer, FOL members may also consider serving as hosts to recently returned Lesotho PCVs. The names of RPCVs returning in 1987 (two groups) will be mailed to FOL members. Those RPCVs, in turn, will be informed of the Hospitality Program.

experience in hosting Basotho and RPCV/Lesotho guests so we can report on the usefulness of the program. If you have not yet signed up for the FOL hospitality program and you wish to be included on the initial HOSPITALITY PROGRAM mailing list scheduled to go out August 30, 1987, please complete and return the coupon on the last page of the newsletter right away.

Please let the FOL office know of your

WHO'S WHO IN KEY U.S. GOVT. POSTS FOR LESOTHO

There are six major governmental positions with responsibility for U.S.-Lesotho governmental liaison and development programs, two each in the State Dept., Agency for International Development (AID), and Peace Corps. All six have experienced personnel changes within the last 18 months. An up-date on those currently holding these positions is provided below.

These are the addresses to use should you decide to contact any of these people. If you are not sure whom to talk to about a particular concern please contact the FOL office and we will try to help.

The Hon. Robert Smalley
U.S. Ambassador to Lesotho
American Embassy/Maseru
c/o Dept. of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Desk Officer for Lesotho
Agency for Int. Development
Room 3921
Washington, D.C. 20523
tel. 202/647-4287

Ms. Helen Weinland
Acting Country Officer for Lesotho
Department of State
AF/S Room 4238
Washington, D.C. 20520
tel. 202/647-8434

Ms. Carrie Wiltshire
Desk Officer for Lesotho
Peace Corps Room M706
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20525
tel. 202/254-6046

Dr. Arthur Cole
Director, Peace Corps/Lesotho
P.O. Box 554
Maseru, Lesotho

Mr. Jesse Snyder
Director, USAID/Maseru
Agency for International Dev.
Washington, D.C. 20523

had been damaged by a tornado. This involved new concrete floors, desks and a kitchen at a cost of \$2,240. The second project was at Khethisia School in Pitseng, where a kitchen was built in conjunction with a CARE food program. The cost was \$1,424.

The Peace Corps pays all administrative costs so that 100% of the private money donated goes to the project.

Cultural Exchange Projects

The Partnership Program also includes Cultural Exchange Projects, in which for example, schools in the U.S. can be paired with schools in a Peace Corps country. Through this program a "pen-pal" relationship can be established between students in both countries, and materials, articles, books, etc. may be exchanged.

The Peace Corps can arrange for a diplomatic pouch to exchange letters and materials. They will also solicit funds to pay for the cost of operating the exchange program.

Gifts-In-Kind

Finally, the Peace Corps is also establishing a Gifts-In-Kind Program, through which large donations of materials may be sent to a Peace Corps country. An arrangement may be made, for example, to have a school, or school district send its surplus or used books to a school in Lesotho. The Peace Corps will facilitate shipping and paying the

costs entailed.

What could Friends of Lesotho do under the Partnership Program?

To begin a service project using the Peace Corps Partnership Program the FOL might do several things:

- As a national group, make a direct donation for part or all of a project. An average donation by FOL members of \$25 could support up to a \$1,900 project, given our membership today.

- As individuals or local Friends of Lesotho groups:

- Raise funds or solicit materials from sources in our own communities-- that is, from organizations such as schools, churches and civic groups we already belong to, or know have an interest in supporting a credible people-to-people project; and,

- Work to establish cultural exchange programs between schools in our communities and schools in Lesotho.

If any of these ideas appeal to you please contact the FOL, or the Peace Corps address below, for more information:

Ms. Martha Saldinger
Peace Corps Partnership Program
Suite 1210
806 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20526
tel. 800/424-8580 ext. 227
202/254-8407

HAVE YOU ENCLOSED WITH YOUR DIRECTORY FORM....

1. Any names and addresses for us to contact about membership in FOL?
2. Any articles or projects of interest?
3. Any book titles on Lesotho for the Bibliography?
4. Any requests or announcements for the IN BRIEF page?

IN BRIEF

A Call For Teaching Materials

/by Gail Hughes-Wiener 141 Warwick St., S.E. Mpls., MN 55414
612/3789-7419 (home)/

PETER LESALA, a maths/science teacher at HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL in MOHALE'S HOEK, wrote to me recently to see whether I could help him obtain science and mathematics laboratory equipment or teaching materials. He says that their laboratories are empty, and wonders whether I know of any organization which could help with either funds or materials. I thought perhaps some of us may be teaching in schools in which textbooks or equipment which would otherwise be thrown away might be shipped to Lesotho instead!? This idea could be expanded to having schools here team up with "sister schools" in Lesotho, and in addition to sending materials, students and faculty could exchange letters, maybe even organize a student or teacher exchange or something.

If you would like to contact Peter, write to:

Mr. Peter Lesala Holy Cross High School P.O. Mekaleng 840
Mohale's Hoek Lesotho

/by Jan Kairbach 8270 Thornapple Nashville, MI 49073 517-965-9665
(work)/

I have access to many discarded textbooks (science, math, reading). I would gladly box them and send but can't afford postage, and teachers incountry can't afford duty - Can anyone help?

Death Of Recent RPCV/Lesotho Reported

KEVIN CLARK, who became severely ill while serving as a volunteer in Lesotho, died July 4, 1987 according to Carrie Wiltshire, Lesotho Desk Officer for the Peace Corps. No further details were available. Friends may write to the Rev. Edward C. Petty 1229 Mt. Loretta Ave. P.O. Box 1309 Dubuque, Iowa 52001.

Lesotho's Leader Makes Informal Visit To U.S.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR GENERAL JUSTIN LEKHANYA made an informal visit to the U.S. May 5-13. This was a "familiarization tour" of American military institutions made at the invitation of the Pentagon. The Major General used the opportunity to see a variety of armed forces training possible for the Lesotho military. No report on the outcome of the visit was available.

IN BRIEF con't on p. 17

NEW LESOTHO FLAG

January 20, 1987, the first anniversary of the new government of Lesotho, was marked with the official adoption of a new national flag. The familiar white Basotho hat on the blue field, with two vertical stripes of red and green on the mast-end border, is no longer.

The new flag has as its principle symbol the Lesotho National Shield. The replica of the shield is in brown, set on a white field occupying half the flag rectangle from the mast-end border to a line dividing the flag in half, running diagonally from the lower left to upper right corners. A diagonal stripe of blue follows, and the flag is then completed with a triangle of green in the lower right corner.

THE ULTIMATE SUGGESTION FOR A PROJECT OF THE FRIENDS OF LESOTHO

Someone out there, of course, had to say it. Suzan Kypriotis of Boron, CA, in her membership form back to us, put out THE task that lies before us: a charter flight to visit Lesotho at Christmas! Any takers?

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