

# Lesotho

## A Caldron of Violence

[AN] Its population is only about a million. It has few proven natural resources. Its rugged mountainous terrain is so formidable that few visitors venture beyond a narrow plateau around the capital.

But the tiny kingdom of Lesotho, surrounded by South Africa and overlooked by most of the world, has a history as rich in intrigue and drama as an Elizabethan play. And the caldron of political violence continues to simmer.

Last month Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organization, sent an investigator to Lesotho to probe further last September's murder of newspaper editor Edgar Motuba, as well as the apparently rising number of detentions under the country's internal security laws. Amnesty says its representative, David Soggett, who made a similar visit in September, was able to obtain access to detainees who are being held incommunicado and without charges. The group has not yet issued a statement on its findings.

A center of trouble in recent months has been the campus of the National University of Lesotho, where a series of conflicts have pitted government supporters and opponents in what many say are life and death battles.

One contentious issue was the appointment of a new registrar last fall. Vice registrar James Putsoane, opposed in the race by the government minister of Education, won the endorsement of both the academic council and the university administration. Since his appointment, however, bomb blasts and random shootings have become common on campus, and Registrar Putsoane says he fears for his life.

Student politics have also become deadly

serious. In September, for the fifth year in a row, student supporters of the national opposition party, the BCP, won campus elections, capturing all thirteen seats on the Students' Representative Council. Eight weeks ago the newly elected SRC president and vice president fled the country.

From their refuge in Botswana, the two, King Maloi and Mthusi Lekelake, told South Africa's *Rand Daily Mail* newspaper of a campus terrorized by masked men armed with submachine guns. They say the intruders have taken charge of student affairs, including the administration of student jobs and scholarships, and that death threats are regularly placed under the doors of university leaders.

Such threats are not taken lightly in Lesotho, where several people on widely-circulated "death lists" have been killed in recent months.

The Lesotho government has expressed concern about the violence, and it denies charges of complicity. It is popularly believed in Lesotho, however, that the murders are the work of the para-military Police Mobile Unit.

Whoever is responsible, it is clear that the targets of the threats and killings shared an opposition to the government of Chief Leabua Jonathan, who seized power after losing elections in 1970. And the frequency of reprisals against government critics has increased as support for the opposition BCP guerrilla group, the Lesotho Liberation Army, has grown.

Although the LLA has been relatively quiet since a series of bombings in September, it is apparently still functioning. At the funeral of editor Edgar Motuba, reportedly attended by 8,000 mourners, the



TRENTON, N.J.—Governor Thomas Kean receives a warm welcome by members of the cooking staff at the New Jersey state cafeteria after he walked over for lunch from his nearby office during his second day as the state's new governor.

LLA was openly represented. Some reports say that in northern and eastern mountain areas, the guerrillas move with complete freedom.

### Masilo: 'My Attackers Were Gov't Men'

Ben Masilo, the president of the Lesotho Christian Council, escaped from his house last September during an attack which killed his three-year-old grandson. Secretly making his way across the border into South Africa, he was given refuge by French diplomats, while arranging safe passage to Nairobi, Kenya, where he was offered a job with the All-Africa Conference of Churches.

Last week, Masilo visited Washington, D.C., where he spoke with Africa News. Here are portions of that conversation:

On Lesotho government charges that the opposition Basotho National Congress Party, its exiled leader Ntsu Mokhehle, and its guerrilla wing, the Lesotho Liberation Army, are backed by South Africa:

One thing that I have found here and in Canada is that there's a strong rumor that the Lesotho Liberation Army is being supported by South Africa, but this can't be true. I don't know if these rumors arise because many migrant laborers from Lesotho who work in South Africa and are constantly crossing the borders are anti-[Prime Minister] Jonathan. As you know, [the workers] would like to see a change and they're doing all they can to show that they disagree with the regime. But Mokhehle would never be a South African man. I last saw him in 1974, but I don't

think that he has changed so much that he can be used by South Africa. This rumor of him being helped by the South Africans is just political mud slinging. He is so clear about what is happening in South Africa and so uncompromising that it's unthinkable that he could be a tool of South Africa someday.

### On his own escape from Lesotho:

Another interesting thing about what the Lesotho government says: You know, I escaped after being attacked by the government's own men — who I saw! — but they say that I have been attacked by the liberation army because I was intending to take the leadership of the [opposition] party. They charge that after leaving Lesotho I was being helped by South Africa. And that I was planted by South Africa to work for the All Africa Conference of Churches.

[In November, Desmond Sixishe, Secretary of the ruling Basotho National Party, told *Drum* magazine, "We are sure that Mokhehle's men are working in collusion with Pretoria. For example, after it had been reported that Masilo had been kidnapped, he [Masilo] phoned from John Vorster Square police station in Johannesburg to say he was safe." —Ed.]

In the meantime, it was churches in America and France which were trying to help me get out of South Africa. They even approached the French government which gave me asylum at the French embassy in Pretoria. And the job in Nairobi was organized by churches in Europe and Africa — I didn't even know that I was going to work in Nairobi.

## La Petite Holds January Meeting

La Petite Gardeners held their January meeting in the home of Mrs. Mildred Goode on Alton Street. The home was beautifully decorated with various kinds of house plants and an unusual dried flower arrangement graced the coffee table.

Mrs. Goode opened the Garden Gate after which Mrs. G. McCrea, president, conducted the meeting. The agenda for the year was presented; reports from various committees were given; and members discussed preparing for spring gardens and the Spring Flower Show in May. Mrs. McCrea agreed to make slides of the Senior and Junior club activities. Mrs. W.B. Saunders gave an interesting report on "Conserving N.C. Wild Flowers". Mrs. J. Robinson gave a glowing report on activities planned for La Petite Purse.

After a delicious meal, the Garden Gate was closed to meet with Mrs. M.C. Grant on Concord St., in February.

## Benevolent Neighbors

Mrs. Freda Bass of Colfax Street was hostess for the meeting of the Benevolent Neighbors Club Sunday, January 31.

Devotions opened the meeting followed by a poem read by Mrs. Georgia Thomas. Mrs. Hastie Price presided over the business session which included electing remaining officers and other communications.

A repast was served following the meeting. Members present were: Mesdames Hastie Price, Marie Bett, Mable Cook, Susie Dilljant, Dora Powell, Freda Bass, Isabel Dunn, Vera Owens, Ora Bynum, Maggie Henry, Ruth Myers, Ethel Smith, Viola Philpot, Odaniel Williams, Flora Latta, Georgia Thomas, Cinderella Leonard, Servater Evans.

Mrs. Owens thanked the hostess for her gracious hospitality.

## To Sponsor Musical

In recognition of Black History Month, the Organization of Students Interested in Minority Affairs at Charles E. Jordan High School will sponsor the musical production "Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope," February 5 and 6 at 8 p.m., in the school auditorium. For ticket information call 489-7421 or 493-3719.

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## How to get the most from your bank

### SEASONAL LINES OF CREDIT FOR FARMERS

By Don Leigh

Because farmers receive the majority of their income during the harvest season, they often need a source of funds to help them with crop production expenses during the months when little income is being received. Many farmers like the convenience of lines of credit which can be established with their banks. A line of credit guarantees that a specified amount of money is available for the farmer's use. As little or as much of the credit can be used as is desirable. The farmer pays interest only on the amount of money that is actually borrowed from the line of credit.



Don Leigh

Most farmers set up these lines of credit in January and February, so they can take advances as they are needed, generally during the first six months of the year.

The line of credit is based on the number of productive acres of crops, the estimated yield per acre, and current market prices. The farmer's expenses are also taken into account, including payments on equipment, chemicals, fertilizers, labor, cost of marketing the crops, taxes, depreciation of equipment, and "return to management" (the salary the farmer gives himself).

The value of the crops minus expenses helps the banker determine what size credit line the farmer can handle. The credit line may range from a few thousand to as much as several hundred thousand dollars.

Banks also lend money to farmers for purchasing livestock. A percentage of the appraised value of the animals can be borrowed, based on market prices for hogs, beef and dairy cattle, chickens and other animals.

When some of the crops are harvested, usually around July, and animals are sold, the farmer can begin making payments timed to have the loan repaid by year-end.

A banker making agricultural loans realizes that a farmer's success is subject to many variables. Drought, floods, and extreme weather conditions can affect the profitability during the season. If the farmer has a bad year, due to climate or bad market prices, arrangement possibly can be made with the bank to reschedule payments or refinance some equipment to help assure the farmer's continued financial soundness.

Bankers may give a lower interest rate or a larger credit line to a farmer who has all of his banking accounts with that one bank. A farmer needs to choose a bank that has a reputation of understanding farmers' credit needs, and a bank that has shown interest in agricultural lending.

Don Leigh, a banker for 13 years, is assistant vice president and city executive of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company's office in Hamilton.

## Try Stir-Frying For Vegetables

The Chinese are an agricultural people whose diet reflects that fact. It contains much rice and many vegetables, with soybeans for protein.

One of their most popular contributions to the culinary arts is stir-frying. This rapid-cooking method was invented in times when fuel was scarce, says Marjorie Donnelly, foods and nutrition specialist at North Carolina State University, and is still the most frequently used of all Chinese cooking techniques.

"Stir-frying is the brisk cooking of small pieces of ingredients in hot oil over intense heat for a short time," Mrs. Donnelly says. "During cooking, the ingredients must be kept in constant motion by stirring or tossing vigorously and when cooking is completed, the food should be removed immediately from the heat."

In order to cook and stir quickly enough, all of the ingredients must be prepared before cooking is started.

The following vegetable recipe illustrates what stir-frying is all about.

- CHINESE VEGETABLES**
- 1 pound fresh broccoli
  - 8 ounces fresh spinach
  - 8 ounces fresh pea pods or 1 package frozen pods,

- thawed
  - 4 stalks celery
  - 2 medium yellow onions
  - 8 green onions
  - 3/4 cup water
  - 1 Tbsp. chicken bouillon granules
  - 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
  - 1 Tbsp. minced pared fresh ginger root
1. Clean vegetables. Cut broccoli tops into flowerettes. Cut stalks into thin strips 2 inches long and 1/4 inch wide. Chop spinach coarsely. Remove ends and strings from pea pods. Cut celery into 1/2-inch diagonal slices. Peel yellow onions, cut into wedges and separate layers. Cut green onions into thin diagonal slices. Combine water and bouillon.
  2. Heat oil in wok or electric skillet over high heat. Add broccoli stalks, onion wedges and ginger. Stir-fry 1 minute.
  3. Add all remaining vegetables. Toss lightly.
  4. Add water mixture. Toss until vegetables are completely coated. Cook until liquid boils. Cover wok and cook until vegetables are tender-crisp, 2 to 3 minutes.

For most activities at kitchens counters, a home-maker needs a work surface three inches below her elbow.