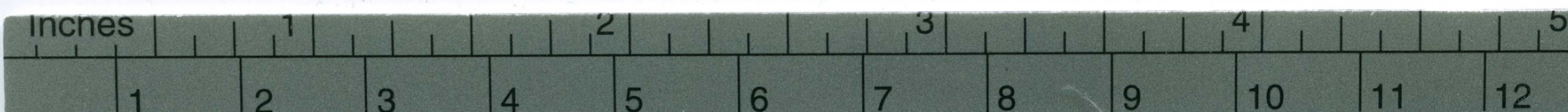
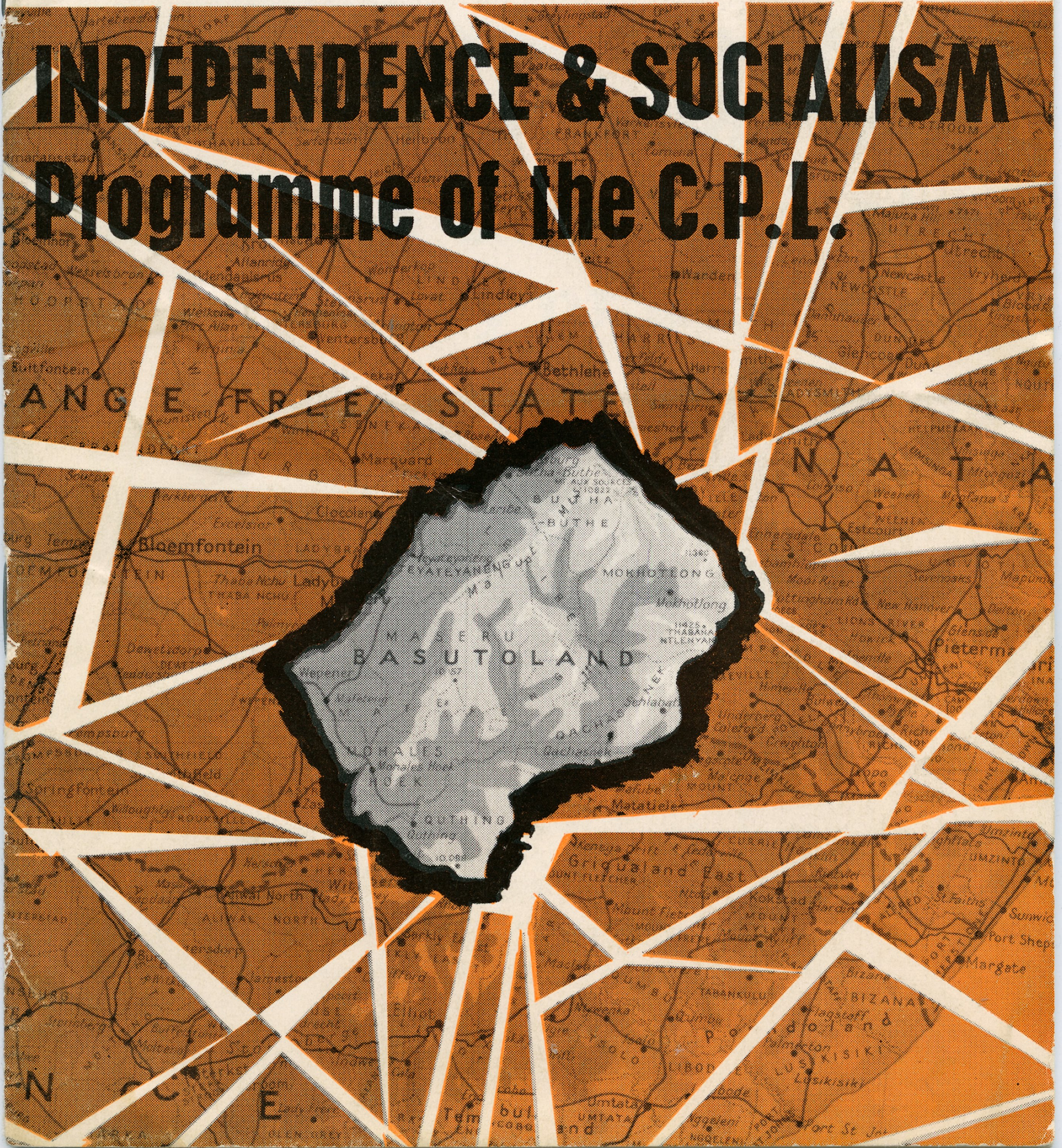


LESOTHO

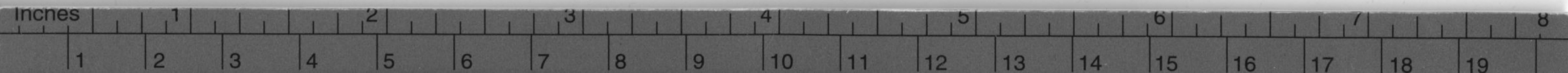
INDEPENDENCE & SOCIALISM
Programme of the C.P.L.



INDEPENDENCE & SOCIALISM

**Programme &
Constitution of
the Communist
Party of Lesotho**

COMMUNIST PARTY OF LESOTHO
P.O. Box 330 · Maseru · Basutoland



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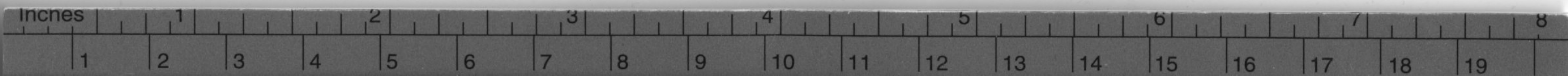
The Programme of the Communist Party of Lesotho (Basutoland)

THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

LESOTHO (Basutoland) is an enclave entirely surrounded by the Republic of South Africa. It is a small country occupying an area of 11,720 square miles with a population of approximately 800,000.

Our country is a colony under the control of Great Britain. For the past 80 years or more the people of Lesotho have suffered colonial oppression. Threatened by the depredations of the Boers in the last century the founder of the nation—King Moshoeshe I entered into a Treaty of Alliance and Protection with the British Government in 1843. The Treaty provided for protection by Britain of Lesotho in the event of aggression by any outsider. In terms of the agreement King Moshoeshe and the Basotho Pitso were to continue to exercise complete sovereignty over the country. The Boers continued their policy of robbing the Basotho of their territory with the help of superior arms and the barely concealed connivance of the British Government. Further treaties entered into with the British followed, each more unfavourable to the Basotho. But Britain had no intention of abiding by the spirit or the letter of any treaties entered into with the Basotho. Over the years by a succession of acts of force and guile the powers of the people over the country were whittled down to the point where independent Lesotho became a crown colony entirely under the control of an imperialist power.

At present the government of Lesotho is based on a constitution introduced in 1959 which purports to give more power to the Basotho. Provision is made in the constitution for a legislative council known as the "National Council". The Council com-



prises 80 members, half of whom are elected by a system of indirect elections. The rest are nominees. Women are virtually excluded from the electorate. There is an Executive Council appointed by the British High Commissioner. The Executive Council consists of eight members, half of whom are British officials. Although the National Council has extensive powers these are circumscribed by the undemocratic character of the constitution. Ultimate power and initiative still rest firmly in the hands of the British Government which can veto any law and can repeal the constitution itself without reference to the Basotho.

The prolonged rule of British imperialism has had grave effects on the economy of the country. The land and natural resources are hardly developed at all. There is no industry. Agriculture is primitive. Health facilities are scanty and educational opportunities limited. Of the population of over 800,000 the majority are so poverty stricken that more than half the menfolk in their prime of life are forced to go and sell their labour power at wretched rates of pay in neighbouring South Africa.

The one natural resource which the people have managed by means of struggle to preserve is the land. Unlike other colonies no foreigner owns any part of Basutoland. Land in Lesotho is held in trust for the Basotho nation by the Paramount Chief and may not be alienated. Grazing rights are communal, but arable land is allocated to individuals by Chiefs who act under the authority of the Paramount Chief. With the growth of population and with changes in the needs of the people the traditional tribal land tenure which depended on the easy availability of land has now broken down. The imperialists have been content that this remains the position. Allocation of land in the traditional manner is arbitrary, archaic and uneconomic. There is no element of economic planning in such allocation.

Of the total land area of 11,720 square miles only about 1,453 square miles are cultivable. There are over 170,000 households in Basutoland with an average of land-holding of 4 acres each. Actually the majority of families do not have more than approximately 2 acres. Fourteen per cent of the households are completely landless. When it is considered that an economic unit of land in

the best areas of Basutoland is considered to be 15 acres it will be realised why it is impossible for the people to live on produce from the land. Only about 5 per cent of the landholders hold 15 acres and over. Economists have also estimated that a person holding 5.7 acres would earn £12 per year. A person holding 15 acres would still be able to earn only £120 per year. In view of the fact that land is practically the only known asset of the country a serious economic plight is revealed by the facts.

As a consequence thousands of Basotho are compelled to leave the country to work on the mines, farms and industries of the Republic of South Africa. Eighty-three thousand males of working age were absent from the territory in 1959. That amounted to 43 per cent of the adult male population. In South Africa which has a developed economy the Basotho are subject to the same conditions as have made South Africa's name infamous throughout the world. Like all Africans in South Africa they suffer racial discrimination in all fields including wages and conditions of work. That alone is a commentary on the disgraceful conditions existing in Lesotho. Our country is a reservoir of cheap labour for South African mines, farms and industries. It has been a fundamental principle of British policy to maintain this position. The recruiting agencies of South African mines have been granted extensive special privileges to operate in the country and nothing has been done to develop the economy of the country so as to provide employment for the Basotho inside the motherland.

The flow of migratory labour between Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa has had disastrous social and economic consequences on Basutoland. But objectively it has also given rise to the emergence of class-conscious workers trained in the harsh conditions of South African wage slavery. Thus the weapon has been fashioned to free Basutoland from the ravages of British imperialism and its ally—White South African imperialism.

For many years, led by organisations like the Lekhotla La Bafu and the Basutoland Congress Party, the Basotho have been carrying on a brave struggle in the traditions of King Moshoeshoe I to maintain and extend the independence of the country. Throughout their struggle the Basotho have received valuable help from progressive organisations in South Africa. Individual

communists as members either of the Lekhotla La Bafo or the Basutoland Congress Party have made significant contributions to the struggle in the last 30 years, long before the Communist Party of Lesotho was established. The Communists are no strangers to the masses of Lesotho.

LESOTHO IN THE NEW ERA

The struggle of the people of Lesotho for independence has now entered a new phase; it is taking place under new conditions, in a new epoch.

The new era in human history was ushered in by the Great October Socialist Revolution organised by the Communist Party of Russia in 1917. As a result of this revolution a new type of society hitherto unknown came into being. A Soviet State in which for the first time exploitation and oppression of workers were abolished was established in the Soviet Union. Inspired by the example of the workers and peasants of Russia, millions of people throughout the world were aroused to fight against imperialism for their national liberation. From a backward country the Soviet Union became within the space of a generation the world's mightiest state in science, economy and technology.

Following the victory of the Soviet Union in the Second World War and the defeat of fascism the cause of the oppressed people made a further leap forward. The great Chinese people under the leadership of the Communist Party defeated foreign imperialism, and domestic reaction and embarked on the Socialist path. In a number of European and Asian countries, the people rose against capitalist and landlord rule and laid the basis for socialism. There has thus come into being the world Socialist system comprising a third of the human race. The Socialist system is a social, economic and political community of free sovereign peoples pursuing the socialist and communist path, united by an identity of interests and goals and close bonds of international socialist solidarity.

Of vital significance too is the astonishing growth in the number and power of international working class organisations. Especially noteworthy are those communist and workers' parties working in the citadels of imperialism, in the United States,

Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Spain and other imperialist countries.

The powerful socialist camp has become a bastion of and stimulus to movements for national liberation in Asia, Africa and Latin America. As a result a great wave of independence has swept over these areas. There are now no more than 30 independent African states. The disgraceful colonial system is approaching complete disintegration and decay.

The conditions described above enable our epoch to be characterised as follows:

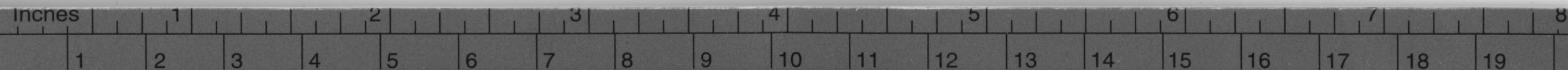
Our times, the basic content of which is the transition from capitalism to socialism initiated by the Great October Socialist Revolution, are times of struggle between the two opposed social systems, times of socialist revolutions and national liberation revolutions, of the breakdown of imperialism, of the abolition of the colonial system, times of transition of more peoples to the socialist path, of the triumph of socialism and communism on a world-wide scale.

Statement of Meeting of Representatives of Communist and Workers Parties—Moscow, 1960.

Lesotho has also felt the effects of these great developments on the world scene, which have helped our people to win important victories. British Imperialism is being forced to make substantial concessions, and the country stands on the verge of independence.

But it would be a mistake to under-estimate the difficulties and complexity of the struggle that still lie ahead. Politically our country is still dominated by British Imperialism. The mine-owners, industrialists and farmers of the Republic of South Africa exploit the labour-power of the Basotho workers. The Republic includes within its boundaries Basotho territory obtained with the help of British Imperialism in the last century. The Republic of South Africa which is a tyranny in which a White minority enjoys political and other rights at the expense of the majority of the people continually threatens Basutoland as well as Swaziland and Bechuanaland with incorporation and the imposition of their evil system of apartheid.

To win complete and genuine independence, and to raise the



living and cultural standards of the masses of our people revolutionary changes are needed in Lesotho. Industry, agriculture and communications must be rapidly developed so as to provide employment for all inside the country, and enable the sons of Lesotho to return to their motherland. Such development is only possible under a system of socialist planning, which will enable the whole people to benefit from their labour, not merely a small class or group.

To safeguard our independence we cannot rely on the protection of British Imperialism which has betrayed the trust of our own and many other peoples and continues to do so. For example the two protectorates of Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia were forcibly joined in Federation with Southern Rhodesia for the sake of a few White capitalists. We must rely, firstly, on our own strength and unity, and for this purpose the Basotho must enjoy complete sovereignty and self-government, including control of their own defence force, foreign policy, internal security, post and telegraphs, airlines, and all other powers which are controlled by genuinely independent governments. Secondly, we must rely on our nearest allies, our oppressed brothers and sisters in the Republic who are fighting against our common enemy, aggressive white South African Imperialism. For this purpose the Basotho should maintain close friendly relations with the progressive movements in the Republic of South Africa such as the South African Communist Party and the African National Congress.

Thirdly, we must rely on the sympathy and support of the independent states of Africa, of Asia and Latin America. We must rely on the member states of the United Nations nearly all of whom have condemned Apartheid and who can be expected to extend prompt and immediate practical aid to an independent Lesotho should she be compelled to resist aggression and embargoes from her imperialist neighbour. For this purpose Basutoland must be represented as an independent country at the United Nations, and enter into friendly relations with all countries, irrespective of their social system. We should rapidly develop air and other means of communication with the outside world; and enter into any necessary alliances.

A NEW TYPE OF PARTY

The parties and organisations which have hitherto existed in Lesotho have done valuable work for the country, but they have proved inadequate to meet the complex and difficult tasks of our people in the new situation which arose from our internal development and from fast-moving changes beyond our borders. These organisations have represented mainly chiefs, or peasants or middle-class intellectuals. They have lacked a clear ideology and understanding of the modern world. Hence they often compromised with British Imperialism; neglected the interests of the Basotho workers both in this country and in the Republic; failed to adopt suitable programmes for industry and agriculture, and looked for advancement or enrichment of a few rather than the upliftment of the poorest section of the people.

The Communist Party of Lesotho (Basutoland) is a Marxist-Leninist Party of the new type. The Party represents the working class and safeguards the ultimate interests of the whole nation. It is a party guided by the most advanced political and economic theory, namely, Marxism-Leninism; the science which has already led a third of humanity to Liberation.

The Party stands uncompromisingly for the freedom, independence and self-government of Basutoland as the only road to a socialist Republic of Lesotho. To achieve this aim the party strives for co-operation with other patriotic forces in the nation in a united front of national liberation.

The Party works for close friendly relations between the Basotho and their brothers and sisters in the Republic of South Africa. It safeguards the interests of the most exploited section of the people—the workers both inside and outside the country. It will help to overcome and root out all vestiges of colonialism in this country. It will lead the way to the winning not only of formal political independence but also of economic independence, the raising of the cultural standards and the safeguarding of the future of Basutoland.

The ultimate aim of the Party is to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat, to carry through changes that will lead to socialism

and finally to communism. But under the conditions prevailing in our country today these aims belong to the future.

The party therefore advances the following immediate aims which are in accord with the necessities of the struggle today. Among the immediate aims of the party are:

IMMEDIATE AIMS

The achievement of immediate independence for Lesotho and the creation of a democratic state with all local and national representatives in legislative bodies subject both to election and recall by universal, equal, direct, secret, adult suffrage without regard to race, sex, colour, creed, educational or other qualifications whatever.

The Party demands the ending of all vestiges of colonialism and specifically control by a democratic National Council of the civil service, defence, foreign policy, internal security, post and telegraphs, internal and external communications, airways, currency and all other powers of a sovereign legislature.

It stands for the adherence of an independent Lesotho to the United Nations and the establishment of friendly diplomatic and economic relations with all countries including Britain but especially with the independent African states.

In regard to relationships with the Republic of South Africa the Party will demand that the Republic unequivocally recognises the independence and integrity of the country. It will make new arrangements with the Mines and other employers to pay adequate wages, guarantee safety conditions and trade union rights. It will propose that Basotho officials take adequate measures to enforce such arrangements. Furthermore the party will demand the return of territories belonging to Lesotho wrongfully included in the Republic by British Imperialism.

The Party demands a national plan to survey and utilise all mineral and other national resources, the property of the nation, to modernise roads and communications, and to build industries to raise living standards and provide employment.

The Party stands for the creation of an Agrarian Reform Institute with wide powers over the use of the National asset—**LAND**. Radical reform must be undertaken in regard to all

land. Building upon the traditional attitude of our people to the land whereby it is regarded as belonging to all the people, the state should encourage the formation of co-operatives and collective farms under democratic administration. The state should take immediate steps to mechanise farming operations, conserve water supplies and combat soil erosion. It should encourage scientific livestock breeding and diversification of crops.

The Party will demand the immediate nationalisation of all labour recruitment.

The Party will propose the establishment of a national bank and currency system.

The Party will press for guarantees of civil liberties including freedom of speech, of the press, of movement and of belief.

The Party will work for a united national front with all progressive forces aiming at an independent, self-governing, democratic Basutoland; a united front of all workers, peasants, professional and business people; chiefs and commoners for independence and democracy, for higher living and cultural standards, and the development of the economy of the country by the Basotho themselves through their own democratically elected government.

COMMUNISM—The bright future of all mankind

The historic Twenty-Second Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union considered and adopted the great programme for the building of the first communist society in the history of mankind. The programme is a concrete, scientifically substantiated programme for the building of communism. All mankind will inevitably march along the road to the highest stage of human society—**COMMUNISM**. Lesotho is no exception. Although our country lags behind because of specific, historical features, it is open to us to achieve our independence, create a state of National Democracy based on a non-capitalist economy, and advance with the help of the progressive world to socialism and communism. That is the ultimate aim that the Communist Party of Lesotho sets itself.

Constitution

Name

The name of the organisation is the *Communist Party of Lesotho (Basutoland)*. **1**

Aims

The Communist Party is a political party of the working class. **2**
Its aims are:

(a) To act as an independent party of the workers and peasants of Lesotho, aiming at a Socialist Republic of Lesotho.

(b) To prepare the way for Socialism by working for an independent, self-governing democratic Lesotho and the ending of colonial rule by British Imperialism and its allies.

(c) To work for a united front of national liberation with all progressive and patriotic forces in Lesotho for the achievement of complete freedom and independence.

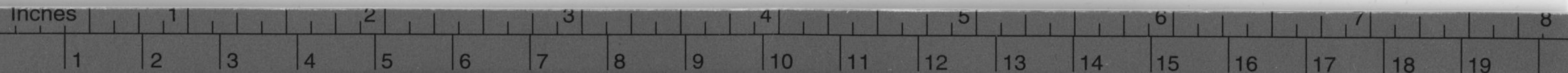
(d) To establish working class rule and a Socialist Republic based on the common ownership of production.

(e) To promote unity of the workers and other progressive forces in Africa and the world.

Membership

(a) Membership is open to all persons over the age of 18 who accept the programme and policy of the Party and undertake to carry out the decisions, pay dues regularly and work in a Party organisation. Members of other political parties may not be members of the Party without approval of the Central Committee. **3**

(b) Applications for membership shall be made on a pres-



cribed form and may be accepted or rejected by a District Committee. Where an applicant resides in an area in which a branch of the Party is established the applicant shall be accepted or rejected by the branch committee subject to confirmation of the District Committee.

Rights and Duties of Members

- 4 (a) A member shall have the right and duty to take part in the discussion and formulation of Party policy and the election of Party Committees.
- (b) A member who disagrees with any Party decision, and a Party unit that disagrees with the decision of a higher body, shall carry out such decisions unless and until they may have been reversed.
- (c) A member must inform his branch or District Secretary before leaving his district and shall report to the Secretary of the district to which he removes.
- (d) Every member has a right and duty to take an active part in the work of his or her unit of the Party, to strive constantly to improve his or her understanding of Marxist-Leninist theory, to be fully acquainted with Party policy, with decisions and documents issued by the Party, to read the Party press and to explain Party policy among fellow workers and people generally.
- (e) New membership cards shall be issued each year to all fully paid up members.

Organisation

- 5 Party organisation is based on the application of the principle of democratic centralism. This means that:
- (a) Decisions of the majority are binding on all members and those of higher leading bodies on lower party bodies; e.g., National Party Conference and Central Committee decisions are binding on all members and Party organisations.
- (b) District Conference and District Committee decisions are binding on all members and Party organisations within the district.

(c) Branch decisions and Branch Committee decisions are binding on all members of the branch.

(d) The elective principle is applied to all leading organs of the Party from the lowest to the highest.

(e) The highest leading body is in every instance the membership assembled in:

(i) National Conference, which elects the Central Committee.

(ii) District Conference which elects the District Committee.

(iii) Branch meeting, which elects the Branch Committee.

National Conference

(a) The highest authority of the Party shall be the National Conference which shall be called annually by the Central Committee either in the month of December or January. 6

(b) The National Conference shall consist of delegates from districts and areas under Provisional District Committees, as described in Section 9 and 10, on the basis of one delegate for every 30 members or part thereof who are not more than three months in arrear with Party dues. No district whose dues are more than three months in arrear at the date of the conference may send delegates to the Conference, except with the permission of the Central Committee.

(c) Members of the Central Committee shall be entitled to attend the National Conference ex officio with the right to speak and vote.

(d) Delegates to National Conference shall be elected by District Conferences. Nominations for the delegates may, with the consent of the nominees, be made by branches, groups or delegates to the District Conferences.

(e) Delegates to National Conference may not be held bound by a mandate on any question, but are free to vote as responsible members of Conference.

(f) The National Conference shall discuss the reports of the Central Committee, examine and decide the policy of the Party, determine the site of head office and, where necessary,

revise the programme and constitution of the Party. At least two months prior to the conference, the Central Committee shall circulate reports and draft resolutions to districts. Motions and proposed amendments to the constitution may be submitted to the National Conference only by the Central Committee, District Committees and Provisional Districts.

(g) The National Conference shall elect by ballot the National Chairman and the General Secretary, together with the seven other members, who shall constitute the Central Committee and shall hold office until the next annual conference.

(h) A special National Conference may be called between annual conferences if the Central Committee so decides, or if after a request from one district all districts are circulated by the Central Committee with reasons for the request and the majority of districts support such request.

(I) Central Committee

7 The Central Committee shall be the highest authority of the Party between conferences. It shall:

(a) Meet at least twice a year.

(b) Carry out the policy of the National Conference.

(c) Be responsible for ensuring that all officers, District Committees and other party organisations carry out their duties efficiently and provide education for members in Marxist-Leninist theory.

(d) Represent the Party nationally in its relations with other political parties and organisations.

(e) Be responsible for directing and assisting the work of members elected to Parliament and other representative bodies.

(f) Direct and control the national Party press and publications.

(g) (i) Manage and control all central property and funds through its treasurer and two trustees, who shall be elected by the Central Committee from amongst its members. All acts of registration of property or funds, and the authority

to take or defend any action, shall be vested in the said trustees from time to time.

(ii) Have all central property and funds vested in the Central Committee.

(h) Sue or be sued in respect of only central funds or property or other matters pertaining to only the Central Committee.

(i) Not be liable or responsible for the acts or omissions of the districts or branches, but shall be entitled and have the power in the event of disciplinary action being taken against a whole district to seize all property or funds of that district.

(II) Political Bureau

(a) The Central Committee shall elect from its members the Treasurer of the Party and two other members, who together with the National Chairman and the General Secretary, shall constitute the Political Bureau.

(b) The Political Bureau shall meet at least once a week. Any member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings without a reason acceptable to the Bureau shall forfeit his seat.

(c) The Political Bureau shall conduct the current work of the Party and shall exercise the powers and functions of the Central Committee between meetings of the Central Committee.

(d) Any member of the Central Committee may by invitation attend any meeting of the Political Bureau.

(e) The Political Bureau may fill any vacancy that occurs on it from members of the Central Committee.

(f) In the Central Committee seven members shall constitute a quorum and in the Political Bureau three shall constitute a quorum.

(III) Duties of Officers

National Chairman

(a) The National Chairman shall preside at all National Conferences, meetings of the Central Committee and Political

Bureau, and shall conduct business in conformity with the Constitution, by-laws and rules of procedure adopted by those bodies.

(b) He shall have a deliberative vote.

(c) He shall sign all Minutes and endorse all accounts for payment after approval by the Political Bureau.

(d) In his absence the Conference or Committee shall elect one of the members to the chair, who shall exercise the powers and carry out the duties of the Chairman.

General Secretary

(a) The General Secretary shall keep the Minutes of the National Conference, the Central Committee and the Political Bureau and such other books as may be required.

(b) He shall attend to the correspondence of the Central Committee and send out notices of all conferences and Political Bureau meetings with the agenda of the business to be transacted.

(c) He shall draw up an annual report of the work of the Central Committee and such other reports and documents as may be decided upon from time to time by the Political Bureau.

(d) He shall be a full time official and shall be paid such salary as may be decided upon by the Political Bureau.

(e) If he vacates his office between conferences an Acting Secretary shall be appointed by the Political Bureau.

Treasurer and Trustees

(a) The National Treasurer shall with the Trustees, be responsible for all money and property of the Central Committee. He shall bank all money received in an approved bank within three days.

(b) Banking accounts shall be operated by the Treasurer and Trustees, any two of whom shall sign all cheques and documents.

(c) The National Treasurer shall keep such books of account as may be necessary to record clearly the financial position of the Central Committee, and shall submit a statement of income and expenditure to the Political Bureau at its first meet-

ing in each month. He shall draw up an annual statement of income and expenditure and a balance sheet and shall present these documents duly audited to the National Conference.

Districts

(a) Districts may be constituted by the Central Committee 9 wherever it thinks suitable. All branches and groups within the area shall be under the jurisdiction of the District Committee.

(b) A District Conference consisting of delegates from all groups in the districts, elected on the basis of one delegate for each ten members or part thereof, shall be called annually by the District Committee provided that where the membership of a district is less than 100 the District Conference shall be a general meeting of all members in the district. All members of the district committee shall be entitled to attend ex officio and to speak and vote thereat. Delegates may not be held bound by a mandate, but are free to vote as responsible members of conference.

(c) The Annual District Conference shall discuss the reports of the District Committee, decide on questions of Party work and policy within its area of jurisdiction and elect the District Chairman and Secretary and not less than three other members who shall constitute the district committee.

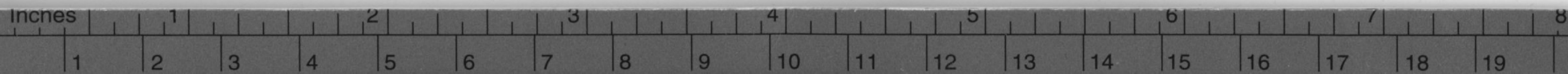
(d) The District Committee shall elect the Treasurer and two Trustees (the latter not necessarily members of the committee) whose duties shall, with the necessary changes, be the same as those of the National Treasurer and Trustees.

(e) (i) All district property and funds shall be vested in the district.

(ii) Each district shall itself be liable and responsible in respect of its own funds and property and shall sue or be sued in respect thereof.

(iii) All acts of registration of property and funds and the authority to take or defend any action shall be vested in the said Trustees from time to time.

(f) The District Conference shall elect an auditor to audit the accounts for which the District Committee is responsible



and shall approve his annual fee, if any. He shall hold office until the next annual conference.

(g) All elections for the District Committee shall be by ballot. Nominations shall be called for from groups and branches in the district and from the district committee not later than two weeks before the conference. Additional names may be nominated by individual delegates at the conference.

(h) The District Committee shall meet weekly. Any member who absents himself from three consecutive meetings without a reason acceptable to the committee shall forfeit the seat.

(i) In the District Committee a majority of members shall constitute a quorum.

(j) The District Committee is responsible for carrying out the political work of a district in accordance with the policy decided upon by the National Conference and the Central Committee.

(k) All district sub-committees shall be appointed by the District Committee and subject to its guidance.

(l) District Committees shall submit to the Central Committee monthly, a report and statement of income and expenditure and shall present to the Annual District Conference an annual report and an audited balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure, together with the auditor's report.

(m) Paid employees may be appointed by the District Committee or elected by the District Conference, subject to confirmation by the Central Committee. The responsibility for their salaries and expenses shall rest on the District Committee.

(n) The officers of the District Committee shall, with the necessary changes, carry out in their districts the same duties as the National Officers as described in Section 8.

(o) Vacancies on a District Committee between conferences or general meetings may be filled by the District Committee, subject to confirmation by the next conference or general meeting.

(p) In addition to the annual conference or general meeting a District Committee shall call conferences or general meetings

at regular intervals to be determined by the District Committee.

(q) No District shall take part in or conclude any negotiations with other organisations or political parties without the prior consent of the Central Committee or the Political Bureau.

Provisional District Committees

When a group or branch of party members is outside any district and is directly responsible to the Central Committee it may be given by the Central Committee the status of a Provisional District Committee and shall exercise such powers and functions of a District Committee as may be determined by the Central Committee. **10**

Groups and Branches

(a) A group shall be a unit in a district authorised by the District Committee. Where there are two or more groups in an area they may be constituted a branch by the District Committee. **11**

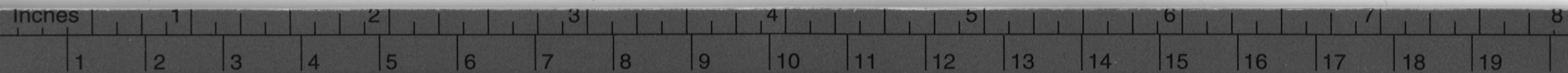
(b) A branch shall at an annual general meeting of members elect a branch committee consisting of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than three additional members. All groups in a branch shall be represented on a branch committee.

(c) A Branch shall, unless the district decides otherwise, control its own funds, which shall consist of one-third of the dues collected from members, together with funds from such sources as may be approved of by the District Committee. The branch committee shall keep proper books and comply with such other requirements as to audit and submit statements as shall be required by the District Committee.

(d) Branch Committee meetings shall be held regularly at least once a fortnight.

(e) Branch meetings shall be held at least once a month.

(f) No Branch or Group of the Party shall take part in or conclude any negotiations with other organisations or political parties without the prior consent of the Committee.



Party Funds

- 12** (a) Every member shall pay dues according to a scale to be determined by the National Conference.
- (b) The Central Committee may impose a national levy on all members, and District Committees may, with the prior sanction of the Central Committee, impose levies on their members.
- (c) All Party dues shall be apportioned one-third to the branch committee, one-third to the District Committee and one-third to the Central Committee, provided that where a branch does not control its own funds or members are not attached to a branch, the Central Committee and District shall each receive one-half of the dues collected.
- (d) Proper books of account shall be kept of all monies received and expended by Branch Committees and District Committees. Such books shall be examined and audited statements and balance sheets shall be placed by a branch committee before a branch meeting, and by a District Committee before the District Conference.

Discipline

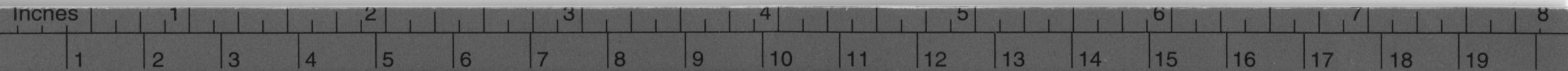
- 13** (a) A District Committee and the Central Committee shall have the right to suspend or expel or take other disciplinary action against a member for breach of this Constitution, or conduct which is proved to be detrimental to the Party.
- (b) In all cases of disciplinary action against a Party member he shall be confronted with the charges against him in writing and be given an opportunity of fully stating his defence before any action is taken.
- (c) Members have the right to appeal against disciplinary measures to the Central Committee and thence to the National Conference. Appeals must be made in writing to the Central Committee within 30 days after the member concerned has been notified. All appeals must be made through the District Committee concerned, which shall forward such appeal, together with all relevant documents to the central committee.
- (d) The maximum period of suspension shall be three months. A suspended member shall not be allowed to address public

Party meetings, to hold office in the Party or to retain his Party card, neither shall he be allowed to attend internal Party meetings except by special invitation, in which case he shall not be allowed to vote. He shall pay all dues and levies and may be assigned such tasks as the District Committee considers he should perform.

- (e) All cases of expulsion must be fully reported to the Central Committee together with copies of relevant documents and shall not be published without the consent of the Central Committee.
- (f) An inactive member may be lapsed from membership by the District Committee. A member who fails to pay dues for a period of over three months and who does not pay his arrears after being personally visited on behalf of the District Committee shall be lapsed from membership.
- (g) All applications from expelled persons, together with the comments of the District Committees shall be referred to the Central Committee, which shall have sole power to re-admit an expelled member.

Elections to Public Bodies

- (a) Candidates for District Councils and other local governing **14** bodies shall be endorsed by the district committee in the area under its control, before being officially nominated.
- (b) In the case of the National Council or other national representative bodies, candidates may be selected by a district committee or branch. In every case the candidates must receive the endorsement of the Central Committee before they are officially nominated.
- (c) If any members are elected on to any Public body the Party must state what portion of the salary pertaining to membership of such body can be retained by them.
- (d) (i) Any member of the Party elected to a local or national governing body shall come under the instructions of the District Committee or Central Committee or their delegated executive organisation.
- (ii) Where more than one member of the Party is so elected a Party caucus shall be established.



(iii) A majority decision of the caucus shall be supreme subject only to sub-clause (i) hereof.

Alterations to the Constitution

- 15** (a) All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Central Committee not less than two months prior to National Conference. The Central Committee shall circulate the proposed amendments to all districts not less than one month prior to Conference.
- (b) This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote at National Conferences.

