

have not been given adequate attention. If one considers the issue of retrocession, for example, a question which immediately comes to mind is: What leverage does Lesotho have vis-a-vis South Africa if the latter cannot accede to its claims? In regard to integration pertinent questions relate to the constitutional form of that development: Should integration lead to a total dismemberment of Lesotho or to a residual existence within the context of federalism or confederalism?

This paper is an exercise in the double effort of assessing the questions raised above. The paper is divided into three sections. In the first section I map out the debates while the second section is an attempt to discuss the feasibility of retrocession. The last section focuses on the issues pertaining to integration.

THE OPTIONS IN PERSPECTIVE RETROCESSION

The current frontiers between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Orange Free State, the Eastern Cape Province and Kwazulu Natal regions of South African are a subject of long standing dispute between the two neighbouring countries. In 1976 at the height of tensions between the two countries resulting from Lesotho's refusal to recognise the bogus independence of the Transkei homeland, Lesotho's Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. C D Molapo, seized the opportunity to also refer to this dispute in his address to the United Nations Security Council. He submitted that large tracks of land in the Free State, Natal and the Cape Province rightfully belonged to the Basotho Nation.¹

The submissions of Mr. Molapo on territorial claims to the Security Council did not only express the sentiments of the government and the Basotho Nation Party (BNP) both of which he represented on that occasion. The pervasiveness of such sentiments within the country's body-politic cutting across both political party and social standing barriers is a matter relatively well known. Indeed the BNP was considered to be the only party which developed cold feet on the issue until the 1970s when it weaned itself from the tutelage of the South African Government and asserted a radical foreign policy. The Basotholand Congress Party (BCP) had indeed always cast itself in the role of the standard bearer for these sentiments. Indeed the party slogan 'Ea khutla naha' (The land shall be returned) was

1 Speech by Mr. C D Molapo to the UN Security Council, 21 December, 1976.