To His Excellency
The High Commissioner for
The Bechuanaland Protectorate,

MAFIKENG

Your Excellency,

During all my twenty years experience in the Bechuanaland Protectorate we have frequently welcomed High Officials of the British Government including the Secretary of State Mr. Amery, but never before have controversial matters been permitted to be discussed in a public meeting attended by these Distinguished Officials. It must be clear to everybody that it is impossible for the Secretary of State during the time at his disposal to sift the facts and give a decision. I submit, Sir, that this extraordinary meeting convened to welcome the Secretary of State, and the still more extraordinary way in which it has been organised, force me to the conclusion that this meeting is meant to demonstrate to the Secretary of State that I am not wanted in my own country without giving me a chance of facing my accusers and defending myself.

We submit, Sir, that the present arrangements are unique and calculated to make a demonstration against myself so as to enable the Secretary of State in his wide unlimited powers to decide my fate on the demonstration given without my having an opportunity of facing my accusers. The mere parrot-like announcement of "we do not like Tshekedi" by people who have been advised so to say by my Sekgoma cousins and the District Commissioner is an easy thing to get unthinking masses to repeat, especially if they anticipate the protection of the Government against facing the man they accuse.

I wish to record here that what the delegates will say to the Secretary of State has in effect recently been suggested to them by the District Commissioner Mr. Germond, presumably in his capacity as Native Authority, accompanied by Keaboka, and judging at least by their joint remarks made by either at the several meetings held in separate areas by these parties in connection with what should be said by the Samangwato at the Secretary of State's Kgotla. For the purpose of record my information is to this effect, inter alia:-- that the "Samangwato" were going to tell the Secretary of State that they did not want Tshekedi and that Tshekedi should not be allowed to attend his private affairs in the country but should appoint a manager as Seretse did. The District Commissioner would go on to say that he has been to such and such places and found that Tshekedi had practically got no people there except so many. After giving this lead Mr. Germond would sit down and invite the people to make their comments and to signify whether they were for Seretse or for Tshekedi. In the present stage of our development dealing with simple-minded tribesmen a statement from such a highly placed official as Mr. Germond is taken for advice if not an order. This coupled with the fact that I am representative as claiming certain people as mine in opposition to Seretse divides the tribe and creates feelings of bitterness against me which is apparently intended to form sufficient ground for my further banishment. My information is that the so called statements to be made to the Secretary of State will be on this lines. I wish it noted that prior to the District Commissioner's visiting the outside districts and giving the above advice no meeting has ever been held in any one district spontaneously to suggest that these things be said about me. In spite of the fact that this is the ploughing season when the tribesmen are busy raising food for their families who extraordinary steps have been taken to make and enable people who

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who support Seretse's view on the marriage to attend the meeting and attempts have been made to prevent the people who support my view from attending the meeting.

If this Kgotla is conducted in the usual manner no party is entitled to accuse another before the president in the absence of the accused and without giving the accused the opportunity to refute any charge made against him.

Up to the present my order of banishment has not been relaxed to enable me to attend this national Kgotla with the Secretary of State at Serowe on the 1st February 1961, and I hereby formally make application for leave to attend and to such part of the proceedings as any ordinary citizen is entitled to do. If, however, it is contended as previously that I cannot attend because Seretse will not be present then I ask that the statements which I understand will be made at this meeting by selected delegates commenting detrimentally to me and my future, should not be made at this Kgotla but should be made by these delegates at a time and place where I can be present and give my answers. In none of our petitions submitted herewith is there any derogatory statement against Seretse.

As over and over again the Protectorate Government has emphasised the fact that those with me at Rametsana have full liberty to come in and out of their country and to attend political meetings I hereby give notice that I have requested Chief Kgari's permission to send a deputation headed by Rasebolai to attend this meeting and present their views and replies. I have heard that the District Commissioner and a Police Officer have either cautioned or verbally ordered "Rametsana" people not to attend this meeting, but no written order has yet been issued as I would expect in such a case. Quite apart from it being the duty of the administration to protect me, I desire to assure the Secretary of State that there is no danger either to myself or to my supporters today if we attend this meeting as the sentimental feeling exhibited when Ruth and Seretse first came has completely disappeared. I personally without any protection whatsoever have moved freely in my country including Serowe without any molestation or demonstration for as long as three months at a stretch. My visits have extended even to the middle of January this year.

I have requested my Chief, Chief Kgari Sechela to forward this letter to you, Sir, as an urgent matter, so that it should be placed before the Secretary of State prior to the meeting.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours faithfully,