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PETITION TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
THE MINISTER OF STATE BY CERTAIN
HEADMEN OF THE BAMANGWAT NATION.

1. We the undersigned petitioners have made ourselves conversant with the contents of the Petition by Tshokedi Khama and support the requests made in that Petition.

2. As to Tshokedi's first request, we consider that the scheme propounded should be carefully considered by the Government and fully discussed with all sections of the Bamangwat people as well as with delegates from the Tribes in the Bechuanaland Protectorate. We would respectfully point^{out} that the Authorities' present attitude of regarding Keaboka as a suitable head of the Nation is no solution of the present difficulties. He is not in the immediate line of succession nor is he a man of standing ability. He had never been able to support himself and is a man of straw. Apart from the fact that Keaboka has been irregularly appointed to his present position he was convicted under the "Emergency Powers Regulations" by a British Protectorate Court and served a term of imprisonment for spreading amongst the people false propaganda calculated to stop people from enlisting for active service.

3. As to Tshokedi's second request, we would state that the reasons why we and a number of others left the Territory with Tshokedi are fully set out in the public Declaration made at the time a copy of which is hereto annexed marked "C".

4. Tshokedi left the country on principle as a protest against the marriage of Seretse to Ruth contrary to Native Law and Custom and in that protest we were at one with him. The reason why we have remained in exile is because Tshokedi is an apparently convicted and banished for maintaining this principle as we left with him and uphold the contention we consider that we are as much to blame as he is and cannot return to our country until he is allowed to do so. If he is allowed to return we shall return with him and are equally confident that our return will

cause no

disorder....//

disorder and also assure you that we shall do nothing to give rise to any disorder. The fact that the Authorities have refused to recognize Ruth Shemanele Queen of the Tribe has removed the only matter of dispute between us and the rest of our nation, and if such dispute has been removed then the only reason for the banishment of Tshakedi and our exile has also been removed.

5. In spite of the assurance of His Excellency the High Commissioner that"

"It is not the policy of the Government to exclude any of Chief Tshakedi's followers now resident at Swakopmund or elsewhere from participating in any of the Councils now being formed or about to be formed"

those of us with Tshakedi at Namatseane have never received any invitation or notifications to attend meetings connected with the formation of these councils.

We are still full citizens of the Bechuanaland and those of us at Namatseane own approximately 25,000 head of cattle at our various cattle post in the Bechuanaland country.

The present system of Government affords no protection of this property.

We respectfully submit that in the interests of the Bechuanaland it is imperative that Tshakedi should take his place in the public life of the Nation as a citizen of standing. We appreciate fully that he can never be Chief, but to have the benefit of his knowledge and experience is essential. We would refer in proof of this to two statements made by High Commissioners of the Protectorate.

In a pamphlet which Lord Harlech wrote in 1947 entitled "African Politics in the High Commission Territories" he says :-

"Educationally, economically, financially the Bechuanaland are far in advance of the native of either the Bechuanaland Protectorate or Swaziland. But admittedly the outstanding African in the High Commission Territories today is Tshakedi Khama. In intelligence, energy, leadership and general capacity he is an outstanding personality".

In his comments on certain duties performed by the Bechuanaland Treasury under the supervision and organization of

Tshakedi.../

Tshekedi Khama the present High Commissioner for the Bechuanaland Protectorate, Sir Evelyn Baring, said :

" I have examined the report on the accounts of the Treasury of the Basangwato prepared by Mr. Walters, the Financial Secretary of the Bechuanaland Protectorate. The Ngwato Native Authority under the leadership of Chief Tshetkedi Khama has in recent years shown great enterprise and initiative. A real attempt is being made to perform services and to carry out works with funds from the Native Treasury and the Native Authority is becoming a genuine organ of regional self-government and has developed beyond the stage of being merely a salary paying machine. This is a most welcome development since the Basangwato control far the most important Native Authority in the Bechuanaland Protectorate and their Treasury receives the largest revenue".

We therefore respectfully request that the British Government now restore Tshetkedi to his full rights of citizenship in the Basangwato country.

SIGNED THIS

DAY OF JANUARY, 1951.