

To: The Right Honourable Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker.  
His Majesty's Secretary of State for Commonwealth  
Relations.

E3.30

Sir,

This is a most singular occasion for we believe that it is the first time a member of the British Cabinet has visited this Reserve. It is an occasion of outstanding significance because you are directly responsible for this country.

2. Your presence among us this day, Sir, fills us with joy and pride and lifts us from gloom and sorrow to hope. We are happy and proud to have in our midst one of the leading representatives of His Majesty's Government under whose protection our fathers placed themselves because of the faith and confidence they reposed in the British Government. We wish in the first instance to re-affirm our loyalty and allegiance to the British Crown.

3. Sir, the eyes of a sorrowing people behold you to-day and hope is kindled in their hearts His Majesty's Government deemed it fit, in circumstances which are only too well known to be repeated here, to banish our Chief- Designate, Seretse Khama, for a period of five years after which his position will be reviewed. We pray that it may please His Gracious Majesty's Government to reconsider in due time this decision and return to us Seretse Khama who is by our law and custom the only legitimate heir to the Bamangwato Chieftainship.

4. We do not want Tshekedi back in our country. We welcome his banishment by the Government and we request that he be excluded altogether from our country. We do not want his livestock and other things which he may possess in our country and we request that he be ordered to remove all these in the shortest possible time and that he be assisted by the Government to do so. We pray that Tshekedi should not at any time be imposed upon us as chief, nor his heirs. We have reason to believe that Tshekedi is planning to secure for himself and his followers a portion of this Reserve and we seek an assurance from our Government that there is no intention of allowing him to do so and that the boundaries of our territory will remain inviolate.

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5. In the interests of peace and order we pray that Tshakedi's followers who remain here to taunt and flout us and our administration, be ordered out of the country and to remove therefrom their livestock and other possessions. By our inimitable restraint we have thus far managed to avoid incidents which could have very regrettable repercussions and are inevitable if we are left to rub shoulders with them daily.

6. We have accpeted in principle, Sir, the establishment of a council to improve our system of administration and we shall look to Government for direction and guidance.

7. This country's need is epitomised by the word "Pula"- the source of that water which is the essence of all forms of life. Our rainfall is low, variable and uncertain, and we ask Government to regard the water problem as a first priority and to help and teach us not only to find underground water but to construct dams to keep the rain water on the land.

8. We are grateful for what the Government has done thus far in the interst of Education but we feel a lot more remains to be done and we pray to Government to give us every assistance possible to build up a sound education in this territory and to treat this as of the utmost urgency particularly in view of the embargo raised against our children in Union Schools

9. We are aware of the progress made by Government in the establishment of hospitals and for these we are very grateful. We would however, like to point out that they are inadequate. Most of the big villages outside Serowe are far from medical assistance and as a result a great number of people there die without treatment. Moreover it is very rarely that Doctors visit these places; even Serowe our capital, requires more than two doctors. If it is not possible to have hospitals in outside village we pray that dispensaries at least be provided and that nurses be engaged to run them under the supervision of the Doctors. Notwithstanding all that we have said in regard to hospitals there is a great need for the introduction of eye, specialists in this country.

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10. Our fathers, filled with a faith that can only be described as wonderful and confidence in, and respect for British justice and fair play crossed the seas to implore the protection of the Government of the Great Queen. It was mere faith that made them do what they did, but we, their children, can now judge their action. The vast progress and direction of the British Government in every sphere of our endeavours are pointers to the dawn of a great era of progress happiness and freedom from ignorance and the fetters of superstition, freedom from fear and freedom from want. We are happy and hopeful under the shadow of the British Government and we desire no other Government. Requests for the transfer of our country to the Union have been made from time to time. These requests come to us like a chilly and biting wind, We pray that whenever these requests to transfer us are made our Mother stretch her protection wings all the closer about us and keep us warm, happy, confident and hopeful of growing into what we are destined by nature and healthy impulse to be

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