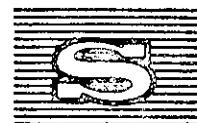


UNITED NATIONS  
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LETTER DATED 3 APRIL 1978 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED  
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose the text of a letter addressed to Your Excellency  
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa, the Honourable R. F. Botha.

I should be grateful if this letter and its enclosures could be circulated  
as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) J. Adriaan EKSTEEN  
Chargé d'Affaires

Annex

Letter dated 3 April 1978 from the Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the note verbale addressed to you on 22 February 1978 by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho (S/12582) and in which it is, inter alia, alleged that "... South Africa has unilaterally blockaded the south-eastern border of Lesotho ...".

As has been indicated to you in previous communications, South Africa has no jurisdiction over matters which fall within the domestic jurisdiction of sovereign, independent States, in this case the Republic of Transkei. Since the border posts mentioned in Lesotho's note verbale do not affect traffic between South Africa and Lesotho, the assertion that South Africa has sealed the south-eastern border is devoid of all truth. It would, moreover, not be surprising if any mission which might again in future be despatched to Lesotho to look into this matter found, as the previous mission indicated in paragraph 28 of its report (S/12315), that the border posts are in fact not closed as is alleged.

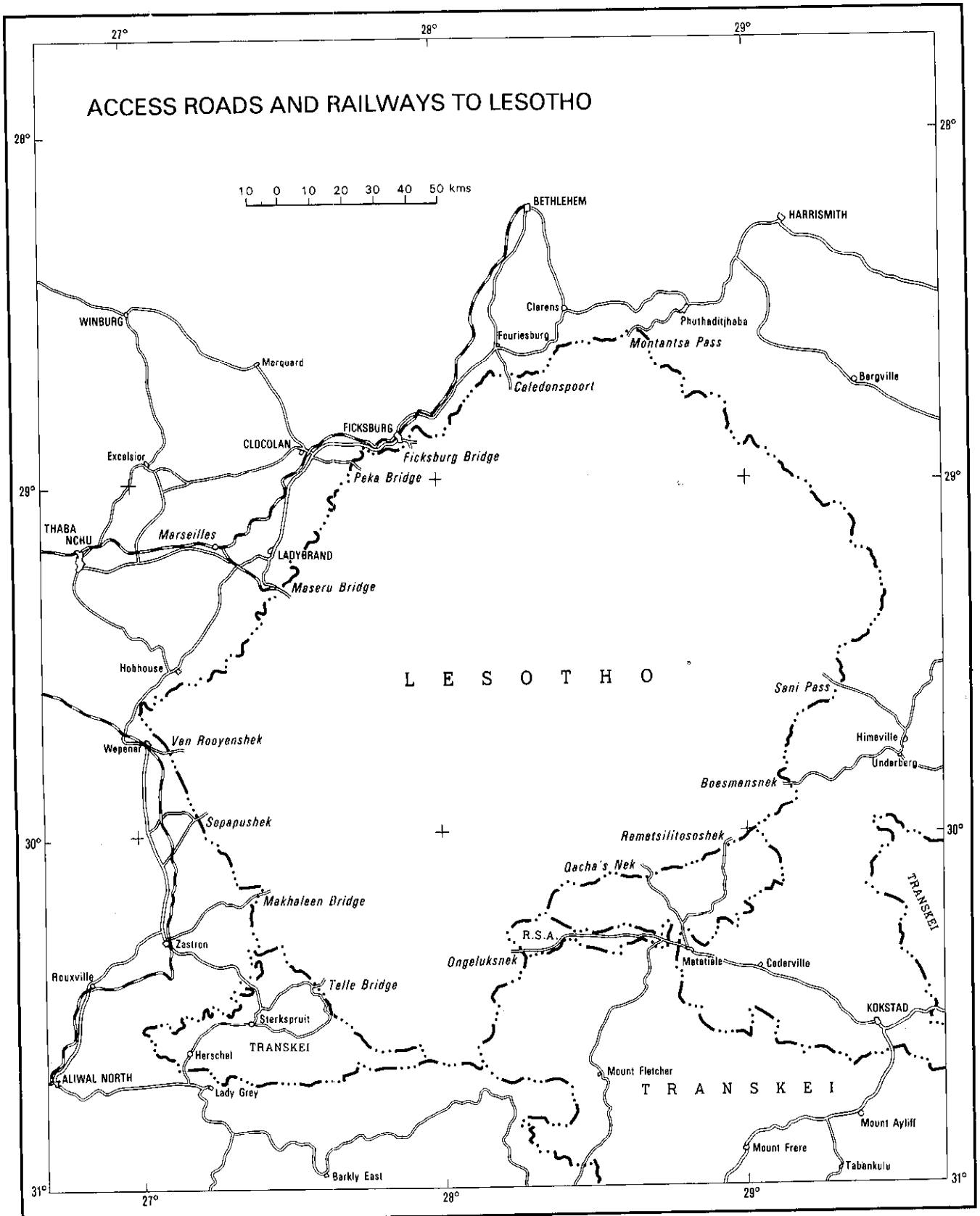
From the attached map (enclosure I) it will be noted that, as you are already aware, Lesotho's access to the sea has always been through its borders with South Africa and not through its border with the Republic of Transkei. In this regard statistics regarding the volume of traffic flowing through the relevant border posts are also attached (enclosure II). In accordance with the Customs Union and Monetary Agreement applicable between South Africa and Lesotho there has been no interference of any kind with the movement of goods and persons along these routes.

South Africa welcomes international and domestic efforts to develop the economies of all developing countries and especially the economy of Lesotho. South Africa is, however, opposed to any effort to secure such assistance being linked to unfounded statements and assertions villifying South Africa.

(Signed) R. F. BOTHA  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

/...

Enclosure I



Enclosure II

Border traffic (Jan/Dec 1977): South Africa/Lesotho (persons)

<u>Border post</u>	<u>Arrival in RSA</u>	<u>Departure from RSA</u>
Caledonspoort	42 797	39 093
Ficksburg Bridge	797 580	888 254
Peka Bridge	11 857	10 776
Maseru Bridge	155 240	138 691
Van Rooyenshek	111 087	119 165
Sepapushek	9 557	9 323
Makhaleen Bridge	46 044	24 657
Ongeluksnek	1 129	1 097
Boesmansnek	1 137	1 063
Sani Pass	10 185	10 003
Marseilles (Railway station)	74 102	59 437
Total	<u>1 260 715</u>	<u>1 301 559</u>
Grand total	<u>2 562 274</u>	

Border traffic (persons): July 1975 to July 1976 (prior to Transkei's independence)

BETWEEN RSA AND LESOTHO AT:

Telle Bridge	32 766	28 275
Qacha's Nek	20 991	15 407
Ramatsilitososhek	4 916	5 358
Total	<u>58 673</u>	<u>49 040</u>
Grand total	107 713	

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