Tshekedi Khama accepts kgotla, but asks for safeguards

THE TIMES to-day praised Tshekedi Khama, exiled former regent of the Bamangwato tribe of Bechuanaland, for showing good sense by speedily accepting the British Government's offer to submit the question of his banishment to another tribal kgotla.

It said that "unless Tshekedi is given the safeguards of a fair hearing, public opinion in England will scarcely hold that the findings of the kgotla can be morally binding on him."

"If Tshekedi—who now frankly recognises that Seretse is chief as soon as the Government allow him to return—is now ready to put his fortune to the touch, it is understandable that he should be closely concerned about the safeguards for impartial conduct of the meetings."

Tshekedi, accepting the Government offer that he should go back to restate his case, said the method chosen by the Government—a kgotla—was unworthy.

"I do not consider that a tribal kgotla is an appropriate body to inquire into and make a decision or recommendation on all the difficult facts in this case," he told a Press conference yesterday.

In the absence of Seretse Khama and himself there was no one competent to take the chair. The tribe was split into two political factions, and Tshekedi claimed he had been misrepresented.

He was not a claimant to the chieftainship, and the only issue was whether Seretse's children by his White wife should eventually succeed.

Tshekedi said he would have preferred a judicial inquiry composed of British and Native members.

"Nevertheless, as it is the Government's wish that there should be a kgotla, I am anxious to cooperate in this course, provided that the tribe is assembled in kgotla in strict conformity with the Native custom of the Bamangwato tribe.

There should be no directions or restrictions issued before the assembly as to the speakers or what they should say. At the assembly he who presides should hear all who wish to speak," he said. Reuters.
THE BAMANGWATO DISORGANISED

THE ten thousand thatched butts of Serowe stretch endlessly over the rocky hills edging the Kalahari Desert. They are the homes of a pastoral people who range far and wide tending their cattle and come home but seldom, unless, as now, mysteriously summoned to their capital by tribal instinct.

The vast village is dominated by the spire of the Congregationalist Church erected in 1912, as the tablet says, "To the glory of God by Khama and the Bamangwato." To-day the deserted church is in sad disrepair, and so is the celebrated tribal organisation built up over long years by the great Khama and his son Tshekedi.

Lost Leader

At this moment most of the experienced counsellors of the tribe are sheltering behind the barbed wire of an improvised police camp, sharing with their leader Tshekedi the dreaded name of outcasts. Fifty of the keenest young men are in gaol awaiting trial for what they themselves regard as an act of customary tribal justice. The Metropolitan Kgotla meets daily beneath Khama's grave, muttering ominously about its lost leader, Seretse.

At one end of the village, police from Southern Rhodesia assiduously practise baton and bayonet charges; at the other end, the District Commissioner, on his lonely hill, maintains the most tenuous contact with a "senior tribal representative," who, on his own public confession, has very little influence over the tribe.

Two lawyers are busy up and down the village, one in the interests of Tshekedi, the other in those of Seretse. A private detective from London, unable to speak the local language, appears from time to time ostensibly trying to discover who burnt down Tshekedi's house. Telegrams are constantly being exchanged between Tshekedi and his local representatives. Women gather outside the gaol weeping and sobbing.

In such an atmosphere, tribal discipline has understandably collapsed. With the chief's chair vacant, there is no one to give form and authority to the tribal will.

The admirable local police have lost their contact with the people; they are regarded now as enemies, not friends. The Government appears no longer as the protector of the tribe but as its obstinate oppressor; it finds itself unable to proceed with the elaborate plans for tribal councils laid down in the Harrigan White Paper.

Tshekedi Suspect

The invincible opposition of the whole tribe to Tshekedi and the small band of more enlightened leaders who joined him in his protest against Seretse's marriage is primarily legitimist. It springs from a desire to protect the rightful chief from supposed usurpation.

Nothing will convince the average tribesman that Tshekedi wishes to return merely as a private citizen.

Unfortunately the tribe's resentment at Tshekedi's condemnation of Seretse's marriage has come to be extended to the many reforms with which his name is associated. As Regent he was a ruthless disciplinarian who was ready to place the interests of the tribe above those of the individual. Now the tribe is indulging in an unholy reaction from the regime of sobriety and hard work which he had so rigidly imposed. Children stay away from school, model kitchen gardens go untended, taxes fall into arrears and liquor flows with dangerous abundance.

Tribal Democracy

But the real case against Tshekedi rests upon a concept of society quite different from ours. There is no distinction in tribal democracy between the law and politics, and no place for a political opposition. A member of the tribe who persists in defying the general will, especially to the extent of self-imposed exile, separates himself from his fellows until such time as he acknowledges a change of heart. However regrettable the events of the past fortnight may be, they are far from being out of harmony with the spirit of Native—law and custom.

The truth is that the tribe wants Seretse and Seretse's wife. A reconciliation between the tribe and its dissident members therefore requires first the return of Seretse and then the submission of Tshekedi. There is nothing inherently impossible about such a solution. All experience suggests that it would come about naturally but for the present policy of the British Government.
INDE
TRIB
Y FROM
TOR
ED KH AM A was served with an order of banishment from the Bamangwato Reserve by the Resident Commissioner of Bechuanaland, Mr. E. B. Beetham, in Lobatsi shortly after one o’clock yesterday afternoon, says SAPA.

Tshekedi left Mafeking at noon by car, and crossed the border into Bechuanaland, 29 miles from Lobatsi, 25 minutes later. He was also handed a letter at Lobatsi which said that if the three British observers at present in the Protectorate decided to hold a kgotla, Tshekedi would be free to go into the Bamangwato reserve from the time of the decision until the kgotla was held.

The banishment order and the letter were signed by the Resident Commander and dated August 5.

TEN MINUTE MEETING

When the car carrying Tshekedi drew up at the Residency at Lobatsi, he got out and was met by the District Commissioner of Lobatsi, Mr. F. C. Finch. He then met Mr. Beetham and was handed the banishment order and the letter. The meeting lasted 10 minutes and was held on the Residency verandah.

The Resident Commissioner and Mr. Finch walked with Tshekedi to his car and the latter left immediately for Molepolole, in the Bakwena Reserve, where he will meet his family to-night.

The banishment order said that it had been shown to the satisfaction of the High Commissioner that there were reasonable grounds for believing Tshekedi Khama to be dangerous to the peace of the Bamangwato reserve, and that the Resident Commissioner, on instructions from the High Commissioner, ordered Tshekedi to confine his movements in Bechuanaland to that part of the Protectorate which was outside the Bamangwato Reserve.

The order would remain in force during His Majesty’s pleasure.

Tshekedi told a Press conference here last night that he had not been surprised by the order banishing him indefinitely from the Bamangwato Reserve, says our correspondent in Mafeking.

The order could only be served on him in the Protectorate, Tshekedi stated and he could, if he wished, have gone straight to Mahalapye, where he was sure there would have been no trouble with the tribesmen.
The Star
September 13, 1951

NATIONAL KGOTLA OF BAMANGWATO ARRANGED

Chiefs succeed where British observers failed

From Our Correspondent
Lobatsi, Thursday.

TSHEKEDI KHAMA, former Regent of the Bamangwato now in exile, will go to Serowe next month to attend a national tribal kgotla which will be held to discuss his return to the Bamangwato reserve.

Agreement about this joint meeting was reached in the grounds of the Lobatsi courthouse yesterday while Tshekedi's legal adviser, Mr. Douglas Buchanan, K.C., was presenting an application to the High Court for an interdict against the chief tribal representative of the Bamangwato, Keaboka Kgamane.

For two years now Tshekedi has been banished from his homeland after going into voluntary exile as a protest against the marriage of his nephew Seretse Khama to a White woman, Miss Ruth Williams.

For more than a year he has pressed the British Government to be allowed to return, but agreement could not be reached.

Three independent observers were sent from Britain in July this year, but after three weeks in the territory they failed to bring about a joint meeting of the tribe to discuss the issue.

MEETING REFUSED

Objections to Tshekedi's return to the reserve came from the Serowe faction of the Bamangwato, and this section of the tribe have, up to now, refused to take part in a meeting with Tshekedi to discuss his return.

As soon as the observers left the territory, the chiefs of the five senior Bechuanaland tribes set out to settle the dispute. Chief Molefi of the Bakgatla tribe was sent to Serowe to plead with the Bamangwato for a joint meeting.

After a two-day kgotla he was given a firm "no."

The five chiefs then decided to go ahead without the Serowe Bamangwato, and a joint meeting of their own tribes was to have been held at Mochudi, near Gaberones, today.

MOVE SUCCESSFUL

While the High Court was in session yesterday, Chief Bathoen, of the Bangwaketse tribe, acting as intermediary, persuaded Keaboka to agree to a joint meeting.

"We have succeeded where the Government has failed," Chief Bathoen told me. "All we have to do now is to decide the date of the meeting at Serowe."

Tshekedi, who was gratified at the outcome of the talks, told me that he felt sure that, left alone, the tribe could settle its dispute.
"N O" to Joint Kgotla.

Mahalapye, Saturday.

Another attempt to persuade the Bamangwato to hold a joint Kgotla at which the official British observers and the former Regent Tshekedi Khama, and his supporters could be present, failed in Mahalapye today. The proposal was rejected at a meeting of Tribal leaders.

The Acting High Commissioner, Mr Roland Turnbull, said after the meeting: "We did our utmost to get them to agree. The question now is, where do we go from here?"
Dr. A.B. Xuma,
85 Toby Street,
Sophiatown,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

This is just to inform you that I arrived safely only to find much correspondence waiting on my desk.

As promised I am supplying you with dates of Kgotla meetings held in Serowe in connexion with the marriage of Seretse Khama.

1st Meeting 15th - 19th November 1948.
2nd " 28th - 29th December 1948.
3rd " 20th - 24th June 1949.

During all these meetings the District Commissioner Mr. S.V. Lawrenson was present merely as an observer while the meetings were conducted by Chief Tshekedi Khama. Mr. V. F. Ellenberger, the Acting Deputy Resident Commissioner came into the scene in June 1949 when he made the speech contained in the attached copy herewith.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,
Dr. A.B. Xuma,
Residence "Empilweni"
85 Toby Street, Sophia Town,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir/

The Paramount Chief sends his greetings to you. He signed this cheque enclosed, and directed me to post it to you and he will write when he returns from his hunting grounds.

Faithfully yours,

Mbabane

for Paramount Chief of Swaziland.
Dear Doctor Xuma,

Dr. Xuma
85 Toby Street
Sophiatown
Johannesburg, South Africa.

My father and mother, Joseph and Hattie Brown, know your wife very well and I hear that she is now in the United States. In fact Mrs. Kweygir Aggrey from Salisbury, N.C., was visiting her son here last week and she told of your wife’s being here. Each time she has been recently, Mother and Daddy have been away on holiday as is the case now but they return next week so that they might have the chance to see one another before she returns to Johannesburg.

I have been particularly interested in getting a source of African art objects for sale in this country and I am wondering if you would be troubled with such a thing or if you would direct me to someone who could do this for me. I am willing to pay them a little something for their troubles but I do want someone who has an eye for the interesting and the good in African art.

Kindly let me hear from you with regard to this matter and please do send me your wife’s address in the event you receive this before she has returned.

Very truly yours,

Anna Vivian Brown

Anna Vivian Brown

10420 Somerset Ave,
Cleveland, Ohio - U.S.A.
New York City
begun - September 9 and
ended - November 1, 1951.

Dear Friends Everywhere:

From many high spots I have written you. Today is no exception, I am on the roof of the "Holley Chambers", our present home.

It is a lovely Sunday afternoon, sunset colors are in the sky, tall apartment houses tower all around me, skyscrapers are in the distance, the cross on the high tower of the Baptist Church across the Square is silhouetted against the sky (illuminated until one a.m., it is the last thing I see at night), while down below and across the corner where the old men play chess and checkers, is the new building of the New York University Law School, which we visited this afternoon.

Such a thoughtful thing happened. The Dedication is next Saturday but a few days ago there appeared in our mail boxes a letter from Dean Niles saying (what we knew only too well) that for many months we had had the noise and dust of construction, would we not like to come over this afternoon to see the results. So, at the teaparty, Mother and I joined the hundreds of other people who live around the Square...all kinds of people, many of whom had never had the opportunity to enter college halls.

We arrived to find a four-and-a-half story Georgian structure that, with its early American furnishings, blended into "our Square" amazingly well. It was more like a men's club than a school, combining dignity, beauty and utility. The first floor library, its 200 foot length broken at intervals by pillars, has long deep red rose fire-proof drapes at the windows (no carelessly flipped cigarette is to burn up those legal tomes) and white oak tables and chairs, making a most attractive setting for study. The Faculty Library, with red leather chairs and comfortable davenports, has drapes at the windows that pick up the colors of all the books on the shelves which surround the room, while the enormous Faculty Lounge and Reception Room is as lovely a room of its kind as I have ever seen - simple, elegant, harmonious. It will, I am sure, do something for many of the students for whom life has not had much of beauty. I talked to a couple of boys who said, "What is it? Is the room sound-proofed? You want to talk soft and settle down and relax." In a jazz age, this is an achievement. The table in the room where Latin-American graduate students study Comparative-Law, I will remember especially. I have been looking for it ever since my first committee meeting. It is the shape of a stream-lined pear, one end about a third shorter than the other, so everyone sits on a slant and can see everyone else.

People's appreciation of his work, made the artist who drew the caricatures of the Supreme Court Judges in the Students' Lounge, beam with delight. Though he had not felt happy when the University bought the land and tore down the old buildings where for years he and many others had lived. I overheard one woman say, "I lived right here on this spot for thirty years". However, seeing the new Law School with all its charm, realizing what it will mean to many generations of students in the years ahead, helped to heal the wounds and take away a little of the bitterness that such changes bring.

I hope there may also be found a healing balm for other wounds which have been torn open again this week. For often I thought of the Philippines and Indonesia as I watched the Peace Treaty Conference. It is fairly easy for us not to be vindictive and to evolve a treaty of reconciliation - neither our homes nor
our industries were bombed and burned. But it was not easy to forget reparations and be magnanimous when these countries remembered the scars of war. Consequently, I felt their spirit was magnificent and a lesson to us all. They knew the peace treaty had to be, that it was the best that could be evolved under the circumstances and they accepted it, even though, as Dean Acheson said, "the slate has not been wiped clean. The United States has not forgotten Pearl Harbor and many other countries have similar memories."

To watch Mr. Acheson in action was a rare experience. How curious life is! The very qualities which have made some people dislike him, were his great asset on this occasion. The world is indebted to him for his reserve, brilliant mind, quick reactions and firmness which, as some one said, "made his challengers seem crude and flustered" and which brought the Conference through to a conclusion transcending anything the world had dared hope for. As Anne O'Hare McCormick wrote..."it is the first spectacular step toward a new policy which is not merely anti-Soviet but based on faith that the independent nations possess means and strength if they stand together to create the pattern of international life".

Much of what happened was a tribute to the United Nations. Many times I am sure, the delegates felt that they were at a U.N. Meeting. Through the five years, they have learned much more about the art of teamwork and were not caught off guard. They might differ in details but on the basic things, they were agreed and determined. As I watched over T.V. the signing of the Peace Treaty in San Francisco at 10 a.m., sitting here in New York at one p.m., I marveled again at what our modern world of science has done for us.

The summer was for me a curious mosaic without pattern. In July, I was at Chautauqua to speak at the Y.W.C.A. luncheon, the evening Forum and the Chautauqua Women's Club, with a few extra play days in the charming home of a friend, where I reveled in the beauty of the setting on the lake and loved the rides in the speed boat.

A delightful visit at Niagara Falls with another friend followed the "Conference on American Foreign Policy" at Colgate University which we both attended. We found it most worthwhile, with excellent speakers, good discussions and congenial people. It was stimulating to be a member of the panel for the Round Table on "International Organization" with Vice-President William Avirett as Chairman. Clarence Streit spoke for "Atlantic Union", Cord Meyer for the "United World Federalists" and Joseph Johnson, President of the Carnegie Endowment for Peace, gave an excellent evaluation of the United Nations.

However, the most unique experience was for the first time, although I have been a member for several years, attending the Annual Convention of the International Platform Association. The I.P.A. is made up of people who earn their living on the platform or by furnishing "talent" through their bureaus for the platform. We had over forty different performers on our program, from Opera Stars to Magicians, from Lecturers on international affairs to the Man-with-the-trained-cockatoos. At the banquet, with several people to furnish the "entertainment", I made the "speech". This gave me a delightful link with the members and also opened several unexpected doors. Thanks to Mr. Peat being willing to release me for a couple of months, in April I shall be speaking for the University of Kansas at their "Talk of the Month Clubs". When school closes, I will be making a few High School Commencement speeches under the auspices of the Antrim Bureau of 1001 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
A few days at Cornell University at the sessions of WAY - the World Association of Youth; a week at Avon Old Farms School near Hartford, at a Seminar, which was presented by the Service Bureau for Women's Organization of Connecticut, where I spoke the opening night on "Asian Women Face the Future", and more recently the two-day conference here on "Women in the Defence Decade", have given me a wealth of interesting experiences.

One other summer event brought to me an unexpected change. I thought I had left organization work behind for the rest of my life. But I was wrong. I am again behind a desk. In June, I spoke on the United Nations at the Triennial National Assembly of the GFS. This "Girls' Friendly Society" is a youth movement for girls from seven to twenty-one years of age, in the Episcopal Church. As a result of this contact, I am now the National Executive of GFS - the oldest national organization for girls in the U.S., which next year celebrates its 75th Anniversary. At the present time, there are over seven hundred groups with more than a thousand adult advisors and a membership around fifteen thousand scattered all over the U.S.A., and a few societies in Japan, Cuba, Mexico, Alaska and the Philippines, which depend upon us for material. In the early days it was patterned after the GFS of England. Today there are GFS branches throughout the British Commonwealth, and in several other countries where there is a Church of England. The first GFS I ever knew was in Chile.

For some time I have wished I might do more with youth and also I have wanted to make some contribution more directly linked with the church. So when the GFS needed help, their former executive having resigned, and they were willing to have someone of my vintage and, more than that, take me on part-time, so I could continue my lectures...I accepted.

We are a staff of seven fine experienced women, working with a National Board of Directors, unusually able women under the leadership of Mrs. Harold E. Woodward of St. Louis, as President. We have recently had our Executive Committee Meetings and it has been a joy to have had this opportunity to know them. You will realize how fine they are when I tell you that in spite of having only begun the first of October, they approved my taking the month of December on my own, to attend the General Assembly of the U.N. in Paris. So December the first I will once again be in the air over the Atlantic.

Trygve Lie in a press conference before he left to make final preparations for the opening of the Assembly on November 6th, expressed his hope that progress may be achieved in at least three important directions by the time the Assembly ends. They are:

"First - toward building a U.N. collective security system that will be a firm bulwark against armed aggression by any nation;

"Second - toward relaxation of East-West tensions and resumption of efforts to find a solid base for peaceful coexistence within a reasonable time; and

"Third - toward a more equal and understanding partnership in political, security and economic matters within the universal framework of U.N., between the industrialized nations of Europe, America, Australia on one hand, and the nations and peoples of Asia, Africa and parts of the Americas on the other."

I liked Mr. Lie's statement at the end of the introduction to his Sixth Annual Report to the Assembly when he says, "The United Nations must never forget that its functions are not "peace keeping" but "peace creating".
The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (405 West 117 Street, New York 27, N. Y.) lists some of the "Issues before the Sixth General Assembly" as - Korea - Collective Security - Covenant on Human Rights - Dependent Peoples - Economic Development of Underdeveloped Areas (They have a pamphlet with this title that can be purchased for a dime or if you want some for your friends and buy 25, you can get them for five cents.)

There are 67 items on the agenda and more may be added. In an editorial on the Assembly, the New York "Times" comments that, "The League of Nations failed because it was unreal and because no real battles were ever fought, or could be fought, within its walls. The United Nations is in peril because real battles are in fact being fought within its walls - whether on Long Island or at the foot of Forty-second Street, or in the Palais de Chaillot."

I am sorry to be missing the opening sessions when the elections are always exciting - this year keep watch if the Arab League gets representation or gets left out of the Security Council. I have heard no rumor as to who will be President, you may know by the time this reaches you. The opening speeches always have among them at least one or two that give a lift of spirit or a sense of vision. I wonder who will bring this outlook to this year's session.

On international affairs, I hope many of you are finding the excellent articles by Barbara Ward. She writes often for the Sunday New York "Times" and the "Atlantic" recently had an article of hers. Also, judging by the reviews, there is a treat in store for us in Gerald Johnson's new book, "This American People".

Incidentally, if any of you have not gotten your United Nations Cook Book, so you can eat all around the world, send your dollar to our GFS office and we will send you one. We still have a few left.

Before I close, my thanks to all of you who sent stamps. I am sorry not to say a more personal "thank you" but that would use them up too fast.

I hope you are all remembering that in order to live through the summer, many Koreans sold their winter clothes - winter is again here. American Relief for Korea at 133 E. 39 Street, New York, N.Y., will tell you where to send what you have - especially cotton and wool is needed. Cloth is most useful or things that can be cut up for children's clothes.

Mother joins me in sending best wishes and the hope that in spite of the world you will find much for which to be thankful on November the twenty-second.

Sincerely,

Anne Guthrie

To find the Guthries -
HOME
33 Washington Square West
New York 11, N. Y.
Tele: Spring 7-3000

Lecture Bureau
Harold R. Peat, Inc.
157 W. 57th St. (New
York, N. Y. Address)
Mr. Walter M. Sisulu,
Secretary-General, ANC
2/3 New Court Chambers,
44 Commissioner St.,
JOHANNESBURG

Dear Sir,

re: Witzieshoek Case.

I am very sorry I had to be away at the time of the Meeting of your Working Committee on the 16th November, 1951 but my brother died and I had to attend the funeral, therefore I was unable to attend the meeting.

I would, however, be pleased to know what decision you came to.

Thanking you very kindly, I am,

Respectfully yours,
Dear Madie,

I mailed the fruit cake today. Heavens only knows when you will receive it. I'm sure you will enjoy it, as a sample was made and I had the opportunity of consuming some of it upon a recent visit to West Virginia State College.

Incidentally, my friend was quite thrilled over learning that I was sending the cake to a friend in Africa. She just loves for her delicacies to be distributed and enjoyed. She is really good as you will eventually discover from the cake. Perhaps she can give you other ideas, recipes, and suggestions, which will be useful in your work. She teaches food and nutrition, home management and related subjects. Her name by the way is:

Mrs. Ruth Bryant Jefferson
West Virginia State College
Institute, West Virginia

Drop her a note and tell her how the cake was, she'll be anxious to know what you think, since it was a new recipe she used.

Everyone was fine at home, last I heard. Mother broke her arm several weeks ago, but is getting along fine.

I'm enjoying my new change of job and work immensely. We have a number of students enrolled here from Africa, but I have as yet to find one that lives in your vicinity.

I saw your picture in Our World Magazine for December.

Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Miriam Penn
Dear Mrs. Hall-Xuma,

I wish to thank you most heartily for your encouraging personal letter. It brought great joy to members of the local Zenzele Club.

When we were at the Exhibition last October, everybody just requested us to invite the next Exhibition to Bethlehem, but we felt that being still in our infant stage, we would not be strong enough to shoulder such a great undertaking. Our Club also felt that to some measure we would require assistance from the Town Council to make a success of the whole thing.

Those in authority are beginning to realise the good work the Zenzele Club is doing, and the possibility of having the Exhibition in Bethlehem will be discussed early next year when most of our members who are away on holiday have come back.

It would be a pleasure to hear from you now and again and especially about the articles for 1952.

I beg to remain,

Yours sincerely,

(WS) E. W. Dingaan