

SOUTH AFRICAN REVENUE SERVICE

NO.....

..... 1997

It is hereby notified that Parliament has in terms of section 231(2) of the Constitution ratified the following Agreement which is hereby published for general information and has furthermore expressly provided in terms of section 231(4) of the Constitution that the Agreement shall form part of the law of the Republic.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF
DOUBLE TAXATION AND THE PREVENTION OF FISCAL EVASION WITH RESPECT TO
TAXES ON INCOME**

Preamble

The Government of the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho desiring to promote and strengthen the economic relations between the two countries,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Personal Scope

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

Article 2

Taxes Covered

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or its political subdivisions, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.

2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income or on elements of income.

3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:

(a) in Lesotho, the taxes imposed under the Income Tax Order, 1993 (Order No 9 of 1993), as at the date of signature of this Agreement;

(hereinafter referred to as "Lesotho tax"); and

(b) in South Africa:

- (i) the normal tax;
- (ii) the non-resident shareholders' tax; and
- (iii) the secondary tax on companies;

(hereinafter referred to as "South African tax").

4. This Agreement shall also apply to any other taxes of a substantially similar character which are imposed after the date of signature of the Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes.

5. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of any significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws, and if it seems desirable to amend any Article of this Agreement without affecting the general principles thereof, the necessary amendments may be made by mutual consent by means of an Exchange of Notes.

Article 3

General Definitions

1. In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - (a) the term "Lesotho" means the sovereign kingdom of Lesotho comprising all the areas that immediately before 4 October 1966 were comprised in the former colony of Basutoland together with such other areas that may, in accordance with international law, be declared by an Act of the Lesotho Parliament to form part of Lesotho; and
 - (b) the term "South Africa" means the Republic of South Africa and, when used in a geographical sense, includes the territorial sea thereof as well as any area outside the territorial sea, including the continental shelf, which has been or may hereafter be designated, under the laws of South Africa and in accordance with international law, as an area within which South Africa may exercise sovereign rights or jurisdiction;
 - (c) the terms "a Contracting State" and "the other Contracting State" mean Lesotho or South Africa as the context requires;
 - (d) the term "company" means any body corporate or any entity which is treated as a company or body corporate for tax purposes;
 - (e) the term "competent authority" means:
 - (i) in Lesotho, the Commissioner of Income Tax or his authorised representative; and
 - (ii) in South Africa, the Commissioner for Inland Revenue or his authorised representative;
 - (f) the terms "enterprise of a Contracting State" and "enterprise of the other Contracting State" mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
 - (g) the term "international traffic" means any transport by ship, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicle operated by an enterprise which has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicle is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
 - (h) the term "nationals" means all individuals having the citizenship of a Contracting State and all legal persons, partnerships, associations and other entities deriving their status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State; and
 - (i) the term "person" includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons which is treated as an entity for tax purposes.

2. In the application of the provisions of this Agreement by a Contracting State, any term not otherwise defined herein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning which it has under the laws of that State concerning the taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

Article 4

Resident

1. For the purposes of this Agreement the term "resident of a Contracting State" means:
 - (a) in Lesotho, any person who, under the laws of Lesotho, is liable to tax therein by reason of his residence, place of management or any other criterion of a similar nature; and
 - (b) in South Africa, any individual who is ordinarily resident in South Africa and any other person which has its place of effective management in South Africa.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has a permanent home available to him. If he has a permanent home available to him in both States, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
 - (b) if the State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either State, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which he has an habitual abode;
 - (c) if he has an habitual abode in both States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident of the State of which he is a national;
 - (d) if he is a national of both States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.

3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

Article 5

Permanent Establishment

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "permanent establishment" means a fixed place of business through which the business of the enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.

2. The term "permanent establishment" includes especially:
 - (a) a place of management;
 - (b) a branch;
 - (c) an office;
 - (d) a factory;

- (e) a workshop;
- (f) a mine, an oil or gas well, a quarry or any other place of extraction of natural resources;
- (g) a building site, or a construction, installation or assembly project which exists for a period of more than six months; and
- (h) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only where activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within the Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any period of twelve months.

3. The term "permanent establishment" shall be deemed not to include:

- (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;
- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage, display or delivery;
- (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
- (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise, or for collecting information, for the enterprise;
- (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of advertising, for the supply of information, for scientific research or for similar activities which have a preparatory or auxiliary character, for the enterprise; and
- (f) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for any combination of activities mentioned in subparagraphs (a) to (e), provided that the overall activity of the fixed place of business resulting from this combination is of a preparatory or auxiliary character.

4. An enterprise of a Contracting State, notwithstanding that it has no fixed place of business in the other Contracting State, shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in that other State if it carries on supervisory activities therein in connection with a construction, installation or assembly project which is being undertaken in that other State for a period of more than six months.

5. A person acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State (other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies) notwithstanding that he has no fixed place of business in the first-mentioned State shall be deemed to be a permanent establishment in that State if -

- (a) he has, and habitually exercises, a general authority in the first-mentioned State to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise; or
- (b) he maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise from which he regularly fills orders on behalf of the enterprise; or
- (c) he regularly secures orders in the first-mentioned State wholly or almost wholly for the enterprise.

6. An enterprise shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in a Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company as a permanent establishment of the other.

Article 6

Income from Immovable Property

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property, including income from agriculture or forestry, is taxable in the Contracting State in which such property is situated.

2. The term "immovable property" shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources. Ships, boats and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.

3. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting or use in any other form of immovable property.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.

Article 7

Business Profits

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other State but only so much of them as is attributable to that permanent establishment.

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits

which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.

3. In the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the permanent establishment including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere.

4. In so far as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude that Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary. The method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.

5. No profits shall be attributed to a permanent establishment by reason of the mere purchase by that permanent establishment of goods or merchandise for the enterprise.

6. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.

7. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

Article 8

International Transport

1. Profits from the operation or rental of ships, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicles in international traffic and the rental of containers and related equipment which is incidental to the operation of ships, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicles in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

2. If the place of effective management of a shipping enterprise is aboard a ship or boat, then it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State in which the home harbour of the ship or boat is situated, or, if there is no such home harbour, in the Contracting State of which the operator of the ship or boat is a resident.

3. If the place of effective management of a road transport enterprise cannot be determined, it shall be deemed to be situated in the Contracting State of which the operator of such road transport enterprise is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

Article 9

Associated Enterprises

1. Where:

- (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State; or
- (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,

and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.

2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

Article 10

Dividends

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the dividends, the tax so charged to the beneficial owner shall not exceed 15 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends.

The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the mode of application of this limitation by mutual agreement.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term "dividends" as used in this Article means income from shares or other rights participating in profits (not being debt-claims), as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment as income from shares by the laws of the Contracting State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, no tax may be imposed on the beneficial owner in that other State on the dividends paid by the company except in so far as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other State or in so far as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other State.

6. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as preventing a Contracting State from imposing an income tax (referred to as a "branch profits tax") on the repatriated income of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State in addition to the income tax imposed on the chargeable income of the company; provided that any branch profits tax so imposed shall not exceed 15 per cent of the amount of the repatriated income.

Article 11

Interest

1. Interest arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such interest may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the interest, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the interest. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the mode of application of this limitation by mutual agreement.

3. The term "interest" as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor's profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures and all other income which is treated as interest by the taxation laws of the Contracting State in which it arises. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as interest for the purposes of this Article.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the interest, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the interest arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which the interest is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Interest shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the interest, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which the interest is paid was incurred, and such interest is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such interest shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the interest, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 12***Royalties***

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the recipient is the beneficial owner of the royalties, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the royalties.

3. The term "royalties" as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work (including cinematograph films and films, tapes or discs for radio or television broadcasting), any patent, trade mark, design or model, computer programme, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties paid, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such a case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

6. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political subdivision, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base with which the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

Article 13***Technical Fees***

1. Technical fees arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

2. However, such technical fees may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the law of that State, but if the beneficial owner is subject to tax in respect of the technical fees in the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the technical fees.

3. The term "technical fees" as used in this Article means payments of any kind to any person, other than to an employee of the person making the payments, in consideration for any services of a technical, managerial or consultancy nature.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the technical fees, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the technical fees arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the technical fees are effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. If a resident of a Contracting State, who receives technical fees which arise in the other Contracting State and who is subject to tax in respect thereof in the first-mentioned State, so elects for any year of assessment, the tax chargeable in respect of those technical fees in the State in which they arise shall be calculated as if he had a permanent establishment or a fixed base in the last-mentioned State and as if those technical fees were taxable in accordance with Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, as profits attributable to that permanent establishment or fixed base.

6. Technical fees shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is that State itself, a political sub-division, a local authority or a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying the technical fees, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the obligation to pay the technical fees was incurred, and such technical fees are borne by that permanent establishment or fixed base, then such technical fees shall be deemed to arise in the Contracting State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.

7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the technical fees paid exceeds, for whatever reason, the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

Article 14***Independent Personal Services***

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character may be taxed in the other Contracting State only to the extent that the services were rendered in that other State, unless he has a fixed base regularly available to him in that other State for the purpose of performing his activities. If he has such a fixed base, the income which is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other State.

2. The term "professional services" includes independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants or other professional persons.

Article 15***Dependent Personal Services***

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 18, and 19, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other State.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:

- (a) the recipient is present in the other State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 182 days in any period of twelve months; and
- (b) the remuneration is paid by or on behalf of an employer who is not a resident of the other State; and
- (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.

3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship, aircraft or rail or road transport vehicle operated in international traffic may be taxed in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

Article 16***Directors' Fees***

Directors' fees and similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the board of directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.

Article 17***Entertainers and Sportsmen***

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15, income derived by entertainers such as theatre, motion picture, radio or television artistes, and musicians, or by sportsmen, from their personal activities as such, may be taxed in the Contracting State in which these activities are exercised.

2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.

Article 18***Pensions and Annuities***

1. Any pension (other than a pension of the kind referred to in paragraph 2 of Article 19) and any annuity, derived from sources within a Contracting State by an individual who is a resident of the other Contracting State and is subject to tax on the whole or portion thereof in the other State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State to the extent that it is subject to tax in the other State.

2. The term "annuity" as used in this Article means a stated sum payable periodically at stated times, during life or during a specified or ascertainable period of time, under an obligation to make the payments in return for adequate and full consideration in money or money's worth.

Article 19***Government Service***

1. Remuneration (other than pensions) paid by, or out of funds created by, one of the Contracting States, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to any individual for services rendered to that State, subdivision or authority in the discharge of governmental functions shall be exempt from tax in the other Contracting State if the individual is not ordinarily resident in that other State or is ordinarily resident in that other State solely for the purpose of rendering those services.

2. Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof to any individual for services rendered to that State, subdivision or authority in the discharge of governmental functions shall be exempt from tax in the other Contracting State in so far as the remuneration for those services was exempt from tax in that other State under paragraph 1 of this Article or would have been so exempt if this Agreement had been in force when the remuneration was paid.

3. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to payments in respect of services rendered in connection with any trade or business carried on by either of the Contracting States, a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

Article 20***Students and Business Apprentices***

A student or business apprentice who is present in a Contracting State solely for the purpose of his education or training and who is, or immediately before being so present was, a resident of the other Contracting State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned State on payments received from outside that first-mentioned State for the purposes of his maintenance, education or training.

Article 21***Other Income***

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement in respect of which he is subject to tax in that State, shall be taxable only in that State.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 shall not apply to income if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and a right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such a case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

Article 22***Elimination of Double Taxation***

Double taxation shall be eliminated as follows:

1. In Lesotho, subject to the provisions of the law of Lesotho, from time to time in force, which relates to the allowance of credit against Lesotho tax of tax paid in a country outside Lesotho (which shall not affect the general principle of this Article), South African tax paid under the law of South Africa and in accordance with this Agreement, whether directly or by deduction, in respect of income derived by a person who is a resident of Lesotho from sources in South Africa shall be allowed as a credit against Lesotho tax payable in respect of that income.

2. In South Africa, taxes paid by South African residents in respect of income taxable in Lesotho, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, shall be deducted from the taxes due according to the South African fiscal law. Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in Lesotho.

3. As regards the application of the provisions of paragraph 2, it is understood that the amount of tax which is attributable to such income which has been subjected to tax in Lesotho shall be:

- (a) where the tax on such income is computed by applying a proportional rate, the amount of the net income concerned multiplied by the rate which actually applies to that income; and
- (b) where the tax on such income is computed by applying a progressive scale, an amount which bears to the net income concerned the same ratio as the total tax actually payable bears to the total net income which is subject to tax in accordance with South African fiscal law.

4. Any relief from tax by one of the Contracting States provided for in this Agreement shall be inapplicable to the extent that the income to which the relief relates is not subject to tax in the other Contracting State.

Article 23***Non-discrimination***

1. The nationals of a Contracting State shall not be subjected in the other Contracting State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which nationals of that other State in the same circumstances are or may be subjected. This provision shall notwithstanding the provisions of Article 1, also apply to persons who are not residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

2. The taxation on a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting State has in the other Contracting State shall not be less favourably levied in that other State than the taxation levied on enterprises of that other State carrying on the same activities.

3. Enterprises of a Contracting State, the capital of which is wholly or partly owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by one or more residents of the other Contracting State, shall not be subjected in the first-mentioned State to any taxation or any requirement connected therewith which is other or more burdensome than the taxation and connected requirements to which other similar enterprises of that first-mentioned State are or may be subjected.

4. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as obliging a Contracting State to grant to residents of the other Contracting State any personal allowances, reliefs and reductions for taxation purposes on account of civil status or family responsibilities which it grants to its own residents.

5. In this Article the term "taxation" means taxes which are the subject of this Agreement.

Article 24

Mutual Agreement Procedure

1. Where a person considers that the actions of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which he is a resident or, if his case comes under paragraph 1 of Article 23, to that of the Contracting State of which he is a national. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at an appropriate solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with the Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavour to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of this Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in this Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other directly for the purpose of reaching an agreement contemplated in any of the preceding paragraphs. When it seems advisable in order to reach agreement to have an oral exchange of opinions, such exchange may take place through a commission consisting of representatives of the competent authorities of the Contracting States.

Article 25***Exchange of Information***

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement in so far as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic law of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) involved in the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by this Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.

2. The competent authorities shall, through consultation, develop appropriate conditions, methods and techniques concerning the matters in respect of which such exchanges of information shall be made, including, where appropriate, exchanges of information regarding tax avoidance.

3. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:

- (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws or the administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
- (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.

Article 26***Diplomatic Agents and Consular Officers***

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of diplomatic agents or consular officers under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

Article 27***Assistance in Recovery***

1. The Contracting States shall, to the extent permitted by their respective domestic law, lend assistance to each other in order to recover the taxes referred to in Article 2 as well as interest and penalties with regard to such taxes, provided that reasonable steps to recover such taxes have been taken by the Contracting State requesting such assistance.

2. Claims which are the subject of requests for assistance shall not have priority over taxes owing in the Contracting State rendering assistance and the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 25 shall also apply to any information which, by virtue of this Article, is supplied to the competent authority of a Contracting State.

3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall by mutual agreement settle the mode of application of the provisions of this Article.

Article 28

Entry into Force

1. Each of the Contracting Parties shall notify to the other the completion of the procedures required by its law for the bringing into force of this Agreement. The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later of these notifications.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply:

- (a) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited on or after the thirtieth day following the date upon which this Agreement enters into force; and
- (b) with regard to other taxes, in respect of years of assessment beginning on or after the date upon which this Agreement enters into force.

3. The Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income imposed in the Union of South Africa and in Basutoland, between the Government of the Union of South Africa and the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland signed in Cape Town on 18 June 1959, shall be terminated with effect from the commencement of any year of assessment or period to which the provisions of this Agreement apply.

Article 29

Termination

1. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may terminate the Agreement through the diplomatic channel, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination not later than 30 June of any calendar year starting five years after the year in which the Agreement entered into force.

2. In such event the Agreement shall cease to have effect:

- (a) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid or credited after the end of the calendar year in which such notice is given; and
- (b) with regard to other taxes, in respect of taxable years beginning after the end of the calendar year in which such notice is given.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Pretoria in duplicate, this 24th day of October of the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Five.

(Signed) C.F.Liebenberg
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

(Signed) M.Senaoana
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
KINGDOM OF LESOTHO