

State Visit

25th October 1955

2276

On a golden autumn day, the Portuguese warship, "Bartolomeu Dias" sails through the "gateway of London" on a voyage of re-affirmation. For she ~~was bringing~~ ^{brings} the President of Portugal, (Britain's oldest ally) on a ~~short~~ ~~State Visit~~ State Visit - and a salute of guns bids him welcome.

From the Tower, the journey is continued in the Royal Barge - in which the Duke of Gloucester had received the President and ~~Madame Lopes~~ ^{his wife}.

So they came to Westminster Pier - for a fitting riverside meeting. Queen Elizabeth and President Lopes - the Constitutional Rulers of two renowned maritime nations.

And for the President - there were also warm greetings from other members of the Royal Family.

On to the Embankment and a Presidential Salute from the Guard of Honour - the First Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

And on this day, a State Drive, with its attendant pomp and pageantry, was Britain's way of welcome - as the President drove with the Queen to Buckingham Palace.

In a second open carriage, ~~Madame~~ Madame Lopes was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh.

Along the processional route, the crowds added their welcome to the first Ruler of Portugal to visit Britain for over fifty years.

The President was last here during the blitz - as leader of a service mission.

^A This State Visit, ^{which} is the crowning fulfilment of over six hundred years of unbroken friendship between Britain and Portugal - a valued foundation in these ~~difficult~~ days.

days of changing loyalties.