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QUEEN AT I.P.U. CONFERENCE:

M.P.s. of many lands gather at Westminster - legislators from new Commonwealth countries, from the ancient states of the Middle East - for the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference. The Queen, accompanied by Prince Philip, comes to Westminster Hall to bid welcome.

This is the 46th time the Union has gathered to discuss the problems common to all countries with democratic ideals - and Her Majesty speaks of the role our own Parliament has played in developing those ideals.

England's first Parliament assembled in this hall 700 years ago, and it is a most appropriate place for the M.P.s of 52 countries to meet. For some of their Parliaments owe their very existence to decisions of the British House of Commons - decisions freely taken, and a measure of our belief in the right of man to control his own destiny.