

PRESIDENT GRONCHI IN LONDON.

In the stately splendour of the Guildhall, the Italian President hears the Recorder of the City of London extend to him and to Signora Gronchi the City's cordial greeting. The Lord Mayor, Sir Denis Truscott, hands over the address of welcome in the traditional silver casket - and President Gronchi addresses the Common Council.

Centuries ago, the President recalls, Lombard merchants from Italy played their part in laying the foundations of London's prosperity as a major trading centre of the world. And he hopes that future co-operation may continue to increase the trade and wealth of both our countries.

Though Signor Gronchi says the welcome is an honour to his country more than to himself, the City shows it is also intended as a personal tribute to a fine statesman. And when the Queen and her Government receive President Gronchi at Lancaster House, the same feeling is apparent; The Duchess of Kent and Princess Alexandra are here; Prince Philip escorts Signora Gronchi; and near the Queen Mother is Foreign Office chief Sir William Hayter.

Princess Margaret is in the Royal party, and Lord and Lady Mountbatten join in honouring the President of a great Republic.