

SHAH'S STATE VISIT.

Into Victoria Station from Gatwick Airport drew a royal train. Her Majesty, the Duke, Princess Margaret, and others of the Royal Family welcomed the Shah of Persia, arriving in London to begin a three-day State Visit. The courageous Middle Eastern Ruler was a most welcome guest.

The platform party included the Princess Royal, the Duchess of Gloucester and the Duchess of Kent, whose daughter, the vivacious and beautiful Princess Alexandra, joined in the greetings. The Queen wore an attractive tunic-jacket, with matching skirt and mink-lined stole - all of pale blue tweed. Princess Margaret made a contrasting figure in a suit of dark grey velvet.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Butler and the Foreign Secretary welcomed the Monarch on behalf of the Government and Parliament. When all the members of the platform party had been presented, Her Majesty and the Shah left the station, from which they were to drive to Buckingham Palace.

On the present visit this was the Shah's first contact with the London streets, and bright though the day was, the temperature must have seemed on the low side, to one accustomed to sunbaked Teheran.

Flag-lined and sunlit, the Mall looked a stately highway, as the Household Cavalry escorted the procession to the Palace. A crowded programme lay ahead of the visitor, but even at this stage, when it had barely begun, it could be safely predicted that the Shah would return to his country more than ever convinced of the true and increasingly important friendship between Persia and Great Britain.