

KING OF NEPAL STATE  
VISIT.

Her Majesty, the Duke and others of the Royal Family were at Victoria Station to welcome the King and Queen of Nepal. It's a far cry from the Himalayan Kingdom to London, but our two countries have been friends for close on 150 years, and fought together in two world wars. King Mahendra was splendidly uniformed as he and Queen Ratna were welcomed to Britain.

Queen Ratna, 31, is the King's second wife. He was previously married to her sister, who died ten years ago. This is Mahendra's first visit to London.

Nepal, a country of about nine million people, lies between India and Tibet. It's the country of the Gurkhas, to whose unsurpassed gallantry Britain owes so much; and it's the country of Sherpa Tensing, the great climber who helped to conquer Everest. For a host of good reasons the people of Britain bade welcome to King Mahendra on his three day state visit. As he and his Queen were escorted from the station the band played the Nepalese National Anthem.

That evening there was a state banquet at Buckingham Palace in honour of the visitors. Queen Elizabeth spoke for Britain when she said that we are proud of our links with Nepal.