

PRINCESS SEES HONG KONG.

After the flight to Hong Kong and her tremendous welcome, the calm and quiet of Government House afforded relaxation, for which Princess Alexandra was no doubt grateful. But on a royal tour the next engagement is never far ahead. As Her Royal Highness walked in the gardens with the Governor, Sir Robert Black, she was confronted by Press Photographers, out in force to secure pictures, away from the streets of Victoria, the Capital.

The royal visit is taking place in the golden jubilee year of the University. On the roof the Princess met some of the students. Roofs are important in Hong Kong. No more than 25 years ago the Colony numbered fewer than three-quarters-of-a-million people; there are now more than 3-million, and as land space is limited, the only way to expand is to build upwards.

Over the water from Victoria lies the second city of the Colony, Kowloon, through which Her Royal Highness drove to visit the New Territories, as the area leased from China 63 years ago is still called.

Most of the population seemed to be lining the royal route. The market town of Tai Po reflects the general expansion of the New Territories since the war.

In another of the small towns, San Wai, some children of soldiers in the Gurkha Rifles gave a dancing display, bringing the atmosphere of Nepal into another land.

Afterwards the Princess visited the camp at Shek Kong, seeing the living quarters of the married servicemen. There are two Gurkha battalions garrisoned at Hong Kong. There are also battalions of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and the Royal Warwickshire Regiments. What a wonderful place Hong Kong is for a tour of Military duty.

Next call, the village of Pat Heung, and a marked oriental flavour in the greeting. The animal occupying the centre of the stage is a lion, if you had any doubts. About as ferocious as Jenny. While Princess Alexandra was enjoying her stay in Hong Kong, the thoughts of millions in the Commonwealth were turning upon Ghana.

For days the big question in Accra, capital of Ghana, was, would the Queen's visit be cancelled? The people there, optimists, by and large, seemed quite sure it would not be. But, as there's been a spot of bother lately, the British Government had to be satisfied that it would be safe for Her Majesty to go; especially when some damage was done even to the statue of President Nkrumah.

Hurriedly Mr. Duncan Sandys, Commonwealth Secretary, flew to Ghana to examine the security arrangements. The Ghanaian Foreign Minister received him on the President's behalf.

Mr. Sandys met Pressmen and explained the position to them. It was to all appearances a pleasant meeting. The journalists appreciated the British Cabinet's anxiety, in view of recent bomb incidents; and they convinced him how tremendously disappointed everyone in Ghana would be if the Queen were advised to stay home. President Nkrumah himself was evidently quite unperturbed as he and Mr. Sandys saw the now repaired feet of the statue. They decided that together they would travel the route of the royal procession. Their decision pleased thousands in Accra, whose enthusiasm made a good impression on the Commonwealth Minister.

When it was all over Mr. Sandys flew home (part of the way in a Canberra Bomber) to report favourably to the Cabinet. The decision, the tour was on.

So, at London Airport, on the morning after Mr. Sandys' report, the Queen and Prince Philip arrived to begin their flight. Some Ghanaians were among the people assembled to see them off. But, as fog is no respecter of royal departures, there was a delay of almost an hour. Little Pearl Acquay, daughter of a Ghanaian student in London, presented a bouquet of orchids.

To Mr. Ekow Daniels, a law student, the Queen said she was much looking forward to the tour.

Mr. Macmillan and other Ministers, the Queen bade goodbye when permission to take off was at last granted. Farewell, also, to the Earl of Scarborough, the Lord Chamberlain. Everyone at the Airport felt that the right decision had been made, and that consequences transcending all-round disappointment might have resulted, had the tour been cancelled.

This was the last look at England, the Queen will have until she returns, early in December. Not, of course, a bad time to be going, leaving winter behind. In less than 7 hours, the Boeing landed 3,600 miles away at Accra. Her Majesty's subjects wish her a successful and most pleasant tour.