

LITTLE GIRL

PEARL ACQUAYE -

10.31AM. JK WW 111D CANCEL 22 111D

10.33AM. ADD THE QUEEN LEAVES FOR GHANA.

THE QUEEN AND PRINCE PHILIP, DELAYED BY HEAVY MIST, TOOK OFF AN HOUR LATE FOR GHANA.

BUT THE QUEEN LOOKED UNPERTURBED BY THE MIST, OR THE DOUBTS OR ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS OF THE PAST FEW DAYS, WHEN SHE WALKED OUT TO THE AIRCRAFT.

SHE SMILED BRIGHTLY AND WAVED GAILY AT A BIG PARTY OF GHANAISANS WHO WERE SINGING A SEND-OFF CHANT. THEN SHE STOPPED TO ACCEPT A BOUQUET OF ORCHIDS AND LILIES OF THE VALLEY FROM A LITTLE GHANAISAN GIRL.

"I AM MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO THE VISIT," SHE TOLD MR EKOW DANIELS, A GHANAISAN STUDENT, WHO WAS STANDING WITH THE CHILD.

PRINCE PHILIP, TOO, SEEMED IN A HAPPY MOOD. HE WAVED AT THE SINGING, CHEERING GHANAISANS.

DURING THEIR HOUR'S WAIT IN THE VIP LOUNGE, THE QUEEN HAD A LONG CHAT WITH MR MACMILLAN.

PRINCE PHILIP TALKED FOR A LONG TIME TO MR SANDYS, WHO FLEW OUT TO GHANA TO SEE DR NKRUMAH AND TO INQUIRE INTO SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

IT WAS STILL VERY MISTY WHEN THE QUEEN AND PRINCE PHILIP WALKED OUT TO THE PLANE IN WHICH THEY ARE MAKING THE 3,600 MILES NON-STOP FLIGHT.

THE AIRCRAFT SOON DISAPPEARED IN THE MIST WHEN IT TAXIED OUT, MFLYING THE ROYAL STANDARD.

BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AIRPORT VISIBILITY WAS BETTER AND THERE WAS A SAFETY MARGIN FOR THE TAKE-OFF.

MR MACMILLAN STOOD IN FRONT OF THE VIP LOUNGE WAITING TO HEAR THE ROAR OF THE ENGINES, WITH THE BIG PLANE SAFELY IN THE AIR, BEFORE HE LEFT.