

2277

Oxfordshire: An R.A.F. Guard of Honour paid tribute to the air-minded President of Portugal - General Craveiro Lopes - when he visited the Air Force Station, at Benson.

The President (whose service with the Portuguese Air Force extended over thirty years) must have recalled his own days as a pilot, as he ~~inspected~~ <sup>examined</sup> Britain's latest aircraft - and/the men who fly them. <sup>chatted to</sup>

On this third day of the state visit, the President exchanged his uniform for an overall when he toured the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, at Harwell.

After visiting several departments, the President was touched by a courteous gesture from one of the staff as he donned ~~the look of his~~ <sup>his military cloak</sup> ~~military uniform~~ - for he is first and foremost - a soldier.

~~Unsurprisingly with tradition~~ - The climax of the State Visit was the gala performance at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. There, the Prime Minister (accompanied by Lady Eden) arrived to ~~sixing~~ welcome the distinguished guests on behalf of the Government.

An evening of Royal Splendour and pageantry. The Duchess of Kent arrived with her daughter - Princess Alexandra.

The Queen Mother wore the ribbon and star of the Order of the Garter - over her full-skirted dress of white tulle. With her was Princess Margaret - looking radiant in a ~~strawberry~~ <sup>dark</sup> satin gown.

Arriving with the Guest of Honour, President Lopes - Her Majesty the Queen wore an exquisite dress of white lace - and the tricolour riband of the Portuguese Order of Christ, Aviz and Santiago - conferred upon her by the President.

And <sup>MADAME</sup> ~~Sanhora~~ Lopes, in white and silver lace, was escorted by the Duke of Edinburgh.

A glittering moment in the foyer - the rich fulfilment of six hundred years of friendship between Britain and Portugal.

So - with stately grace - the Queen and the President lead the way into the theatre. <sup>MADAME</sup> ~~Sanhora~~ Lopes and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Princess Margaret ~~xxxxxxx~~ follows with her aunt, the Duchess of Gloucester.

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The distinguished audience rise in homage to the Royal Party - as they take their places in the Royal Box - decked in the red and green of Portugal.

The curtain was about to rise on the gala performance of Smetana's opera - "The Bartered Bride" - <sup>- a work whose gaiety</sup> ~~a happily chosen work that~~ matched the <sup>mood</sup> ~~gaiety~~ of this ~~cardinal~~ Anglo-Portuguese ~~occasion~~.  
celebration