(2296)

France- The President's Greeting-- Jan 3rd. '56.

Paris--- Members of the Diplomatic Corps were invited to the Elysée Palace for the traditional New Year reception, held by President Coty of France (2) [redacted]

[redacted] With time-honoured custom, the President conveyed his personal greetings for [redacted] 1956 to the Ambassadors of many countries- including Sir Gladwyn Jebb- the British Ambassador.

Now let's see how [redacted] London celebrated the passing of the Old Year, as milling crowds in Piccadilly Circus sang "hail and farewell" in the good old-fashioned way. In Trafalgar Square, the floodlit fountains and illuminated Tree (Norway's annual gift)- made a gay background to the festivities.

For many, the closing hours of 1955 were beguiled by dancing [redacted]

[redacted]

Meanwhile- inside the vast arena of the Albert Hall, over 5000 revellers rang out the Old Year with a theme close to the heart of every Cockney- the call of "Bow Bells". (2)

Yes- it's the Chelsea Arts Ball- and to the non-stop music of four bands, there was something to suit everyone- from the romantic magic of [redacted] slow rhythm - to the breathless performance of the jitterbugs. And, true to the British way, some took their pleasures sadly.

The ball was given civic approval by the presence of London's Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.

In honour of their distinguished guests, the art students staged a "Lord Mayor's Show" of their own- the story of the City and its traditions, told in a series of grotesque tableaux.

[redacted] As usual, they soon collapsed- under the excessive zeal of the exuberant youth of 1956.