

~~1956~~ A grey winter's afternoon ^{and} from Buckingham Palace - began the Royal Journey to Nigeria. In the Royal Car, the Queen and the Duke were accompanied by their children... London ~~airport~~ Airport, where gaily-robed Nigerians gave hint of the sunny welcome that awaited the Royal Travellers in Lagos...

~~At the airport~~, The huge B.O.A.C. Argonaut airliner "Atalanta" stands ready as the Royal Party goes aboard.... a party that includes Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother ^{and Princess Margaret -} for those last farewells.

Once again, the "Atalanta" is linked with Royal destiny. In 1952 - it carried a heartbroken girl home from Africa - to return to her capital... as Queen. Now, the Sovereign returns... to Africa, to share with her peoples the march to ^{TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE} ~~political maturity~~.

~~The brief good-byes~~ The brief good-byes are over - the Queen Mother ~~tenderly~~ escorts the Royal Children...

To the door of the airliner come the Queen and the Duke to offer a gracious salute for a ^{warm-hearted} loyal send-off..

The "Atalanta" throbs with power ~~and~~ three thousand miles away - Nigeria waits - to offer a proud and loyal welcome to the first Reigning ^{her} Monarch to visit ~~their~~ friendly shores.