

BELGIUM SEES A "ROYAL" WEDDING

From a mediaeval Belgium castle, along half-a-mile of red carpet, a bride goes out. She is Princess Yolande de Ligne, here with her father, Belgium's ambassador to India. The 100 guests include many members of Europe's former ruling families. Crowds four deep line the route.

After the civil ceremony in the private Castle Chapel, the prime minister of Belgium performs the religious ceremony. The bridegroom is Archduke Charles of Hapsburg, fourth son of the late Emperor Charles, last ruler of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Among those who see him wed are his mother and his brother Otto - the pretender to the throne.

The wedding unites two of Europe's oldest aristocratic families. The ancestors of the 26-year-old Princess were first mentioned in records of 1047. The Hapsburgs can trace their family tree back almost to the days of Charlemagne. After the ceremony, 2,000 villagers joined in the celebrations at the Castle. The couple will spend their honeymoon in Florida.