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MONTÉ CARLO GREETES ITS KING

In Monte Carlo's Roman Cathedral, watched by the Diplomatic Corps, Prince Rainier the Third ascends the throne as supreme ruler of the 2,000 people of Monaco - Europe's tiniest state. From the Archbishop of Monaco, the Prince (seated on a golden chair) receives neither crown, nor coronet, but the Church's Blessing.

Outside the Cathedral, contingents of French, American and British bluejackets are paraded for this ceremonial occasion. Presenting decorations to court officials is the first Royal duty for the newly-installed monarch - the only absolute monarch left in Europe. The people of Monaco are quite happy about it - for they are also the only Europeans left who don't pay taxes. The tourists who play - and lose - at the Casino, do it for them.