

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Mr. Ernest Bevin, restored to health after three weeks in hospital - is host at Lancaster House to America's Dean Acheson and France's Robert Schuman. Their meeting at this critical phase in the cold war is acknowledged as the most momentous since the end of the war. The Schuman plan for international control of Europe's steel and coal (made public on the eve of the conference) ranks high on the agenda. If the "Big Three" can put this historic proposal into effect, it may ban for ever the ancient rivalry between France and Germany and make for a peaceful, prosperous Europe - for a free community of nations that could withstand the tests of crucial years ahead.

Princess Margaret goes to London Airport to meet a Viking aircraft of the King's flight that brings Princess Elizabeth back to Britain. The Princess' journey home from Malta had been interrupted by bad weather and a hasty overnight stay had to be arranged at Nice.

Princess Elizabeth will not be undertaking any more public engagements at present. Together with her sister, her first call on returning home was at Clarence House, where Prince Charles was waiting to greet her after an absence of several weeks.

Over to Embankment Gardens for the Royal Academy's open-air rival - the kerbside show. Now an accepted part of London-in-the-Spring, it's an exhibition with no entrance charge and no selection committee - everything except the weather favours the artist. Every type of painting is there - the involved creation to delight the futuristic mind and the pictures that please the more simple souls.

Fortified by burning ambition and occasional sales, the new-style exhibitors face all weathers - supremely happy, because it's art for art's sake.