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AMBASSADOR MALIK THROWS THE SWITCH

Switching on Blackpool's lights has become a public honour, and Soviet Ambassador Jacob Malik is the latest to receive the Mayor's invitation to throw the switch. "Long live light, peace and friendship", says Mr. Malik to the waiting crowd.

And within a few seconds, the six miles of Blackpool's sea front became a blaze of light.

One of Blackpool's officials describes it as "typical illumination weather - high winds and rain". But it takes more than a few squalls to damp an occasion like this. In the words of Mr. Malik: "Let us hope that the switching on the illuminations this year will mark the end of the gloom of the cold war and will shed a bright light on the irresistible desire for a happy and radiant peace".

The Mayor presents Mr. and Mrs. Malik with a pair of candlesticks as a memento of this glowing occasion.