

QUEEN LEAVES FOR NIGERIA.

Mist shrouds the runways at London Airport as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh walk to the aircraft which is to take them to Nigeria. Prince Charles and Princess Anne, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret are here to see them off on their 3,500-mile journey to Lagos - a journey which will only take them 17 hours.

Many Nigerians are among the airport crowd, some of whom have been waiting for several hours to wish the royal couple God-speed. At one time, with visibility down to a few yards, there seemed little chance of them even seeing the departure: but just before the take-off, the mist clears a little.

The Queen's family enter the aircraft for their final goodbye. The airliner is B.O.A.C. Argonaut Atalanta, with the seating adapted to make a spacious saloon for the royal party.

As the Queen Mother and the two children leave the Argonaut, Prince Charles seems more interested in the construction of the aircraft than in the importance of the occasion.

With Princess Anne is Sir John D'Albise, Commandant of London Airport. This is the first time the airport had had royal passengers since the fine new terminal buildings were opened by the Queen just before Christmas. London airport today is a much more suitable setting for a State occasion, however informal, than the old collection of prefabricated huts.

The time has come for the Argonaut to take off on its long journey into the sun. As the great engines start up, Prince Charles isn't the only one to show an interest in the technical details.

All Britain's good wishes go with the royal couple on their visit to a great land just coming of age as a full nation.