

SUPERSONIC WIND TUNNEL.

The Duke of Edinburgh comes to Bedford to inaugurate a new thousand-mile-an-hour wind tunnel, built co-operatively by 14 of Britain's leading aircraft firms. One and three-quarter tons of air a second can be blown through the nine-foot-wide tunnel.

The Duke is shown a scale model of the installation. Three other tunnels are to be built - one of them even faster than this. The tunnel is sealed ready for action, and the aircraft experts gather to hear a few words from the Duke before he presses the button:

The 25,000-horsepower main motor drives two 21-foot fans, while technicians check the results. The whole scheme will cost £1,500,000 but will pay for itself by shortening the flight trials of the supersonic aircraft of the future.