

THE DUKE AT THE MANSION HOUSE:

At the Mansion House the Lord Mayor of London greets the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Commander Michael Parker and Squadron-Leader Henry Chinnery. The occasion, is the City's official "Welcome home" to His Royal Highness after his four months' tour of the Commonwealth. It is the Duke's first big public engagement since the Queen conferred on him the title of "The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh", and his first public comment on the tour he has just completed:

"I find it rather difficult to realize that I have been round the world and covered nearly 40,000 miles since the 15th October, last year. Now it would be quite easy to claim that this was all part of some deep laid scheme. But I'm afraid I have to admit that it all came about because

I was asked to start off the Olympic Games in Melbourne, where I made, if I may say so, the best speech of my life...which is exactly five words"...

The Tour, says the Duke, naturally involved the personal sacrifice of being separated from his wife and children for considerable time; but there are some things for which personal sacrifice is worth while; and he believes the British Commonwealth is one of those things:

"This Commonwealth of which every member is so proud, came into existence because people made sacrifices and offered their service to it. Now it has been handed to us and if we don't make sacrifices for it, we shall have nothing to hand onto those who come after us, and the world would have lost something of much greater value, than just a grand conception"...

"On Saturday the 16th February, four months almost to the day after I left home, the Queen flew out to Portugal and we enjoyed two days there together before paying a state visit to that country, and then followed three hectic but wonderful days when the friendliness of the Portuguese people knew no bounds...And then, as you know, this adventure ended where it began, at London Airport, with a very happy family reunion".....