

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER

VISIT ETHIOPIA.

Appropriately a lion guards the Palace of the Lion of Judah - firmly tethered for the sake of nervous visitors. But there was no nervousness, only friendliness, when the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were welcomed by the Emperor Haile Selassie to Ethiopia. One of His Majesty's many titles is Lion of Judah - hence the animal outside. In the Throne Room of the Palace at Addis Ababa, the dignified Emperor received a message from the Queen, in which Her Majesty expressed admiration for the great development of Ethiopia, instituted by the Emperor since the war. For example, the English School, where the Duchess saw children of British, American, Ethiopian, Italian and Yugoslavian parents being educated together, and apparently having a good time.

Britain helped to finance the Emperor's education schemes and though the subsidy was reduced in the early 1950s, it is going to be restored in full, now that the gold and dollar position is easier.

Long before these children were born, Italy conquered Ethiopia in 1936, and the Emperor lived in exile in England till the British Army liberated the country, early in the World War. Haile Selassie and his family retain happy memories of the kindness they experienced in England, and there were no formal considerations which prompted him to invite the Duke and Duchess to Addis. The Duke, in fact, is a very old friend. He represented his father at the Emperor's Coronation in November 193.

The royal visit emphasised the friendship, between Britain and the country so ably governed by the Emperor Haile Selassie.