

DUKE TALKS TO NATO.

The Duke of Edinburgh was guest of honour at the Guildhall. Prince Berhardt of the Netherlands was at the top table; also Mr. Duncan Sandys, and from Germany, General Speidel. There too was Dame Florence, widow of Ernest Bevin, one of NATO's founders. Proud indeed he would have been had he lived to be present. Prince Philip's speech was full of humour and good sense:

"It cannot be emphasized too often that NATO is a defensive and co-operative alliance and never intended in any way to initiate or to support aggression of any kind" (He continues with reference to having the dinner at the Guildhall and not a grand military parade....)

Praising NATO's top people, past and present, the Duke mentioned Lord Ismay and his successor as Secretary-General, Monsieur Spaak. Not to mention absent friends:

"And then, of course, there is the lately retired Guardian Angel of NATO himself, Lord Montgomery...I know many people think he's more like the wicked fairy at the moment. However, I am quite sure that his annual diagnosis of the multitude of ghastly diseases which he announced to be knowing at the vitals of NATO will be missed almost as much as his crusade through the capitals of Europe which blasted the peace of every ministry of defense"...

(PAUSE)

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the toast to NATO and to the President of its Council, Dr. Luns"....