The Crystal Palace T.V. must looks down on desolation which could hardly be described. The rain it raineth every day, but work proceeds on the National Recreation Centre. The Duke of Edinburgh saw the model of what will be reality on the 36-acre site. He then went on to the official part of his visit, to lower one of the columns which will support the supersetructure over a covered running track. To do that, His Royal Highness had to turn himself into a crane driver; Union rules suspended for the day.

The column was lowered expertly, the operator earning applause.

In about three years time there'll be sports facilities here up to Olympic standards.