

PRINCESS IN HONG KONG.

For days the Crown Colony of Hong Kong excitedly awaited the arrival of Princess Alexandra. Possessing one of the finest natural harbours, in the whole world, important to west and Far east alike, the Colony holds a position anomalous and unique in international commerce. Evidence of Big Business, western pattern, confronts nearby Mau Tse Tung's China, and all the outlook and natural sympathies of the people, clearly expressed here in the triumphal archways erected in the Princess's honour, testify to pride in the Commonwealth and love of western freedom. Yet in this crowded colony, homeland of more than 3-million people, Chinese ways and traditions are cherished as warmly as in any of the mainland cities of China itself. East and West - in Hong Kong the twain meet. And they now had only one topic: the Princess from England would soon be there.

Meanwhile, in the hours pending the royal arrival, life pursued its oriental way; space at a premium, the population, swollen in recent years by refugees from China, almost bursting the colony at its seams; a population now speaking with one voice the word Welcome. And at Kai Tak Airport the Princess's aircraft at last came to land. The Governor, Sir Robert Black, was there to greet Princess Alexandra and welcome her to Hong Kong. He presented Lady Black, their daughter and the Commander of the British Forces, and in her gracious reception of these courtesies, the Princess bore herself royally and in a manner natural to the daughter of Princess Marina.

Fire-floats gave their spectacular salute in the vast harbour, as the Governor escorted the royal visitor to his launch. Afloat as on the land, west and east mingle harmoniously, and no vessel conveniently near enough to afford its occupants a view of the Governor's launch was in any hurry to move away. At Queen's Pier, where it would come alongside, thousands made their way to see the Princess from Britain.

No mistaking the Chinese influence.

The guns of men-o'-war in the harbour thundered in salute.

Now came the chance for thousands of Hong Kong's loyal people to see the young Princess and leave her in no doubt as to the warmth of their greeting. But first the formal inspection of the Guard of Honour, of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

On the short drive from Queen's Pier to Government House the Chinese lanterns added an almost fairylike Oriental touch.

When the Governor's car had gone by, Statute Square became thick with a great mass of people. The population of Hong Kong bade a most affectionate Welcome to Princess Alexandra.