

A Swedish cruiser in the River Thames at Greenwich Pier; and, on board, the Duke of Edinburgh is first to welcome to Britain, royal neighbours from across the North Sea; King Gustav VI and Queen Louise, of Sweden.

Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the royal family, arrived to await their guests on Westminster Pier; and though once again, our summer could do no better than produce another cool and cloudy afternoon --- there was warmth in this meeting between two of the ancient monarchies of Europe.

The King's father is well-remembered as a man of amazing vigour, who could still play a game of tennis when he was ninety; so the youthfulness of King Gustav VI is not surprising, though he is over seventy. And London was happy, at the start of this four-day State Visit, to give its welcoming cheers to traditional friends.

Following Queen Elizabeth and ~~Queen~~ King Gustav, the Duke of Edinburgh rode with Queen Louise --- his aunt, who was married in St James's Palace in London.

As they drove along the Mall towards Buckingham Palace, the British-born wife of Sweden's king, must have been deeply moved by this great occasion. Both have made frequent private visits to Britain through the years; but this State Visit, underneath all the pageantry, showed how similar are the ties that link the Sovereign and the people in our two countries; where a democratic monarchy is based upon simplicity --- and mutual trust, and goodwill.