

The Portuguese warship Bartolomeo Dias, sailing through Tower Bridge on the River Thames, brought to London the first head of the State of Portugal ^{to make a state visit to} ~~to visit~~ Britain for more than ^{50 years} ~~half a~~ ~~century~~. And the guns of the Tower boomed out their salute of welcome.

At Tower Bridge the President was met by the Duke of Gloucester, and brought in the Royal Barge to Westminster Pier.

At the Pier, President Craveiro Lopes and his lady were greeted by Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh; by the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal Family.

Then --- on to the Embankment, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ with a salute from the Guard of Honour mounted by the Coldstream Guards.

Lovely weather favoured the occasion as ~~the~~ President Lopes drove with the Queen in the first coach, along the traditional route to Buckingham, ^{PALACE} ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ with a Sovereign's Escort of Household Cavalry.

In the second coach, Madame Lopes was accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh who wore the uniform of Admiral of the Fleet.

So --- from the Mall --- they approached ~~the courtyard of~~ Buckingham Palace ~~at 11.30 a.m.~~

~~add.~~
Although this was the first State Visit from Portugal for more than half a century --- President Lopes was representing the nation that has been the ally of Britain for ~~more~~ six hundred years.