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Bermuda

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ROYAL VISIT: 8-10 MARCH 1994

SUMMARY

1. A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT. A PACKED PROGRAMME TOOK THE QUEEN THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE ISLAND. GLORIOUS WEATHER DURING THE VISIT ~~DURING THE VISIT~~ BROUGHT MANY MORE PEOPLE OUT TO VIEW THE ROYAL COUPLE THAN HAD BEEN EXPECTED.

DETAIL

2. MANY MONTHS OF DETAILED PLANNING ^{were} ~~WAS~~ REWARDED WITH A SPLENDID VISIT BY THE QUEEN AND PRINCE PHILIP. FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARRIVED AT 2.30 PM ON TUESDAY 8 MARCH TO THEIR DEPARTURE ON THURSDAY 10 MARCH AT 10.30 AM THE ROYAL COUPLE'S PACKED SCHEDULE WENT SO SMOOTHLY THAT IT SEEMED TO BE EFFORTLESS. BERMUDIANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD THAT THE VISIT WENT SO WELL.

3. TUESDAY'S PROGRAMME BEGAN WITH A VISIT TO THE TOWN OF ST GEORGE AND INCLUDED A WELL ATTENDED WALKABOUT, A VISIT TO A NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY, AN INVESTITURE CEREMONY, A RECEPTION FOR THE MEDIA, AND A BANQUET HOSTED BY THE SPEAKER WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 500 GUESTS. THE SPEAKER'S DINNER WENT WITHOUT A HITCH BUT THE PREMIER COULD NOT RESIST TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A SPEECH WHICH RUFFLED SOME FEATHERS BY ITS INDIRECT REFERENCE TO THE INDEPENDENCE ISSUE. MANY BERMUDIANS FELT THAT IT WAS AN INAPPROPRIATE SPEECH FOR SUCH AN OCCASION.

4. WEDNESDAY'S PROGRAMME BEGAN AT 10.15 AM WITH A TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THE QUEEN DID NOT RETURN TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE UNTIL 5.45 PM. IN THE INTERVENING HOURS SHE VISITED CITY HALL, THE NATIONAL GALLERY, KING EDWARD VII MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, BERMUDA COLLEGE - WHERE SHE AND PRINCE PHILIP HAD LUNCH. AFTER THE LUNCH THE QUEEN VISITED THE MARITIME MUSEUM AT THE WEST END OF THE ISLAND. SHE OPENED THE MARITIME MUSEUM DURING HER 1975 VISIT AND ON THIS OCCASION WAS ABLE TO VIEW THE LATEST RENOVATION WORK AT THE COMMISSIONER'S HOUSE, WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE MARITIME MUSEUM. AFTER A WALKABOUT AT DOCKYARD SHE RETURNED TO THE ROYAL BERMUDA YACHT CLUB BY LAUNCH WHERE SHE

WAS TAKEN ON HER THIRD WALKABOUT OF HER VISIT AND INSPECTED A GUARD OF HONOUR BY HMS ARGYLL. THE CLIMAX TO THE VISIT WAS A CULTURAL EVENT AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS WHICH INCLUDED THE BAND OF THE BERMUDA REGIMENT, THE NATIONAL DANCE THEATRE, THE MASS CHOIR, A BALLERINA, A STEEL BAND, THE PORTUGUESE NATIONAL DANCERS, A PARADE OF MAJORETTES AND A BERMUDIAN SPECIALITY - THE GOMBEEY DANCE.

5. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH MADE SEPARATE VISITS TO THE BERMUDA BIOLOGICAL STATION FOR RESEARCH AND THE CATHEDRAL OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY WHERE HE MET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS IN BERMUDA. HE ALSO PRESENTED GOLD AND SILVER AWARDS TO A LARGE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME AFTER WHICH HE PAID A VISIT TO THE ROYAL BERMUDA YACHT CLUB IN ADVANCE OF THE QUEEN'S ARRIVAL THERE.

6. OFFICIALS WITH THE ROYAL PARTY EXPRESSED THEIR PLEASURE AT THE WAY THE VISIT HAD GONE. THE ROYAL COUPLE SEEMED DELIGHTED WITH BERMUDA. MANY BERMUDIANS WERE THRILLED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE QUEEN. A GREAT MANY WERE DELIGHTED TO SHARE A WORD WITH HER DURING THE WALKABOUTS.

7. I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO HER MAJESTY AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FOR AGREEING TO UNDERTAKE SUCH A BUSY SCHEDULE HERE. I AM DELIGHTED THAT IT WORKED SO WELL AND I HAVE CONVEYED MY THANKS TO THE PRINCIPAL ORGANISERS AND TO THE BERMUDA POLICE FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE DURING THE VISIT.

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