

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE  
AFRICA DEPARTMENT (SOUTHERN)  
CSS 014/002/95

16  
DD 1995/159  
DESPATCH  
SELECTIVE DISTRIBUTION  
SOUTH AFRICA  
5 APRIL 1995

STATE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA: 19-25 MARCH 1995

The British High Commissioner at Cape Town to the  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

**SUMMARY**

1. Highly successful State Visit to South Africa, covering six of the nine new Provinces. President Mandela participated on five of the six official days of the visit. All races turned out in large numbers to meet the Royal Couple (paragraphs 1-5).
2. Much welcome emphasis by senior South Africans on the Commonwealth which is perceived as setting the seal on South Africa's re-integration (paragraph 6).
3. The inclusion in the programme of commercial events, and the subsequent use of Britannia for this purpose, was particularly helpful. The visit has done a power of good for British interests in South Africa (paragraphs 7-9).

British High Commission

CAPE TOWN

5 April 1995

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd CBE MP  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
LONDON SW1A 2AH

Sir,

STATE VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA: 19 - 25 MARCH 1995

1. I have the honour to report that Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, paid a State Visit to South Africa from 19 to 25 March 1995. You and your wife were in attendance throughout. I attach an outline programme. The Royal Tour began in Cape Town and ended in Durban. The Queen herself visited four of the nine new Provinces and The Duke of Edinburgh (separately on Wednesday 22 March) a further two. Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia provided a spectacular arrival for the Royal Party at Cape Town harbour on the morning of 20 March. Britannia was also present at Durban for the final leg of the tour, which included The Queen's State Banquet.

2. Preparations for the State Visit were lengthy, and complicated by the fact that no visit of such magnitude had taken place since that of King George VI in 1947. Apart from a few neighbouring Heads of State, only one senior statesman - President Mitterrand - had been here since the election of April 1994.

3. The negotiation of the programme was made more difficult by the old (white) guard at the Department of Foreign Affairs who were initially inclined to see the Visit as a re-run of 1947. When I first suggested that the Royal Couple would wish to visit black townships, security objections were raised. It was of course clear to us that President Mandela and his senior advisers would want a programme which reflected the New South Africa. The

difficulty lay in the fact that the President's office gave little indication of their own preferences until very late in the day. Fortunately, when they eventually focussed on the lengthy programme which by then had been negotiated in detail, they agreed on all points.

4. A major key to the success of the visit as a whole was the participation of President Mandela who was present on five of the six official days of the visit. It was particularly gratifying that he attended the service at St George's Cathedral, Cape Town, to commemorate Human Rights Day, the equally poignant commemoration, at the Avalon Cemetery Soweto, of those black servicemen (hitherto largely unrecognised in South Africa) who died aboard the SS Mendi in 1916, and the "balcony scene" at the City Hall, Durban, where, in front of a large crowd and a splendid troupe of Zulu dancers, The Queen made her final farewell to the South African people. Her Majesty was also presented with an Nguni bull as a gift from the Premier and the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

5. The Queen and The Duke received a very warm welcome at every stage of the tour. At the more formal events - the State Banquets, the garden parties, the civic receptions - those invited were delighted and agog. In the black townships, the reaction was more emotional, noisy and at times almost overwhelming. At Port Elizabeth the streets along a drive of some fifty kilometres were lined almost the whole way by cheering people of all races, many of them young. For elderly whites, especially the English speakers, The Queen's presence was a happy reminder of their youth - so many of that generation referred in their brief exchanges with the Royal Couple to the events of 1947. For most black people, The Queen must have been an unknown quantity but, they turned out with exuberance in their thousands. They were overjoyed, too, by the heavy and much needed rain which led Deputy President Mbeki to bestow on Her Majesty the title "Matlalepula": she who brings the rain. The presence of young people of all races - cubs, scouts, school children in uniform - was particularly striking. At other times, for example in the precincts of the Port Elizabeth Club and at the Durban race course (surely the only race meeting The Queen has ever attended where, because of torrential rain, there were no horses) it did indeed seem as though nothing much had changed in the past half century. But of course it had. Overwhelmingly, one was struck by the normality of this newly emerging multi-racial society. Everywhere, black, white and coloured rubbed shoulders with no sign of animosity. Looking back less than ten years, when the various racial groups were still entirely segregated, it scarcely seemed possible that this coming together could have happened so swiftly and naturally. The reaction of the media in South Africa was wholly positive, and the visit received extensive news coverage each day.

6. The State Visit also set the seal on South Africa's return to the international fold. Perhaps most striking were the repeated references to The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth and the significance of South Africa's readmission to that body. The point was underlined by The Queen's decision to give a dinner for Commonwealth High Commissioners at my house in Pretoria - the first such event, I believe, to have taken place during a Royal Tour. Although when South Africa left the Commonwealth in 1961, Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd also declared South Africa a Republic, it seemed at times as though this point had been forgotten, certainly by those who sang "God Save The Queen" with such obvious relish. South Africa's return to the Commonwealth, for all sectors of society other than the extreme right and the extreme left, has clearly had a deep significance. Archbishop Tutu during a ceremony at the Cathedral referred to the return of the Prodigal Son. Many South Africans might not feel comfortable with this image; but they would share the enormous sense of relief that their return to the world at large has released in them.

7. The programme gave helpful prominence both to our aid effort and also to our commercial relations. In the Province of Gauteng (which accounts for nearly 50% of South Africa's GDP), Her Majesty inaugurated the new Land Rover plant, and witnessed the rolling out of the first Jet-Stream 41 aircraft to be delivered to the new local airline, SA Airlink. She also met with a group of 45 senior British businessmen based in South Africa. In the week following the State Visit, Britannia was used for a series of seminars designed to raise Britain's commercial profile in South Africa.

8. Both in its timing and its substance, the State Visit has done a power of good for British interests in South Africa. No other Head of State could ever receive such a welcome and such high-level attention over a six day visit. No-one else could so clearly have set the seal on South Africa's return to the Commonwealth and the wider international fold. As the major event in a continuous process of building a durable partnership with the new Government of South Africa, the visit achieved all its objectives. We shall continue to benefit from it as we press ahead with our programmes in the commercial, defence, cultural, development, scientific and sporting fields. The personal contacts fostered by the Royal Couple both with central government and with some key provincial leaders, and reinforced by your own separate bilateral meetings, will also help consolidate our access to these individuals.

9. Those South Africans who attended the banquet or reception on Britannia at Durban, and witnessed the Beating of the Retreat, appear to have been bowled over by the whole evening. It is hard to put a value on pageantry of such quality; but in this country,

people of all races have been starved of it for almost half a century.

So perhaps it was not surprising that in the course of this six day journey, many tears were shed by ordinary people, and for the happiest of reasons. For them the visit offered not only a touch of forgotten splendour but also further proof that their country, after so many years of trauma, really is returning to normal.

10. I am copying this despatch to HM Consul-General at Johannesburg, HM Consuls at Cape Town and Durban, and to the High Commission at Pretoria.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully

*Anthony Reeve*

(Anthony Reeve)

ANNEX: OUTLINE PROGRAMME FOR THE VISIT OF HM THE QUEEN AND  
HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH TO SOUTH AFRICA

Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th March 1995

Sunday 19th March

- 11.25 a.m. The Queen arrives unofficially at Cape Town Airport. Met by Deputy President and Mrs Mbeki. Transfer to Simon's Town by helicopter
- 2.15 p.m. The Duke of Edinburgh arrives unofficially at Cape Town Airport. Met by Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad. Transfer to Simon's Town by helicopter
- Rest of the day spent in private aboard HMY Britannia
- 10.00 p.m. HMY Britannia sails for Cape Town

Monday 20 March

- 9.15 a.m. HMY Britannia sails into Cape Town harbour surrounded by a flotilla of small pleasure craft
- 10.15 a.m. Official arrival at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Met by President Mandela, Deputy Presidents Mbeki and de Klerk, Archbishop Tutu, Foreign Minister Nzo and the Chief of the South African National Defence Force
- Inspect a guard of honour against the backdrop of Table Mountain
- 10.40 a.m. Discussions at the President's office at Tuynhuys
- The Queen bestows the Order of Merit on President Mandela and receives The Order of Good Hope (Gold Class)
- 11.20 a.m. Escorted by President Mandela, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh walk to Parliament down an avenue of schoolchildren
- 11.45 a.m. The Queen addresses a formal session of both Houses of Parliament

↓  
11.45 a.m.

[ Speech ends with the blessing Nkosi Sikelel' i Africa  
↓  
Speech ends with the blessing Nkosi Sikelel' i Africa

- 12.30 p.m. Lunch hosted by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Frene Ginwala
- Opportunity to mingle among the 500 invited guests
- 2.00 p.m. Walkabout amongst enthusiastic crowds at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. All balconies and vantage points as well as The Queen's route are crowded
- 2.30 p.m. Political calls on The Queen by Deputy President Mbeki, Deputy President de Klerk, The Chairman of the Inkatha Freedom Party and Home Affairs Minister Dr Buthelezi and by the Premier of Western Cape Province, Mr Hernus Kriel
- 2.25 p.m. The Duke of Edinburgh detonates a charge initiating the next stage of the development of the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront (This paralleled the first ever development at the V&A Waterfront by the then Duke of Edinburgh in 1867)
- 2.45 p.m. The Duke of Edinburgh attends a press conference held by the Worldwide Fund for Nature
- 4.00 p.m. The Queen hosts a Reception on board Britannia to meet members of the media covering The State Visit
- 7.00 p.m. State dinner hosted by President Mandela for HM The Queen  
(The President's Office came under pressure to include as many people as possible and therefore moved the dinner from Tuynhuys to The Cape Sun Hotel)
- Amongst the 470 invited guests were the Cabinet, the 12 Kings and Queens of South Africa as well as the Commonwealth and EU Ambassadors
- 9.30 p.m. Firework display at the V&A Waterfront following The Queen's embarkation of HMY Britannia
- Overnight aboard HMY Britannia

Tuesday 21 March - Human Rights Day

- 10.00 a.m. Service at St George's Cathedral attended by The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and President Mandela
- (The Service was originally suggested by the British High Commissioner to the Dean of the Cathedral. Its themes were national reconciliation, praise for South Africa's new leaders and those who had fought against apartheid).
- Archbishop Tutu gave a sermon.
- The Service was attended by all of the Bishops of the Anglican Province of Southern Africa, including the Bishops of Namibia, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland
- 11.10 a.m. Civic Reception hosted by the first black Mayor of Cape Town, the Rev William Bantom at City Hall
- Visit to the room in which The Queen celebrated her 21st birthday in 1947
- 11.45 a.m. Walkabout in front of the City Hall where there was a small but enthusiastic crowd
- 12.10 a.m. Wreath laying at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery in Maitland, attended by the Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Ronnie Kasrils
- After the formalities, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh spoke to some of the 300 ex-servicemen present
- 1.10 p.m. Lunch at the Old Farmhouse on the Vergelegen Estate, hosted by the Premier of Western Cape Province, Mr Hernus Kriel and the Chairman of Anglo-American, Mr Julian Ogilvie Thomson (Parallel for the visit paid to Vergelegen in 1947 by HM The King and HM Queen Elizabeth)
- 3.10 p.m. Walkabout in the township of Khayelitsha accompanied by the Mayor
- 3.15 p.m. Visit to the Philani Centre in Khayelitsha. Explanation of a number of ODA backed aid projects focussing on nutrition, small industries (weaving), small business development and assistance with overseas trading
- development and assistance with overseas trading



At the request of the Minister for Water Affairs and Forestry, Prof Kader Asmal, The Queen planted a tree

- 4.15 p.m. Visit to the sports ground in Langa township. The Duke of Edinburgh formally handed over a mini-bus on behalf of the Lord's Taverners to a multi-racial cricket charity. Watch display of mini-cricket, mini-rugby and hockey, accompanied by the Minister of Sport, Mr Steve Tshwete. (Due to an over-enthusiastic crowd, largely unconnected with the sports taking place, this visit was curtailed)
- 6.15 p.m. Opportunity for The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh to meet members of the staff of The British High Commission, the British Consulate and the British Council based in Cape Town
- 6.30 p.m. Reception in the garden of the British High Commissioner's Residence attended by 600 representatives of national and local politics, business, non-governmental organisations and ex-servicemen's organisations. Amongst others, The Queen met the leader of the Freedom Front in the National Assembly, Gen Constand Viljoen
- Overnight at the High Commissioner's Residence

Wednesday 22 March

THE QUEEN

- 11.30 a.m. Met on arrival at Port Elizabeth by the Premier of Eastern Cape Province, Mr Raymond Mhlaba
- 12 noon Formal welcome to Port Elizabeth by the Mayor, Mr Nceba Faku at the Centenary Hall in New Brighton township
- Cultural performance including Xhosa dancers and black and white choirs
- The Queen unveiled a plaque to mark Her visit
- 1.00 p.m. [ Lunch hosted by the Premier of Eastern Cape Province at Vista University  
Lunch hosted by the Premier of Eastern Cape Province at Vista University

The Kings and Queens of the Xhosa nation were invited. King Sandile, who had earlier threatened to raise the question of King Hintsa's head did not, in the event, do so

Vista University had been the focus for protest action by the student body for approximately 10 days before The Queen's arrival. The leaders of the student body agreed to suspend their protests in order to allow The Queen's visit to proceed. In a speech at lunch The Queen emphasised the need to educate South Africa's young people

2.40 p.m. Visit to the Missionvale Care Centre run by an Irish nun, Sister Ethel Normoyle

The Centre, which is run solely on the basis of voluntary contributions from local business and the British Government, assists the impoverished coloured settlement of Missionvale in Port Elizabeth, focusing on education of pre-school children, nutritional education for mothers, the cultivation of allotments and a health clinic

The Queen planted a tree at Sister Ethel's request

3.35 p.m. Visit to the Centre for Continuing Education of the University of Port Elizabeth

Explanation of major ODA backed education projects

4.10 p.m. Reception over tea at the Port Elizabeth Club for members of the local British Community and past recipients of British bursaries from the Port Elizabeth and East London area

Enormous crowds lined all but a few kilometres of The Queen's 50 km route. Estimates of the size of the crowd varied between 100,000 and a quarter of a million. The population of greater Port Elizabeth is about one million.

7.10 p.m. Met on arrival in Pretoria by the Premier of Gauteng Province, Mr Tokyo Sexwale, and the Provincial Cabinet

#### THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

11.10 a.m.

↓  
11.10 a.m.

→ Arrival at Kimberley Airport in the Northern Cape Province. Met by the Premier, Mr Manne Dipico  
→ Arrival at Kimberley Airport in the Northern Cape Province. Met by the Premier, Mr Manne Dipico

- 11.30 a.m. Visit to the Headquarters of the de Beers diamond industry, including viewing a collection of recently mined diamonds
- Tour of the mine museum, including the "Big Hole" and a street replica of early Kimberley
- 12.55 p.m. Lunch at the Kimberley Club hosted by the Premier. The Duke of Edinburgh made a brief speech of thanks
- 4.15 p.m. Arrival by helicopter at a resettlement project at Bakwena Ba Magopa in the North West Province. Met on arrival by the Premier, Mr Popo Molefe
- Visit to various aspects of the community which has been resettled on land from which they were forcibly removed in 1986
- The Duke was attended by the Minister for Land Affairs, Mr Derek Hanekom
- 6.00 p.m. In Pretoria, call on the Duke of Edinburgh by a delegation by a delegation from the President's Award which retains strong links to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award from which it was originally created

THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Overnight at the Presidential Guest House, Pretoria

Thursday 23 March

- 10.45 a.m. Unveil Memorial to the SS Mendi troop ship in Hero's Acre, Avalon Cemetery, Soweto
- (The loss of the SS Mendi off the Isle of Wight in 1916 with over 800 black servicemen on board was the single biggest South African loss of WWI. It had so far been largely unrecognised in South Africa. The Memorial had the strong backing of the Premier of Gauteng Province and of President Mandela)
- 11.15 a.m. Visit to small industry centre at the Self Help Association for Paraplegics (a recipient of past UK assistance)
- 11.35 a.m.  
↓
- 11.35 a.m. Meet athletics coaches trained as part of the UK/South Africa Sports Initiative  
Watch athletics demonstration.

- 12.15 p.m. Visit Baragwanath Hospital, Soweto (the biggest hospital in the southern hemisphere. The Queen visited Baragwanath in 1947)
- Explanation of ODA funded projects in the primary health and reproductive health sectors
- Walkabout outside large enthusiastic crowd of hospital staff and members of the public
- 1.30 p.m. Lunch hosted by the Premier of Gauteng, Mr Tokyo Sexwale, attended by President Mandela. 700 guests representing the business world, local politicians, the diplomatic corps and others
- (The top table was commented on as an expression of the new South Africa: The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, President Mandela, Tokyo Sexwale, Archbishop Tutu, King Goodwill Zwelithini and Mr Harry Oppenheimer)
- The Queen made a speech highlighting economic links between the United Kingdom and South Africa
- 3.05 p.m. Rolling out ceremony for the first British Aerospace Jetstream 41 aircraft in service in Southern Africa at Midrand Airport
- Two cultures were brought together with Zulu dancing and the Scots Pipe Band
- 6.05 p.m. Opportunity to meet staff of the British High Commission, Consulate General Johannesburg, British Council and the British Development Division in South Africa
- 6.15 p.m. Reception at British High Commission, Pretoria for 600 representatives of business, aid organisations, ex-servicemen's organisations, diplomatic corps and members of Government departments
- 8.00 p.m. Dinner at the High Commissioner's Residence for Commonwealth High Commissioners accredited in Pretoria, attended by Deputy President Mbeki and South African Foreign Minister Nzo
- Overnight Presidential Guest House

Friday 24 March

9.50 a.m.

Garden Party for the residents of Gauteng Province hosted by Deputy President Mbeki

The Queen received the winners of a British Council sponsored national essay competition entitled "What I would like to tell The Queen about my new South Africa"

In his speech, Deputy President Mbeki conferred upon The Queen the title of "Matlalepula" - She Who Brings The Rain

10.45 a.m.

Call by a delegation of 45 British businessmen on The Queen at the Presidential Guest House

11.50 a.m.

The official opening of the Land Rover Assembly Plant at Rosslyn outside Pretoria

The Queen handed over the keys for a Land Rover Ambulance to the RDP Minister, Mr Jay Naidoo on behalf of the Port Alfred Hospital. The Minister for Constitutional Development, Mr Roelf Meyer, was also present

2.15 p.m.

Arrive at Durban International Airport

Met by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Dr Frank Mdlalose, and the provincial cabinet

2.35 p.m.

Visit to the Vukuzakhe High School in the Umlazi Township in Durban

Visit to a flagship project of the Nations Trust, a new trust set up by the Royal Jubilee Trusts and the Princes Trust to assist the development of South African youth through education

3.40 p.m.

Private viewing of the statue of the Lady in White in Durban Harbour

7.00 p.m.

State Banquet aboard HMY Britannia

Top table guests included President Mandela, Deputy Presidents Mbeki and de Klerk, IFP leader Dr Buthelezi, King Goodwill Zwelithini and the President of the Constitutional Assembly, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa

Other guests included Archbishop Tutu Mrs Helen Suzman and Mr Walter Sisulu

8.45 p.m.

↓

8.45 p.m.

Reception for a further 200 guests aboard  
HMY Britannia

10.00 p.m. Beating retreat on the quayside of Durban Harbour after which President Mandela departed

Saturday 25 March

THE QUEEN

10.20 a.m. Visit to the Natal Society For The Blind  
Inaugurate new plastics equipment donated by the British Government  
Opportunity to meet blind workers

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

10.20 a.m. Meeting with the Universities of Natal and Durban Westville at the library of the University of Natal. Meet a cross section of students from both institutions

THE QUEEN AND THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

11.20 a.m. Civic Reception at Durban City Hall

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh mingled with the invited audience of 800

12 noon Walkabout outside City Hall past a large crowd

12.55 p.m. Lunch at the Royal Hotel hosted by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal. The Premier presented The Queen with a tapestry depicting the State Visit to South Africa

King Goodwill Zwelithini presented The Queen with a replica of a cup given to his ancestors by Queen Victoria, and a stuffed lioness

The Queen made a speech in which she expressed her regret at the high level of violence in KwaZulu-Natal and underlined the need for national reconciliation

2.30 p.m. Call on The Queen by King Goodwill Zwelithini in the Royal Hotel

3.05 p.m.

↳ Visit to the Durban Turf Club at the Greyville

Race Course. (Due to the excessive rain in Durban in advance of The Queen's arrival, the first running of The Queen's Nursery Stakes and the running of The King's Cup had to be abandoned. Nevertheless, there was an enthusiastic crowd of some 4-5,000. Another large impromptu walkabout)

- 7.00 p.m. Attend a mixed cultural performance at Durban Playhouse, reflecting all the communities of South Africa. The programme included modern dance, black and white male voice choirs, traditional story telling, indian dance and popular western music. Also attended by Dr Buthelezi, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and by the Minister of Culture, Mr Ben Ngubane
- 8.30 p.m. Together with President Mandela, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal and Dr Buthelezi, appear on the balcony of City Hall. Watch a traditional Indlamba (Zulu dancing display). The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal presented The Queen with a bull from the Royal Zulu Herd
- 8.55 p.m. Formal departure from Durban International Airport
- Inspection of a Guard of Honour in front of The Queen and President Mandela
- 9.25 p.m. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh departed by air for London