GEN. KASSIM RENEWS CLAIM TO KUWAIT

DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH TROOPS

NEW ARMS ON SHOW IN 2½-HOUR BAGHDAD PARADE

From Our Middle East Correspondent

BAGHDAD, JULY 14

In a speech tonight on the anniversary of the 1958 revolution General Kassim, the Prime Minister, again warned the Ruler of Kuwait and emphatically repeated Iraq's claim to Kuwait, but ended by saying his policy was peaceful, neutral, and non-aggressive.

Addressing Britain he said: "There is no necessity for you in Kuwait, so go home." He added that had Iraq chosen to use force she could have taken Kuwait a long time ago.

Many Iraqis, he said, had been expelled from Kuwait by sea or across the desert. He wished to warn the Ruler that Iraq would take measures against him if Iraqis were ill-treated. There was no force that would prevent Iraq from restoring part of its homeland. Policy in Arab countries should be coordinated lest chaos should ensue to the benefit of imperialism.

General Kassim promised his countrymen that they would soon enjoy liberty based on democratic foundations, and spoke of a permanent constitution being prepared by 1963.

ROCKET LAUNCHERS

For more than two and a half hours today all branches of the Iraq Army paraded past General Kassim, while bombers, fighters, transports and helicopters of the air force flew overhead at intervals.

The display of equipment was formidable for a country of about 6,500,000 people, but no striking additions to last year's similar parade were noted beyond gun-towing vehicles on tracks and three Ukraina, or A.N.12, Russian transport aircraft, each capable of carrying 110 men.

A marching column which came first passed in a few minutes and it was the artillery of every description in the two successive mobile columns which occupied an hour and a half of the parade. Russian rocket launchers and howitzers were seen and massive American eight-inch guns.

Behind these in the separate columns came British Centurion and Russian T.54 tanks, all on carriers. As each Centurion passed, 42 moving wheels could be counted—32 on the carrier and 10 on the manned vehicle towing. Such equipment costs money.

NAVAL CONTINGENT

Infantry in personnel carriers were in the mobile columns and the column on foot consisted only of detachments from the Military Academy, marching with a pronounced quick step, the reserve officers' college, the air force college, and the naval base. The Government record of the third year of the revolution says: "A naval base has been formed in southern Iraq to support the units furnished with modern torpedo boats and warships."

The dark green uniforms and vehicles of the police were interspersed among the dust coloured and sand coloured military uniforms and material—a reminder that this is another arm of Government support.

In addition to the three Russian transports the aircraft seen were Ilyushin 28 bombers, Mig 17 and 19 fighters, and M.I. 4 helicopters. Hunter jet fighters also swept past.

General Kassim stood or walked delightedly up and down a permanent saluting base near a large monument to the revolution which he was to unveil later in the day. Both these are in Liberation Square, which is at one end of a bridge over the River Tigris. Every military vehicle carried a photograph of General Kassim and balloons were sent up with more photographs.

The General was applauded by invited spectators sitting in stands, but there were no crowds, because only soldiers and police stood in the approaches to the square. A band opposite the saluting base played British and American marching tunes, and, for all the predominant Russian stamp on the equipment, a British imprint was still discernible, as, for example, in the kind of shorts and boots some men wore and even in the way they wore them.

Baghdad radio reported that General Kassim, addressing a graduation ceremony last night at the Military Academy, said Kuwait had become "an imperialist bridgehead" and the granting of "alleged independence to Kuwait under the new Anglo-Kuwait agreement" was a conspiracy against the Iraq Republic and the entire Arab nation. The Ruler of Kuwait had no authority to sign any agreement concerning Iraq territory.

PEACEFUL STATE

General Kassim said that Iraq was a peaceful state though "we have equipped our Army with up-to-date and modern weapons". He said that if Iraq had wanted to use military force to liberate Kuwait it could have been done, but Iraq was seeking its rights "through every legitimate means".

"Our battle is not with the Shaikh of Kuwait", he said, "our battle is with British imperialism." This was threatening the Arab nation and controlling the Persian Gulf from the Kuwait bridgehead and from other points of the Arab homeland.—*Reuter.*

EARLY REQUEST BY RULER?

Abdul Aziz Hussein, Kuwait's chief delegate to the United Nations, arrived in London yesterday from New York. He said at London Airport that he believed his Government would ask for the withdrawal of British troops "very soon".

"We believe the situation has improved and once we are admitted to the United Nations there can be no problem for us," he said. "We shall no longer need outside protection."

Nadum al Zawahi, the Iraq Minister of Commerce, said at a press conference in London yesterday that when he saw Mr. Reginald Maudling, the President of the Board of Trade, during the afternoon he would warn him that the sending of British troops to Kuwait was a provocative act which had harmed, and would still further harm, trade relations.

The Minister, who has been on a fortnight's official visit to Britain, said that talks were going on in Cairo, Baghdad, and Damascus on the possibility of an Arab common market.

MR. RAMSDEN RETURNS TO LONDON

Mr. James Ramsden, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the War Office, arrived back in London yesterday after a two-day visit to British troops in Kuwait, and said he thought some improvements could be made in their living conditions. Asked if the withdrawal of 2,000 of the British force meant that the Government thought the crisis was lessening, he said: "It is important to know the background. It might be wrong to use the word 'withdrawn'. This was an operation to balance the force in a way in which the Commander-in-Chief thinks is necessary."

ALPINE SEARCH FOR LONDON STUDENTS

ANDERMATT, SWITZERLAND, July 14.—The search for three University of London students missing in the Alps since Wednesday was halted for the day this afternoon, the police stated, after 20in. of new snow had fallen on the Galenstock (11,745ft.).

A Swiss Army helicopter managed to land today near the Albert Heim hut, where the remainder of the students' party are staying, but the pilot reported bad visibility. A helicopter was forced to turn back earlier in the day by snowstorms on the mountain.

The students were named as: John Dagg, 20, from Pembrokeshire; Peter Grylls, 19, from Woking; and Bik Kwong-Su, from Hongkong.

A rescue team of 15 equipped with walkie-talkie radio sets reported earlier that it had found no trace of the missing men.—*Reuter.*

The three students are from the Imperial College, Kensington. Mr. E. F. Cutcliffe, the Registrar, said they were among a dozen members of the students' mountaineering club climbing near Andermatt.

CHILDREN INJURED AS STAGE COLLAPSES

An illusionist was performing her act of cutting a woman in half at a carnival at Basingstoke, Hampshire, last night when the stage, which had 100 children on it, collapsed. The illusionist, Miss Marjorie Waddell, cut her fingers with the saw, but the woman in the box escaped unharmed.

Two women and two children were taken to hospital. One child had a tooth knocked out and another had an arm injury. One of the women has suspected concussion. Other children and adults were treated by St. John Ambulance Brigade officers for cuts and shock.

THREE DIE WHEN CAR RUNS OFF FERRY

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

WICK, JULY 14

A car carrying four people ran off the ferry at Kylesku, on the west coast of Sutherland, and sank in deep water this evening. The only survivor was a man who was too shocked to give an account of what happened

The ferry, which is a small one driven by a motor engine, is well known to tourists taking the west coastal route, which lies amid lochs, mountains, and bleak moors and is very busy during the summer months. It crosses a narrow strip of water at the head of Loch Cairnbawn.

Police said the car was on the ferryboat when it ran backwards and fell into fairly deep water. The driver escaped but the other three were trapped in the car.

The driver was Mr. John Whiteside, of Randolph Road, Stirling. The three missing, believed drowned, were Mr. and Mrs. Atterson, of Dorbey, Stirling, and Mrs. Buchanan, of Redford Loan, Edinburgh.

At midnight attempts were continuing to recover the car and reach the three occupants.

JUDGE FOUND DEAD IN SWIMMING POOL

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

BLOEMFONTEIN, JULY 14

Mr. Justice N. J. Grobler, a Puisne Judge of the Orange Free State Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa and a former Rhodes Scholar, who was found dead in the deep end of his private swimming pool in Bloemfontein yesterday, is known to have been suffering from nervous tension and insomnia. A tribute was paid to him in court today by the Judge-President of the Orange Free State, Mr. Justice A. J. Smit.

Obituary on page 12.

WHIRLWIND HITS AIRPORT

WOMAN PILOT'S ESCAPE

FROM OUR AERONAUTICAL CORRESPONDENT

COVENTRY, JULY 14

Miss Sheila Scott, of London, the only woman competitor in tomorrow's King's Cup race, was almost blown into the ground in her Thruxton Jackaroo aircraft while on a practice flight today when a whirlwind struck Baginton Airport, Coventry.

Tethered aircraft were torn away from their moorings, two being blown into refuelling bowsers; the judges' caravan was tipped over with two men inside it; and two turning pylons erected for the King's Cup race and a marquee were blown over.

Miss Scott said that soon after she had taken off to fly over the course she ran into bumpy weather. At about 1,000ft., while she was flying at cruising power, the aircraft was half turned over and forced towards the ground by a powerful down-draught.

DROPPED 700FT.

"The aircraft dropped 700ft. and I thought I was going to crash", she said. "I knew that the highest ground around there was 360ft. and I really thought I had had it. It was a terrifying experience. Fortunately, when I fully opened the throttle the aircraft righted itself and I came back and landed."

Mr. Peter Masefield, managing director of the new Beagle light aircraft group, was about to have his Chipmunk refuelled when a 70 m.p.h. gust blew it against the petrol bowser, damaging a wing tip. A Tiger Moth entered by Mr. Peter Vanneck, of Waldringfield, Suffolk, was torn from its moorings and blown into a bowser, also damaging a wing.

RAIN RUINS OPEN GOLF CONTEST

In a day of storms over most of England and Wales, torrential rain washed out play for the day in the Open Golf Championship at Southport yesterday.

In Whitstable Bay, the Prince of Wales Cup Race, the main event in the international 14-footers' sailing championships, was abandoned after half of the fleet of 50 boats had capsized.

Mrs. Margaret Griffiths, crewing for her husband, Mr. J. W. Griffiths, of North Norfolk Sailing Club, was picked up by a rescue boat and taken ashore after their craft, Wagga Wagga, had capsized.

A party of yachtsmen risked their lives in heavy surf to form a human chain to save another 14-footer, Fealty, helmed by Major-General R. Farrant, of Itchenor Sailing Club, which had drifted after capsizing and was in danger of breaking up against a harbour quay.

A ship's cook, Mr. Charles W. Crowe, aged 53, of 20, Roxby Gardens, North Shields, was drowned last night when he fell from the British vessel Eildon during a gale in St. Helier harbour, Jersey. He was buffeted against the side before he could be pulled out of the water.

45 LIVES LOST IN BISCAY STORM

CORUNNA, SPAIN, July 14.—Battered trawlers were still coming into port along the coast of northern Spain this evening, after a violent storm in the Bay of Biscay over the past two days which is estimated to have cost 45 lives. Most of the victims came from the Spanish tunny fleet.

Fifteen of the victims were from the fishing village of Cillero, near Vigo—the crews of two wrecked trawlers. The Asturian port of Aviles has also suffered heavily.

The loss of their radio aerials has prevented many fishing boats from reporting; some of those wrecked may have been rescued by other ships fishing near by, but it is feared that the final total of those drowned will rise further. —*Reuter.*

CHURCH DESTROYED BY FIRE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

FAKENHAM, JULY 14

The parish church of St. Mary's at Little Walsingham, Norfolk, was destroyed by fire this evening. Firemen fought the fierce blaze for three hours before it was under control, and the church roof and all the interior, including the pews and stained glass windows, were utterly destroyed. The church is noted for its font and this seems to have escaped the worst although the wooden cover has been severely damaged.

The vicar, the Rev. A. A. Roe, is at present on holiday.

St. Mary's is near the Anglican shrine which attracts thousands of pilgrims.

About four hours before the fire the parish church at Dereham, one of the oldest in Norfolk, had been found desecrated. Two altars were overturned, crosses and memorial candlesticks smashed, and other acts of vandalism committed.

MASAI TO CONTROL GAME RESERVE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

NAIROBI, JULY 14

In the shade of a giant acacia tree, with a bull elephant grazing peacefully near by, control of the Amboseli National Reserve was today handed over to the Masai tribe by Sir Patrick Renison, Governor of Kenya. The ceremony took place at Ol Tukai lodge, with Mount Kilimanjaro's snowcapped peak glistening in the background.

Many Masai chiefs, elders and warriors gathered to hear Sir Patrick tell them of Amboseli's two main attractions—the game and the mountain—which the trustees of Kenya's Royal National Parks have exploited so successfully since taking over in 1948.

"You are taking over a concern which is not only running and thriving but is known throughout the world", he said. But he gave a warning that though Mount Kilimanjaro would always be there, there was a chance of the game, particularly rhino, being killed off by poachers. He asked them to take strong measures to seek out and end the work of "these miserable and selfish poachers".

Then he formally handed over control to the Kajiado African District Council.

Jet fighters flying over the Arc de Triomphe in Paris yesterday during a Bastille Day parade.

CANADA'S GRAVE CONCERN ON COMMON MARKET

DISAGREEMENT WITH MR. SANDYS'S ASSESSMENT

From Our Own Correspondent

OTTAWA, JULY 14

The Canadian Government has expressed its "grave concern" on the implications of possible negotiations between Britain and the European Economic Community in a joint statement issued tonight at the end of the discussions with Mr. Duncan Sandys, the British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations.

The statement reflected the difference of opinion between Canada and Britain over the latter's possible entry into the Common Market. Mr. Sandys said that before any decision was reached on this important issue the views of the Canadian Government would be carefully considered with those of other Commonwealth Governments.

The statement said:—

"Mr. Duncan Sandys, the British Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, met yesterday and today under the chairmanship of Mr. Donald Fleming, Canadian Minister of Finance, with Mr. Howard Green, Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. George Hees, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and Mr. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Sandys also had a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Diefenbaker.

NO DECISION REACHED

"Mr. Sandys explained the British Government's assessment of the potential advantages and disadvantages of Britain either joining or staying out of the European Economic Community. The British Government had as yet reached no decision on this issue. The immediate question was whether or not to open negotiations with the community.

"The Canadian Ministers recognized that this is a matter for decision by the British Government.

"Mr. Sandys said that if, following the present preliminary exchanges of view, the British Government should decide to open negotiations, they would then consult fully with the other members of the Commonwealth.

"The Canadian Ministers indicated that their Government's assessment of the situation was different from that put forward by Mr. Sandys.

"They expressed the grave concern of the Canadian Government about the implication of possible negotiations between Britain and the European Economic Community, and about the political and economic effects which British membership in the European Economic Community would have on Canada and on the Commonwealth as a whole.

"Mr. Sandys said that before the British Government reached any decision, they would carefully consider the views of the Canadian Government, together with those of other Commonwealth Governments."

Mr. Sandys said tonight that he would stay in Ottawa until Monday.

DIEFENBAKER MEETING

OTTAWA, July 14.—Mr. Sandys hour-long discussion with Mr. Diefenbaker today was the first time the two men had had an opportunity of a face-to-face review of the matter since Mr. Sandys arrived from Australia on Wednesday.

The meeting took place in Mr. Diefenbaker's office and was continued at a private luncheon party in the Parliament building attended also by most of the Ministers carrying on the discussions with Mr. Sandys.

Parliament went into recess last night after a long and critical session, so Mr. Diefenbaker was able to turn his attention to the Common Market problem today.

Meanwhile, in Montreal, Mr. Ulhaji Dipcharima, the Nigerian Minister of Commerce, said today that his country was looking primarily to the Commonwealth for economic and financial ties, but was ready to go to other countries if necessary.

He told the Montreal Board of Trade that it was up to the senior members of the Commonwealth to help the newer members set up stable economies. Older Commonwealth countries had to shoulder their responsibilities toward their younger brothers.—*Reuter.*

MR. HEATH SEES DR. KREISKY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

VIENNA, JULY 14

Mr. Heath, the Lord Privy Seal, who arrived here yesterday on a two-day visit as the guest of the Austrian Government, had talks with the Foreign Minister, Dr. Kreisky, today.

The visit, coinciding with discussions between British Ministers and Commonwealth Governments over Britain's relationship to the Common Market, has given the Austrians an opportunity to get acquainted with the talks Mr. Heath had in Cyprus as well as to discuss problems connected with European integration

India fears loss of exports, page 7.

F.B.I.'S PROVISIONAL SUPPORT

FROM OUR CITY EDITOR

Provisional support for Britain joining the Common Market has been given by the Federation of British Industries in an explanatory booklet on the question that has just been sent out to the federation's members. The F.B.I.'s support is given on condition that Britain can join without going back on its obligations to the Commonwealth and the other Efta members, and provided that a formal application to join the European Economic Community is not made before a solution of these and other difficulties seems probable.

The conclusion of the F.B.I. statement is: "A Europe-wide multilateral trading system has always been our desire and, we believe, that of the great bulk of industry in Europe. We would greatly welcome an early end to the present division. Nevertheless, a large majority of us are of the opinion that it is right not to become committed to formal negotiations with the Six until existing differences . . . have been so far narrowed as to offer the prospect of a satisfactory outcome." This document has many of the marks of a statement that has had to be drawn up in a way that will gain the support of a large (and possibly more than one) committee. Its support for the idea of Britain joining the Common Market appears lukewarm, and the problems presented by Britain's obligations to the Commonwealth, Efta, British agriculture and so on are left vague.

CUSTOMS UNION

Neither does it spell out precisely what safeguards and concessions the federation regards as the bare minimum that must be obtained for British membership of the Common Market to be proper. This latest statement from the F.B.I. does, however, mark a development in the federation's views about European trade in a number of important respects. In particular, the F.B.I., while still preferring the establishment of a free trade area, are now prepared to support the concept of a European customs union. This implies the acceptance of a common tariff and a willingness—though a most reluctant one—to accept a whittling down of the preferences the Commonwealth gives to British exports if this should enable the Commonwealth to obtain more liberal treatment from the Six.

LORD AVON

FROM OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Lord Avon, formerly Sir Anthony Eden, will be introduced and will take his seat in the House of Lords on July 25. His sponsors will be Lord Scarbrough, the Lord Chamberlain, and Admiral of the Fleet Lord Mountbatten, who is Chief of the Defence Staff.

Lord Scarbrough was parliamentary private secretary to Lord Avon (then Mr. Eden) from 1935 to 1937.

ESCAPED MONKEY BITES WOMAN

Police loudspeaker cars toured the Farnaby Road district of Bromley, Kent, last night warning people to keep children indoors and to close windows and doors after a 3ft.-high monkey had escaped and bitten a woman in the leg. The animal, belonging to Mr. Stephen May, of Farnaby Road, was to have been destroyed last night after biting its owner a few days ago.

BRITAIN'S TRADE GAP HALVED IN JUNE

DECLINING TREND IN IMPORTS

From Our City Editor

A marked improvement is shown by the preliminary trade figures for June. The crude trade gap—the difference between imports and exports—fell from £82m. in May to £41m. in June. Exports in June are put at £316,300,000, imports at £371,100,000, and reexports at £13,800,000.

The Board of Trade believe that the export figure for June may have been swollen a little by the delays of goods resulting from the London dock strike a month earlier. Delays in imports, however, are believed to have been over before the end of May.

Thus the dock strike, which led to a marked improvement in the April figures and an equally marked deterioration in the May figures, had only a minor effect in June. The improvement is a real one and seems to suggest that the import bill is now showing signs of declining and that the fears that exports might even be falling are not justified.

SECOND QUARTER

Imports in the second quarter as a whole, if adjusted for seasonal variations, were running some 6 per cent below the first quarter rate. Though exports in the second quarter were 1 per cent less than in the first quarter, this is not a fair comparison, since the first quarter's figures were swollen by delays resulting from last autumn's dock strike.

A declining trend in imports now seems to have been established. The export trend has still to reveal itself as clearly, though it now appears to be upwards.

Comment in City Notes, page 13.

FIRM TO TRANSFER EXPORT BUSINESS TO GERMANY

FROM OUR CITY EDITOR

A Midlands firm with a flourishing export business and reputed to be the biggest manufacturers of milling cutters in the world intends to transfer all its overseas business to Germany, because the Board of Trade has refused to give the company an industrial development certificate for a piece of land near its Nuneaton factory.

The company is Clarkson (Engineers), manufacturers of engineers' tools, whose chairman is Mr. F. H. Clarkson. He says in a statement to the press that they are setting up a large project to increase exports, and expects up to 10 times the present amount within eight years. The local council, he claims, are 100 per cent behind them in the building project. But, "for reasons impossible to understand", the project is not favoured by the Government, and they have "had to fight" the Board of Trade over a long period.

GROWING PRESSURE

The company, declares Mr. Clarkson, is under growing pressure to meet demands for its products at home and abroad, and the refusal of a certificate means it cannot meet these. Rather than "remain static", the company is to "take advantage of the encouragement and assistance offered by the authorities in Germany", where the company already has a small factory.

According to correspondence—copies of which are released by Mr. Clarkson—Mr. Maudling, President of the Board of Trade, finally told the company on July 10 that Parliament had insisted that the Government should make the greatest possible effort to promote expansion of industrial employment in areas where there was a measure of unemployment. He was therefore unable to grant a certificate.

RAIL CHARGES FOR FISH TO RISE 10%

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

HULL, JULY 14

News of a 10 per cent increase from August 1 in some freight charges for fish carried from the ports by British Railways was circulated to the 300 wholesale fish merchants at Hull today by their protection association—and they were promised that the possibility of a switch from rail transport to road haulage would be considered.

Mr. Ian Class, president of the association, said: "The increased rail charges, which affect all packages of fish over one hundredweight, will add £75,000 a year to our transport bill. About 60 per cent of the fish landed at Hull leaves the port by rail for inland markets. This increase considerably widens the gap between road and rail costs.

Another price rise, likely to be passed on to the consumer, is the new minimum rate for fish fillets, which comes into force on the Hull market on Monday. The Fish Merchants' Association have set up a price assessors' board, which will fix minimum prices for fillets. The prices will be marked up each day.

A British Transport Commission spokesman said: "The freight increase applies to certain fish rates agreed locally. We are always reviewing our charges, and we can vary them according to what is economic, provided we work within the maximum laid down in 1957."

U.S. READY TO VETO TROIKA PLAN

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, JULY 14

Mr. Dean Rusk, the Secretary of State, issued a statement today saying that the United States would, if necessary, use its veto power against any proposal that would lessen the independence and integrity of the United Nations secretariat. But he did not think the veto would be necessary, because the required two-thirds of the United Nations would never agree to Mr. Khrushchev's suggestion for a three-power directorate.

The statement was apparently designed as a reply to the Soviet Prime Minister's latest reiteration of his troika theory.

INVALIDS

Lord Howick of Glendale, chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation, who was going to leave London yesterday to visit the corporation's projects in Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda, is suffering from an acute attack of influenza with threatened pneumonia, and has cancelled his visit.

STRIKE STOPS B.O.A.C.

1,300 PASSENGERS AFFECTED

TRANSFER TO OTHER AIRLINES

All B.O.A.C. services out of Britain, except those to West Africa and Aden, stopped early today because of the unofficial strike at London Airport.

Today no airliners of B.O.A.C. will leave London Airport, and all incoming services will be halted on arrival.

"Although there are 3,000 maintenance employees the strike of 650 men was enough", said a B.O.A.C. spokesman. About 1,300 passengers are affected.

The team of reservation clerks worked well into the night booking the passengers on airliners of other companies. "It is fortunate that no airline is very busy this year", said the spokesman. "There are a lot of spare seats. We hope to get all the passengers away on other flights. We won't be chartering aircraft."

OFFER OF MEETING

It was announced by the corporation that an urgent meeting of the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport had been requested to discuss the situation. They were waiting for a reply from the trade union side.

The strike—over a new supervisory scheme—was extended yesterday from the original 400 electricians and engineers who service Britannias and DC7Cs to 250 engineers who work on the apron and in the Boeing 707 transit hangar. Hundreds of passengers booked on today's flights were being transferred to other airlines.

A mass meeting of the 4,000 B.O.A.C maintenance men has been called for Monday. This decision was taken at a meeting of strikers yesterday morning when it was decided to continue the stoppage.

Mr. L. Choulaton, the A.E.U. district secretary, told the strikers that 16,500 of his members in the area would support them. He was applauded enthusiastically when he added that his district committee had decided to ask the national executive to back the strike officially.

WHAT PARTY?

When a reporter asked him afterwards if he belonged to a political party, Mr. Choulaton said the question was insulting and added that journalists who were forced to conceal the truth because of their editors' orders were exploited more than the workers.

Mr. S. Maitland, E.T.U. district organizer, sounded a similar chord in his speech when he said that the public would back the strike overwhelmingly if the newspapers allowed them to know the true facts of the strikers' case. The new supervisory scheme, he added, was something unheard of in industry.

B.O.A.C. say that their dual supervisory scheme, the cause of contention, will streamline the engineering and maintenance department. The object is to combine the duties of inspection and supervision.

MAJOR GAGARIN HAS LUNCHEON WITH THE QUEEN

The highlight of Major Gagarin's visit to Britain came yesterday with a luncheon with the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace.

The major sat on the Queen's right in the 1844 Room, named after its occupation in that year by the Emperor Nicholas of Russia and the Empress on their visit to London.

Thousands of people cheered the Russian spaceman as his car, surrounded by six police motor cyclists, arrived at the palace.

Other guests at the luncheon were Admiral of the Fleet Lord Mountbatten of Burma, the Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Soldatov, Lieutenant-General Nikolai Petrovich Kamanin, Deputy Chief of Staff H.Q., Soviet Air Force, Colonel Nikolai Nikolaivich Denisov, a writer on Soviet military historical subjects, Mrs. Joanna Kelley, Governor of Holloway Prison, Sir James Hutchison, president of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Sir William Holford, Sir John Hunt, Mr. Paul Bryan, vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr. Keith Calder, Chief Commoner of the City of London, 1961, Mr. Bud Flanagan, the comedian, Mr. Herman David, chairman of the All England Tennis and Croquet Club, and Sir Norman Gwatkin, Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office.

In the afternoon Major Gagarin spoke to thousands of children at the Soviet Exhibition at Earls Court—it was children's visiting day.

DEPARTURE TODAY

During the evening Major Gagarin went to Highgate Cemetery to lay a wreath on the tomb of Karl Marx. Here, as everywhere else he went on his crowded last day, the crowds were waiting to cheer him.

Later at the Soviet Embassy he was presented with a travelling case by the British-Soviet Friendship Society.

In a recorded interview on B.B.C. Television last night, Major Gagarin said there was no doubt that his flight was the first manned space flight in history. He said that only a small group of space pilots trained for this particular flight but in general a large contingent was being trained.

Major Gagarin flies home today in a civil airliner on a scheduled flight. Saying the official goodbyes at London Airport will be Mr. Francis Turnbull, secretary of the Office of the Minister for Science, and Air Marshal Sir Ronald Lees, Deputy Chief of Air Staff, both of whom greeted him at London Airport when he arrived on Tuesday.

£15M. IN ORDERS AT EXHIBITION

Orders for Russian goods totalling £15m. have been placed during the first week at the Soviet Exhibition at Earls Court, it was announced last night. Goods bought include machine tools, bearings, watches, industrial diamonds, timber, wheat, musical instruments, chemical goods and toys. Twelve thousand books have been sold at the exhibition.

Representatives of over 500 British firms have already paid visits.