



## BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Together with members of my family, Prince Philip and I join you today to pay tribute to BRITANNIA and give our thanks to all who have been part of her Company. Looking back over forty-four years we can all reflect with pride and gratitude upon this great ship which has served the country, the Royal Navy and my family with such distinction. BRITANNIA has provided magnificent support to us throughout this time, playing such an important role in the history of the second half of this century. Steaming over one million miles she has proudly carried out over seven hundred Royal visits at home and overseas as well as numerous highly successful commercial programmes. Her achievements are a great testament to those who designed and built her and to those craftsmen and artisans who have maintained her with such dedication over all these years.

In recognising BRITANNIA's marvellous service, we pay particular tribute to the Officers and Royal Yachtsmen who have served in her. My family and I extend our heartfelt thanks to all these men for their unfailing loyalty, dedication and commitment to the Royal Yacht Service. While many of the present Royal Yacht's Company will return to the Royal Navy to continue their naval service and others come to the end of their service, we wish you every success in your future endeavours. We would also wish to thank the wives and families who have quietly but strongly supported the Royal Yacht over the years and often during the periods of long absence.

It is with sadness that we must now say goodbye to BRITANNIA. It is appropriate that with this final event she bows out in the style which is so typical of the manner in which her business has always been conducted.

11th December 1997.