

CLOSING REMARKS – Edward Godfrey

Your Royal Highness, Dom Duarte,
Your Excellency Mr. Christopher Sainty, British Ambassador to Portugal,
Professor João Carlos Espada,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, I should like to thank on behalf of all present Professor João Carlos Espada for his gracious words of welcome.

We are celebrating the signing of the Treaty of Tagilde and the Treaty of London 650 years ago. and in particular the Alliance based on the perpetual friendship of two countries, Portugal and England. The Treaty of Tagilde was signed on 10 July 1372 and the Alliance was more formally constituted by the Treaty of London, signed at St. Paul's Cathedral on 16 June 1373, by King Edward III of England and representatives of King Ferdinand and Queen Leonor of Portugal. This Alliance was then ratified and extended by the Treaty of Windsor in 1386.

I should like to pay tribute to Dra Maria João Rodrigues de Araujo for all the work she has done to make the Portugal-UK 650 celebrations a success. I understand that back in the year 2016, Maria João and Bernard Hornung, a former chairman of the Anglo-Portuguese Society, conceived the idea of celebrating the Alliance at the appropriate future time. Maria João then took the idea forward, approached the Queen for her approval and then shared her ideas with people and institutions to make it the success it has become. King Charles III and the President of the Portuguese Republic, Professor Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa became Patrons. Pope Francis, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dom Duarte and the Duke of Wellington, became supporters. Numerous other organisations and individuals gave their support to the resulting projects, events and celebrations.

Maria João was particularly enthusiastic for the initiative to promote the ideas and concepts enshrined in the Treaty of London, to celebrate and promote the common history of our two countries and write a new chapter of co-operation. So, the emphasis in many of the projects has been to cement ties of friendship

between the citizens of both nations, thus ensuring that the alliance continues to prosper. And where better to start than with children and young people – of which I shall say more in a minute.

I would like to mention a few of the many events which took place.

The formal celebrations of The Portugal-UK 650 initiative started four years ago with a Celebration of Peace and Perpetual Friendship at the Queen's Chapel, St James's Palace on 19 July, 2019. This was soon followed by Sung Mass at the Cathedral of Porto, 9 September 2019, with the choirs of the Cathedral of Porto and the Choir of The Queen's College, Oxford. Significantly, King John I of Portugal and Philippa of Lancaster were married in this Cathedral on 14 February 1387.

Unfortunately, the Covid 19 pandemic then led to an interruption of planned events which resumed in 2022. In July last year, events were centred around the Commemorations of the 650th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tagilde, events taking place in Tagilde, Vizela, Braga, Coimbra, Porto Sintra and Lisbon. Such events included exhibitions, dance, conferences and choral works.

A few days ago, on Thursday 15th June, the celebrations culminated with a Service of Thanksgiving to mark the 650th anniversary of the Anglo Portuguese Alliance at the Queen's Chapel, St James's Palace in the presence of King Charles III and the President of the Republic of Portugal. The Queen's Chapel at St. James's Palace was originally built as a Catholic chapel for Queen Henrietta Maria, the French wife of King Charles I. And then Queen Catherine of Bragança, wife of King Charles II, also used it for her daily devotions.

As a final note, I think it is appropriate to consider what Sir Winston Churchill would have made of these celebrations. Undoubtedly, he would have approved of events such as the Joint Declaration at Downing Street in June 2022, signed by the prime ministers of Portugal and the UK, the concerts, church services, charity galas, theatre and ballet. I think Winston would also have been impressed by the educational resources developed in English and Portuguese by three noteworthy organisations, namely the British Council, the Jubilee Centre of the University of Birmingham and the Instituto Camões Just to give one or two examples, the

resources created by the Jubilee Centre include themes to be developed by young people in discussion such as what is an Alliance? What are the motives which can lead to two countries making an Alliance? What are the qualities which make a good friend? Respecting our differences. What do you think the qualities are which make an Alliance last for such a long time?

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank Professor João Carlos Espada and his colleagues for organizing the 2023 Estoril Political Forum and making us all so welcome.

And once again, Dra. Maria João, MUITO OBRIGADO.

The toasts:

LADIES and GENTLEMEN, PLEASE STAND FOR THE TOASTS

The President of the Portuguese Republic

His Majesty King Charles III

Dom Duarte and D. Isabel de Herédia, Duke and Duchess of Bragança

The memory of Sir Winston Churchill