



Mr ROLY KINGWILL (right) introduces King MICHAEL and Queen ANNE to guests at a reception on his farm, "Gordonville", in the Graaff-Reinet district.

The former King and Queen of Rumania spent three days with Mr and Mrs Kingwill recently.

# ROYAL COUPLE PAY VISIT TO KAROO FARM

By PAT CANDIDO

**A WELL-KNOWN Eastern Cape couple recently entertained royalty on their farm in the Graaff-Reinet district.**

The former ruler of Rumania, King Michael and his wife, Queen Anne, spent three days on the farm of Mr and Mrs Roly Kingwill, in the New Bethesda district.

The unpublicised visit came about through a mutual interest in Moral Rearmament (MRA).

Though at first somewhat taken aback at the prospect of accommodating royalty, Mr and Mrs Kingwill soon found the unpretentious couple a pleasure to entertain.

Apart from the slight formality of addressing them as "Your Majesty", they expected no fuss or lavish meals.

## INVITATION

"Naturally, we are not used to this type of thing," said Mr Kingwill.

"But they are such gracious people, it was no trouble at all. They are honestly the most charming and warm-hearted people I have ever met."

They were accompanied by several other MRA workers, including Ds George Danciel, of Pretoria, an NG Kerk minister and former Springbok rugby player, who is one of the organisers of the movement in South Africa.

King Michael and Queen Anne were invited to visit South Africa by homeland leaders who attended the MRA world assembly in Switzerland last year.

## ABDICATED

During his visit the king addressed the Legislative Assembly of Lebowa.

King Michael, the only son of ex-King Carol, succeeded his grandfather, King Ferdinand, to the Rumanian throne in 1927. In 1947, he abdicated but the following year he renounced his abdication claiming he had been forced to do so by the Com-

munist-orientated Government.

In 1948, he married Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma. They were eventually forced to leave Rumania and settled in Britain before moving to Switzerland.

During their stay at Gordonville, Mr Kingwill's farm, they took a keen interest in the animals, farm activities and walking through the veld. They

also met people from neighbouring farms and went on a wild goose shoot on a neighbouring farm and bagged several geese.

Despite their misfortunes of the past, Mr Kingwill said they showed no bitterness and were deeply committed to Moral Rearmament, which stands for "the restoration of God to leadership, instead of domination by man".