

Charles, Diana pay respects at Arlington

By LEE BYRD

WASHINGTON (AP) — After smiling regally through three glittering days in Washington, Britain's royal couple wound down their stay on a sobering note Monday. Prince Charles placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Princess Diana took part with Nancy Reagan in a moving rap session at a drug treatment center for children.

Dressed in his ceremonial Royal Navy uniform, with the rank of commander, the Prince of Wales saluted the tomb as the band played the British anthem, "God Save the Queen." He held the salute for the National Anthem that followed.

In the color guard was the Union Jack. The prince and princess were given a 21-gun salute as they arrived and when they left.

Accompanied by Maj. Gen. John Ballantyne, commander of the military district of Washington, Charles climbed the broad steps to the tomb, where the unknown of four wars are buried and, as a bugler played taps, placed a wreath at the marble structure.

Behind, stood the princess, eyes downcast. She wore a royal blue dress with a wide black sash, and a wide-brimmed hat also trimmed in black. She was escorted by the British ambassador, Sir Oliver Wright.

Afterward they proceeded to the cemetery's memorial display room containing medals and other insignia, including Britain's Victoria Cross, that had been presented to the Unknown Soldier by the nations of the world. Charles also placed a wreath at the memorial for Field Marshal Sir John Dill, who was head of the British Joint Staff Commission in World War II.

In the evening Charles and Diana were to be at a farewell reception at the National Gallery of Art. They leave Tuesday for a one-day stay in Palm Beach, Fla., and yet another gala dinner.

The young couple's afternoon activities were far different from the morning's when they sauntered through a J.C. Penney's store, admiring its display of British goods.

Diana and Mrs. Reagan, who share an interest in drug abuse problems, sat in on a therapeutic session at the Straight Drug Rehabilitation Center in suburban

Springfield, Va.

There they heard a teen-aged girl talk of her struggle against drug abuse.

"I guess when I think about it, I was scared," the girl said, speaking to other young people around her. "I had gone to such extents to do drugs and to get friendships. The things that I think about was how much I hated myself ... I think I wanted everybody to accept me. I've really learned to like the person that I am."

After hearing that, and other personal testimony of drug abuse, Mrs. Reagan told the young people:

"There's a big wide world out there waiting for you, and we need you, clear-eyed and clear-minded."

The 24-year-old princess said nothing. Meanwhile, Charles went to the Library of Congress and took part in a discussion of the Constitution with top legal scholars and jurists, including Chief Justice Warren Burger.

"Should you be working today?" he asked employees at the library. Indeed, they were among the few federal employees on the job this Veterans Day, and the question brought a laugh.

The prince toured the library, one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world, and was shown a letter that Queen Victoria sent to Mary Todd Lincoln after Abraham Lincoln's assassination. The same letter was shown to Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth, during her visit to the library in 1951.

Charles also signed "The Old Man of Lochnagar," a children's book he wrote in 1980.

In a mid-day reception at the British Embassy, the royal couple met with some of Washington's powerbrokers. Princess Diana told a reporter, with approval, that she finds more facts and less gossip in the American news media.

The 45-minute stop in a shopping mall in nearby Springfield gave the wisecracking Charles a chance to get off his best line of the day. Presented with a hand-stitched quilt, Charles quipped:

"Is it king- or queen-sized?"

For the record, it was queen-size.

The crowd outside the store, which was closed for the royal visit, was relatively small — only about 3,000 people. But the people were enthusiastic and the future king of England and his wife stopped to do some campaign-style handshaking.

Children, some of whom had waited since 6 a.m. for the mid-morning visit, gave the princess bunches of flowers wrapped in paper decorated with the

Union Jack.

"We actually thought there would be more of a crowd around here," said Warren Carmichael, spokesman for the police in Fairfax County, Va.

The store was festooned inside with "Best of Britain" banners. Penney's nationwide is promoting \$50 million worth of British merchandise.

"It's very new and different, isn't it?" Diana said to clerk Ann Roberts as she stopped at a Junior Miss display. Afterward, Miss Roberts said of the princess: "She has a shy quality about her that I didn't expect. She seems very down to earth."

Some in the crowd had waited there since before dawn, but there were those who expressed interest only in

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shopping.

"I don't even own British clothes," said Janet Canfield of Woodbridge, Va.

But Barbara Anderson, who brought her two children at 7 a.m. hoping for a good vantage point, said, "We let two kids play hooky from school so they could come and see the princess. It's a chance of a lifetime."

The general public was not allowed in the store until after the royal couple left. Veterans Day is normally a big shopping day because it is a federal holiday and therefore a day off for many in this area.