

Malta

INFORMATION

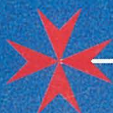
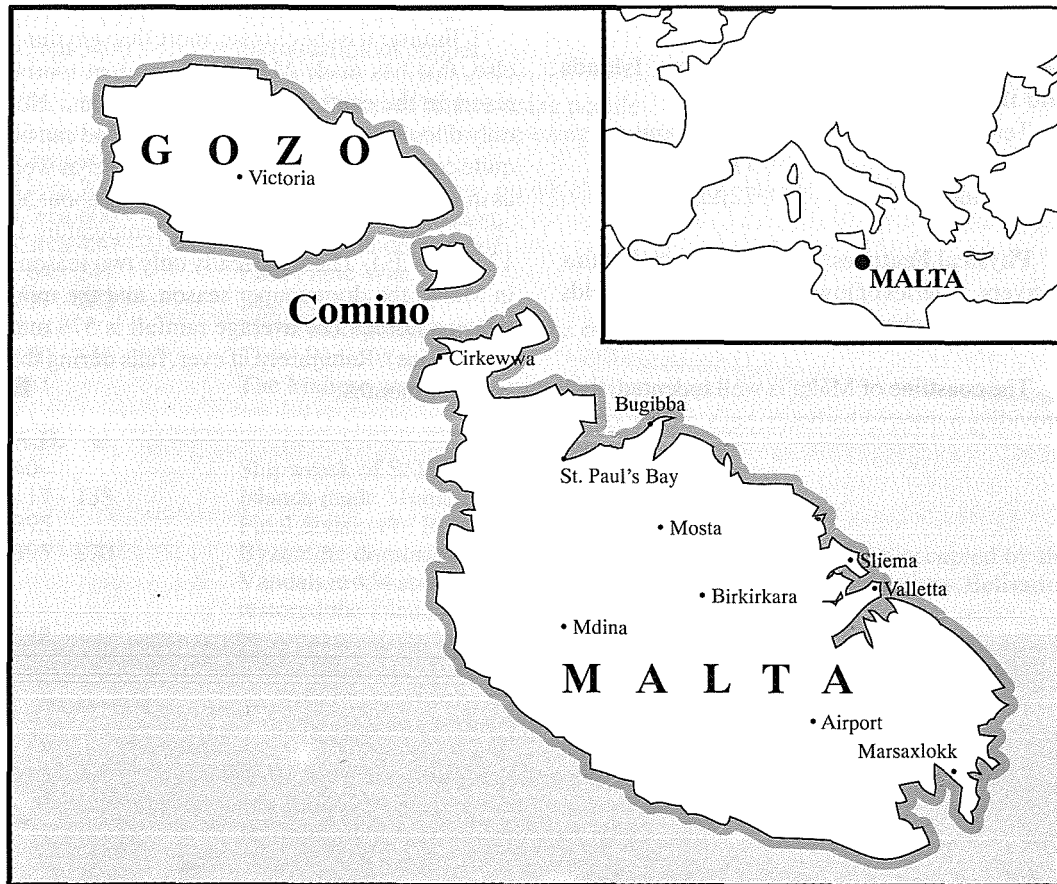


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THE MALTESE ISLANDS



Located in the Mediterranean Sea, just south of Sicily, the Maltese archipelago basically consists of three islands, Malta, Gozo and Comino. Their total population is about 366,000.

The largest island of the group is Malta, from which the archipelago takes its name. It has a population of just over 320,000. Valletta, the capital, is the cultural, administrative, and commercial centre of the archipelago. Malta is well served with harbours, chief of which is the Valletta Grand Harbour. Its international airport is at Luqa, five kilometres from the capital.

The second largest island is Gozo. It is topographically quite different from Malta, and is quaintly attractive for its less industrialised way of life. Gozo can be reached from Malta by ferry-boat from Ċirkewwa and Pietà, near Valletta.

Comino, Cominotto, Filfla and St Paul's Islet are the other major features of the archipelago. Of these, only Comino, straddled between Malta

and Gozo, sustains a very tiny population. Turned into a popular resort because of a couple of very fine beaches, Comino can be reached from Ċirkewwa, either by boat or by excursion ferries during the summer months.

Position: The distance between Malta and the nearest point in Sicily is 93 km. The distance from the nearest point on the North African mainland (Tunisia) is 288 km. Gibraltar is 1,826 km to the west and Alexandria is 1,510 km to the east.

This strategic position has allowed Malta to develop as an important trading post. The Malta Freeport is one of the Mediterranean's leading ports for container transhipments.

At the extreme points the Maltese Islands fall within the following positions:

North	- 36°00'	N. Latitude
South	- 35°48'	S. Latitude
East	- 14°35'	E. Longitude
West	- 14°11'	W. Longitude

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Area of the Maltese Islands and internal waters:

Maltese Islands	316 km ²
Internal Waters	198 km ²

Maritime areas (excluding Maltese Islands and Internal Waters)

Territorial Waters	3,800 km ²
Fishing Zone	11,100 km ²
Continental Shelf	72,850 km ²

Physical Features: Malta has no mountains or rivers. A series of low hills with terraced fields on the slopes characterise the Island.

The coastline of Malta is well indented, thus providing numerous harbours, bays, creeks, sandy

beaches and rocky coves. The length of the shoreline round Malta is 136 km, and 43 km round Gozo.

Climate: It is the climate, more than anything else, that has made Malta an important tourist resort in the centre of the Mediterranean. Not only does it never snow in Malta, but one can be quite certain about the weather in summer as well as in winter. The total annual rainfall is about 50 cm (20 ins). The average winter temperature is 12° C (54° F.). There are really only two seasons in Malta: the dry summer season, and the mild winter season. The average rainfall is 578 mm (22.756 ins). Rain rarely, if ever, falls during the summer months. ■



Aerial view of the Capital, Valletta (Città Umilissima).

NOTABLE DATES IN THE HISTORY OF MALTA

B.C.

Before 5000	Arrival of man in Malta.
Circa 3400	Introduction of copper.
Circa 3200	Building of megalithic temples, the world's oldest free standing buildings.
Circa 2000	First invasion of bronze-using people.
Circa 1400	Second invasion of bronze-using people.
Circa 900 - 800	The Iron Age.
Circa 700	Greek influence in area on which Valletta now stands.
Circa 800 - 480	Phoenician colonization.
Circa 480 - 218	Carthaginian domination.
264 - 241	First Punic War.
221 - 202	Second Punic War.
218	Malta incorporated in Republic of Rome.
150 - 146	Third Punic War.
41	The Maltese are allowed municipal privileges.

A.D.

60	Shipwreck of St Paul. Introduction of Christianity.
117 - 138	Islands made Municipalities during reign of Hadrian.
395	Final division of Roman Empire.
395 - 870	Byzantine domination. It is a moot point whether Malta was occupied by the Vandals in 454 and by the Goths in 464. According to some historians, Belisarius restored the Islands to the Byzantine Empire in 533.
870	Invasion of Malta by Aghlabite Arabs.
1048	Byzantine bid to recapture the Islands.
1090	Norman invasion of Malta.
1122	Uprising of the Arabs.
1144	Byzantines again attempt to recapture the Islands.
1154	Bishops of Malta under the jurisdiction of the See of Palermo.
1194 - 1266	Swabians (Germans).
1266 - 1283	Angevins (French).
1283 - 1530	Aragonese (Spanish).
1350	Establishment of Maltese nobility by King Ludwig of Sicily.
1350 - 1357	First Incorporation of Islands in Royal Domain.
1397 - 1420	Second Incorporation of Islands in Royal Domain.
1397	Establishment of Università (Local Government).
1425	Revolt against Don Gonsalvo Monroy.
1429	Saracens from Tunis try to capture Malta.
1428 - 1530	Third (and final) Incorporation of Islands in Royal Domain.
1485	Death of Peter Caxaro, author of <i>Cantilena</i> , possibly earliest evidence of written Maltese.
1530	Order of St John takes formal possession of the Islands.
1535	First known date of celebration of Carnival in Malta.
1561	Holy Inquisition officially established in Malta.
1565	Great Siege.
1566	Founding of Valletta.
1578	Inauguration of St John's Co-Cathedral.
1593	Inauguration of Jesuits College (<i>Collegium Melitense Societatis Jesu</i>).
1676	Foundation of School of Anatomy and Surgery at the <i>Sacra Infermeria</i> .
1768	Jesuits expelled from Malta.
1775	Uprising of the Priests.
1784	Promulgation of the <i>Dritto Municipale</i> by Grand Master De Rohan.
1798	The French, under Napoleon, occupy Malta. Abolition of the Inquisition.
	Uprising of the Maltese against the French.
1799	Britain takes Malta under its protection in the name of the King of the Two Sicilies.
1800	The French capitulate, Major General H. Pigot instructed to place Malta under the protection of the British Crown.
1802	Peace of Amiens by which Malta was to have been returned to the Order of St John. Declaration of Rights.

MALTA INFORMATION

- 1813 The Bathurst Constitution.
First issue of *Gazzetta del Governo di Malta* — changed, in 1816, to *Malta Government Gazette*.
- 1814 Treaty of Paris by which Malta becomes a British Crown Colony.
- 1819 Abolition of Università (Local Government).
- 1828 Proclamation regulating State-Church relations.
- 1831 See of Malta independent of See of Palermo.
- 1834 Opening of Malta Government Savings Bank.
- 1835 First Council of Government.
- 1839 Abolition of Press censorship and introduction of law of libel.
- 1840 Council of Government with elected members.
- 1854 Publication of "*Storia di Malta*" by Gio. Antonio Vassallo.
- 1869 Opening of Suez Canal.
- 1881 Executive Council — an entirely official body.
- 1887 The Strickland-Mizzi Constitution.
- 1903 Council of Government — largely a return to the 1840 Constitution.
- 1912 Dun Karm, the National Poet, writes his first poem in Maltese.
- 1914 - 1918 World War I.
- 1919 *Sette Giugno* riots.
- 1921 The Amery-Milner Constitution granting Self-Government.
Opening of first Malta Parliament.
- 1930 Constitution suspended.
- 1932 Constitution restored.
- 1933 Constitution withdrawn. Crown Colony Government as in 1813.
- 1936 Constitution providing for nominated members to Executive Council.
- 1939 Macdonald Constitution: Council of Government to be elected. Lord Strickland's Constitutional Party returned.
- 1939 - 1945 World War II.
- 1940 First air raids on Malta.
- 1942 Award of George Cross to Malta following the full onslaught of the Axis powers.
- 1946 National Assembly resulting in 1947 Constitution.
- 1947 Restoration of Self-Government.
- 1958 The Governor takes over direct administration of the Islands.
- 1959 Interim Constitution providing for Executive Council.
- 1961 Blood Constitution published by Order-in-Council. This again provided for a measure of self-government for the "State" of Malta.
- 1961 Establishment of the Gozo Local Government system.
- 1964 Malta becomes a Sovereign and Independent state within the Commonwealth.
Malta joins the United Nations.
- 1965 Malta joins the Council of Europe.
- 1968 Establishment of the Central Bank of Malta.
Establishment of the Malta Development Corporation.
- 1970 Malta becomes an Associate Member of the European Community.
- 1972 Military Base Agreement with Britain and other N.A.T.O. countries.
- 1973 Abolition of Gozo Local Government system.
- 1974 Malta becomes a Republic; Sir Anthony Mamo, elected first President.
- 1976 Establishment of the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) on Manoel Island as a joint IMO/UNEP project; now known as the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).
- 1979 Termination of Military Base Agreement.
- 1987 Parliament adopts the European Convention of Human Rights as part of Malta's laws.
- 1988 United Nations opens the International Institute on Aging in Valletta.
- 1988 IMO - International Maritime Law Institute inaugurated at the University of Malta.
- 1989 Establishment of the Malta International Business Authority (now the Malta Financial Services Centre), the Malta Export Trade Corporation and the Malta Freeport Corporation.
- 1990 Malta applies for full membership of the European Community.
- 1991 Establishment of the Malta Maritime Authority.
- 1993 Reintroduction of Local Government in the Maltese Islands.
- 1995 The European Union decides that membership negotiations with Malta will start six months after its 1996 Inter-Governmental Conference.

THE STATE OF MALTA – An introductory historical outline of the organs of Government

The Malta Independence Constitution of 1964 established Malta as a liberal parliamentary democracy, safeguarding the fundamental human rights of citizens, and guaranteeing a separation between the executive, judicial and legislative powers, with regular elections based on universal suffrage.

Until 1974, Malta was a Constitutional Monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II as Queen of Malta and a Governor-General representing her in Valletta. In December of that year the Constitution was modified: the Head of State henceforth was the President of Malta.

The duties of the Head of State continued to be nominal – and moral – rather than executive; the change of Malta's status did not create a Presidential system of Government. However, constitutionally, executive authority remains vested in the President of Malta and exercised by him or on his account, as was the case previously with the Queen of Malta. The President assents to bills; he prorogues and dissolves Parliament, but except in rare constitutional matters he must act on the advice of the Prime Minister and Ministers or in accordance with it. [The names of those who have served as President and their years in office are given in Appendix III].

Executive power lies with the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on the Westminster model. [For the names of those who have served as Heads of Government since 1921, see Appendix II].

The appointment of Ministers is a prerogative of the Prime Minister, but appointees have to be Members of Parliament. The Constitution thus embodied and gave expression to the doctrine of popular sovereignty.

The Judiciary

Although appointed by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, judges and magistrates are independent of the Executive. A person must have practiced as an advocate in Malta for a period of not less than seven years to qualify for appointment as a magistrate, and twelve years to qualify for

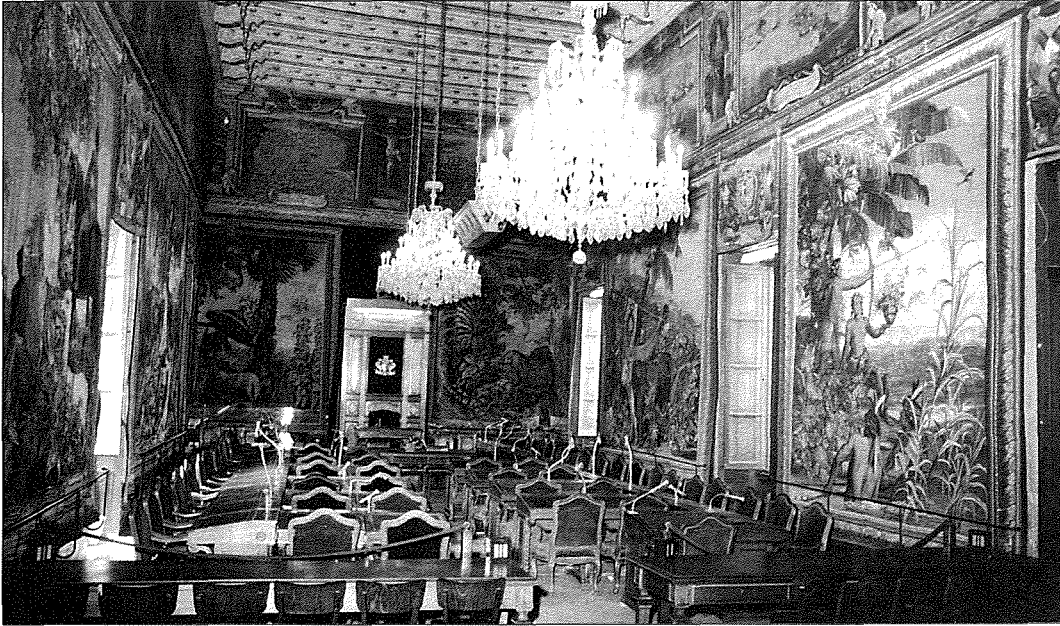
appointment as a judge. Judges and magistrates enjoy security of tenure and they can only be removed by the President in the event of proved inability to perform the functions of their office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or from any other cause) or proved misbehaviour upon an address by the House of Representatives supported by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all members thereof.

In the words of one jurist, "the separation of powers which exists in Malta is not a strict and sharp one, of the American or French pattern, but is more of the nature of checks and balances, such as we find in Britain from where the system was originally obtained. Consequently the Courts are independent from the executive in the discharge of their duties". Like English judges they do not hold office at the pleasure of the Executive; and their salaries, a recurrent charge on the Consolidated Fund, do not require annual sanction.

The influence of Roman Law and of the Napoleonic Codes is easily identified in present day Maltese Law, particularly civil law. English Law has, since the early part of the last century, had its fair share of influence in criminal procedure, certain areas of criminal law, public law and in particular the law relating to merchant shipping. Maltese criminal law always adopted the maxim of English practice: guilt, not innocence, has to be proved. [See Appendix IV for further details on the Courts].

The judges have been for the most part Maltese and have included some eminent jurists. Occasionally, Chief Justices of the calibre of Sir Arturo Mercieca (who was later exiled) stood up to arbitrary and illegal British measures or enactments in the worst days of colonialism. Another bold judgement was that in the 1940s by Mr Justice A J Montanaro Gauci, himself an Anglophile, on the illegality of deportation orders. Others were not always as courageous but on the whole the bench retained a fair measure of dignity and respect. While delays have tended to characterise judgements, the Maltese public looks up to the Courts as a source of redress, and rather likes using them, especially in libel cases.

In 1964 a Constitutional Court was established



The Tapestry Chamber, The Palace, Valletta

as the final Maltese appellate Court. Apart from a period of three years in the early 1970s, when this Court remained unconstituted, it has redressed grievances including a number of cases relating to human rights.

In 1987 Malta adopted the European Convention on Human Rights as part of its laws and Maltese citizens have the right to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights which is made up of judges from each of the member states of the Council of Europe (including Malta).

The Legislature

Maltese constitutional development has had a rather turbulent history. Under the Order of St John, from 1530 to 1798, democracy was unknown even as an aspiration. The French period was short-lived – from 1798 to 1800 – and was marked by an armed insurrection within months of its commencement. The Bonapartist version of fraternity, which included looting of Churches, was not accepted by the Maltese. To clinch their victory by a naval blockade the British were invited in, with the approval of the King of the Two Sicilies whom the Maltese still recognised as their lawful sovereign (as did the overthrown Grand Master from his exile in Trieste). This was because Malta, before Charles V ceded it to the Knights, had belonged to the Holy Roman Empire; the Knights only got it as a fief, not as owners. When the Treaty of Amiens,

which would have returned Malta to the Order in 1802, came to nought and the Napoleonic Wars resumed, the British stayed. In 1814, by the Treaty of Paris, Malta became a British possession. The first Governor did not as much as set up an Advisory Council. It was not before 1835 that the first Constitution was granted. However, its Council of Government was by nomination.

Maltese claims then centred on representative or responsible government, citing in justification the voluntary nature of Malta's union to Britain and earlier rights of local government through the medieval Commune. On Britain's part, Malta was too strategically important to be allowed much internal freedom so that the more representative Constitutions given in 1887, 1921, 1932 and 1947 were taken away with much the same ease in 1903, 1930 and 1933, and for the last time in 1958. But nevertheless, a body politic formed with rights and expectations. Malta had a free Press – almost uninterruptedly in times of peace – from 1839 onwards, and voting by secret ballot from 1849 onwards.

Contemporary Government and Party political formations owe their origins, and at least some of their characteristics, to these earlier times.

Elections to Parliament are on the basis of a system of proportional representation known as the single-transferable vote.

In the present Malta Parliament there are 65 Members, excluding the Speaker. Of these, 34 sit on the Government side. Apart from the Prime Minister, there are currently eleven Cabinet Ministers, who are assisted by eight Parliamentary Secretaries. [For the composition of today's Government see Appendix I].

The Speaker may be appointed from within or from outside the House, but once appointed, he benefits from all parliamentary privileges. [Appendix V shows election results, indicating how power has alternated between the Parties since the attainment of Self-Government in 1921.]

Malta's best known leaders in the post-war period have been Dr Giorgio Borg-Olivier (1911-1980), who led the country to Independence, and Mr Dominic Mintoff (1916-) who is still an active Labour MP.

Malta's Prime Minister, Dr Eddie Fenech-Adami (1934-), succeeded Dr Borg-Olivier as Nationalist Party leader in 1977 and became Prime Minister in 1987, replacing Dr Carmelo Mifsud-Bonnici who had substituted Mr Mintoff as the Malta Labour Party Leader in 1984. In 1981, Dr Fenech-Adami's Party won an absolute majority of the popular vote but was denied a

majority of seats. Dr Fenech-Adami became Prime Minister in 1987, following Constitutional amendments which guarantee a Parliamentary majority to the Party which wins an absolute majority of the popular vote.

Local Councils

A form of Local Government known as the Università existed in the Maltese Islands between 1397 and 1819 when it was abolished by the British authorities. The 19th century saw a number of attempts to introduce non-representative Local Councils but they did not prove successful.

A Local Government system operated in Gozo between 1961 and 1973. The Local Councils Act, 1993 regulates the sixty seven Councils which now handle basic services within all local communities. Elections are held every three years with a third of the Councils facing elections each year. The Council elects the Mayor from among its members. The Council Secretary, who is appointed by the Council, is its senior executive, administrative and financial official. Councils have the right to raise revenue by enacting bye-laws. [See Appendix VI for the results of the 1994 Local Council Elections.] ■

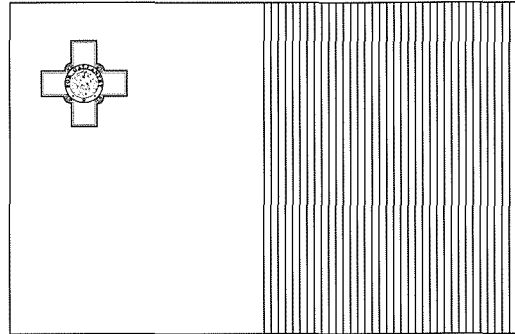


Mdina (Città Notabile), the old Capital.

THE NATIONAL SYMBOLS

The National Flag of Malta

The National flag of Malta consists of two equal vertical stripes, white in the hoist and red in the fly. A representation of the George Cross, awarded to Malta by His Majesty King George VI on the 15th April 1942, is carried, edged with red, in the canton of the white stripe.



According to tradition, the National Colours were given to the Maltese by Count Roger in 1090. Roger the Norman had landed in Malta to oust the Arabs from the Island. Out of regard for their hospitality Roger gave the Maltese part of the pennant of the Hautevilles to serve as their colours.

The National Anthem

In 1922-23, Dr A.V. Laferla, Director of Primary Schools, obtained possession of a piece of music composed by Dr Robert Samut. He handed it to Dun Karm Psaila, a well-known priest and poet, to write the lyrics for it as a school hymn. As Dun Karm began writing, he suddenly conceived the idea of writing a hymn in the form of a prayer to the Almighty.

Dun Karm, who was later to become Malta's National Poet, wanted to bridge the gap existing between the political parties and to unite all with the strong ties of religion and patriotism. *L-Innu Malti* was first played on the 3rd February 1923. In 1945 it was declared to be the official Anthem of Malta.

*Lil din l-art helwa, l-Omm li tatna isimha,
Hares, Mulej, kif dejjem Int harist:
Ftakar li lilha bl-ohla dawl libbist.*

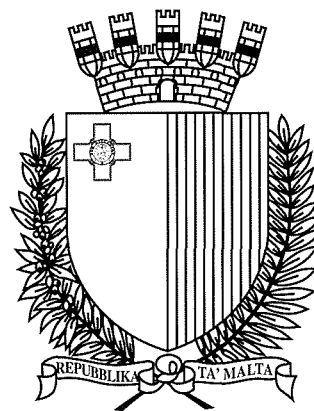
Guard her, O Lord, as ever Thou hast guarded!
This Motherland so dear whose name we bear!
Keep her in mind, whom Thou hast made so fair!

*Aghiti, kbir Alla, id-dehen lil min jahkimha,
Rodd il-ħniena lis-sid, sahħa 'l-haddiem:
Seddaq il-għaqda fil-Maltin u s-sliem.*

May he who rules, for wisdom be regarded!
In master mercy, strength in man increase!
Confirm us all, in unity and peace!

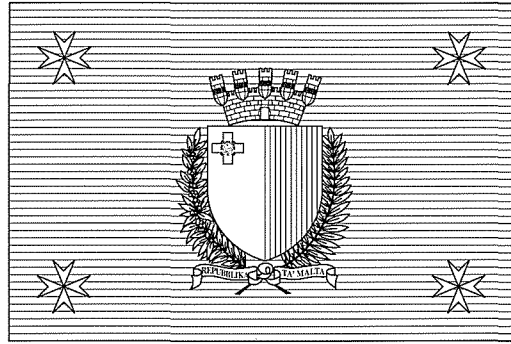
The Coat-of-Arms

The Maltese Coat-of-Arms consists of a shield showing a heraldic representation of the National Flag of Malta; above the shield there is a mural crown in gold with sally port and eight turrets (five only being visible), representing the fortifications of Malta and denoting a City State; around the shield there is a wreath of two branches, the dexter of olive, the sinister a palm, symbols of peace and traditionally associated with Malta, all in their proper colours, tied at the base with a white ribbon, backed with red and upon which are written the words "*Repubblika ta' Malta*" in capital letters in black.



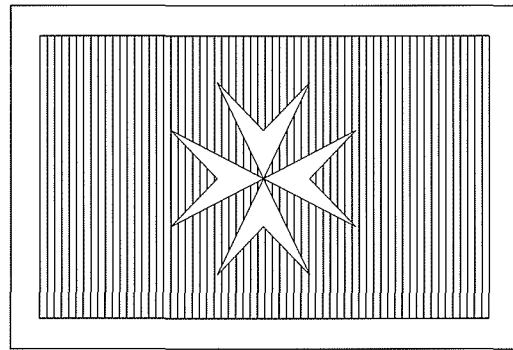
The President's Personal Flag

The President's Personal Flag has the same proportions as the National Flag of Malta and consists of a blue field with the Emblem of Malta in its centre and a Maltese Cross in gold in each corner.



The Maritime Flag of Malta

The Maritime Flag of Malta consists of a red field bordered in white, and bearing a Maltese Cross in white at its centre. It has the same proportions as the National Flag of Malta.



Local Councils' Coats-of-Arms

Each Local Council has its own coat-of-arms. Some of the arms have been in use for hundreds of years; fourteenth century examples of the coat-of-arms of Mdina (Città Notabile) can be seen in the Mdina Cathedral and Museum.

The Capital City and former Capitals



VALLETTA
Città Umilissima



MDINA
Città Notabile



BIRGU
Città Vittoriosa

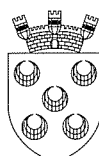
The Cities



ISLA
Città Invicta



BORMLA
Città Cospicua



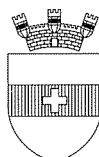
QORMI
Città Pinto



ŻEBBUĠ
Città Rohan



ŻABBAR
Città Hompesch



SIGGIEWI
Città Ferdinand



ŻEJTUN
Città Beland



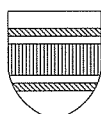
RABAT
Città Vittoria

MALTA INFORMATION

Towns and Villages



ATTARD



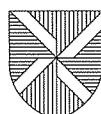
BALZAN



BIRKIRKARA



BIRŻEBBUĠA



DINGLI



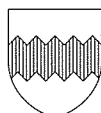
FGURA



FLORIANA
Borgo Vilhena



FONTANA



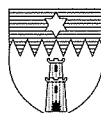
GUDJA



GŻIRA



GĦAJNSIELEM



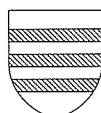
GĦARB



GĦARGĦUR



GĦASRI



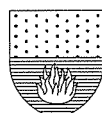
GĦAXAQ



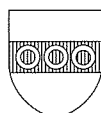
HAMRUN



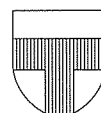
IKLIN



KALKARA



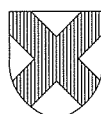
KERĊEM



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LIJA



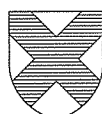
LUQA



MARSA



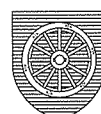
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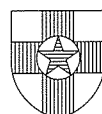
MARSAXLOKK



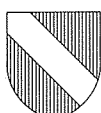
MELLIEĦA



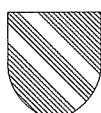
MĠARR



MOSTA



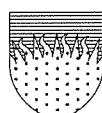
MQABBA



MSIDA



MUNXAR



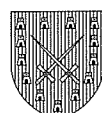
NADUR



NAXXAR



PAOLA



PEMBROKE



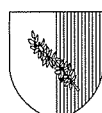
PIETÀ



QALA



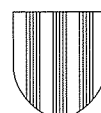
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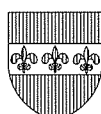
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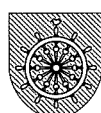
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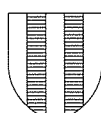
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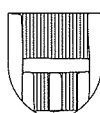
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FOREIGN POLICY

The Government of Malta bases its foreign policy on an unequivocal commitment to the social and economic values of the Western democracies and seeks closer links with them. At the same time it remains fully aware of its geographical position in the middle of the Mediterranean and exploits this position in a practical way to help maintain stability in the area, encouraging friendly and co-operative relations with all its neighbours. At the wider, international level, Malta seeks ties of friendship and co-operation with all countries and plays an active and committed role as a member of the United Nations.

Malta's primary foreign policy objective is membership of the European Union. Malta has consistently defined its desire to join the Union as a logical and natural culmination of its European vocation. This definition is rooted in Malta's political, social and economic realities as they have been moulded by its historical and cultural heritage. Together with other European democracies Malta shares a deep and long standing commitment to the dignity and freedom of the individual in society, to the importance and value of democratic principles and parliamentary practices, to the respect for sovereignty and mutual understanding among nations and to the need for improved international co-operation on matters relating both to security as well as to development. Malta's actions are based upon the respect for the rule of law at both national and international levels, the fulfilment of its obligations as a member of the international community, including the implementation of decisions by the Security Council, and the search for the peaceful and just settlement of disputes.

Overall, Malta's quest for European Union membership stems primarily from political considerations. Having shared Europe's fortunes over the last centuries and conscious of their undoubted European identity the Maltese are looking towards integration with the European Union as the next logical step in the Island's development, a move that would not only guarantee long-term prosperity but will also safeguard Malta's stability and security. Malta looks forward to participating in the mapping out of Europe's future and of forming an integral part of the European Union, the foundations of which were laid at Maastricht. The Nationalist Party led by Dr. Edward Fenech-Adami had

declared in its 1981 and 1987 electoral programmes that it would seek full European Community membership when in Government. Upon taking office in 1987, the new Nationalist administration initiated a fresh drive for closer ties with the European Community in preparation for membership. A major diplomatic initiative was launched in this regard between 1987 and 1990 resulting on 16 July 1990, in the formal presentation of Malta's application for EU membership.

In September 1990, the Council of Ministers referred Malta's application to the European Commission in accordance with Article 237 of the EEC Treaty. As a result the Commission embarked upon the preparation of its opinion on Malta's application. The Opinion was issued on 30 June 1993. It confirmed that Malta possesses the necessary credentials for accession since "its culture and history reflect its long-standing links with Europe, which have over the centuries developed its European identity".

The Opinion also acknowledged that "bearing in mind the country's democratic status and its consistent respect for human rights, Malta is entirely justified in asserting the vocation for membership of the European Union". Furthermore the Commission felt that it is important to give the authorities and people of Malta a positive signal "by announcing that the Community is willing to open accession negotiations with Malta as soon as conditions allow".

While affirming that the adoption of the Community's "acquis" depends on an overhaul of the Maltese economy's systems, the opinion stated that the problems are far from insurmountable. The introduction of these changes must be supported in the Commission's view by the adoption of an overall structural reform programme and by the implementation of the most pressing measures. Once these two steps have been made "accession negotiations can get under way". The commission proposed that an intense dialogue should be started immediately to establish the nature and timetable of the priority reforms needed to prepare Malta for EU integration. To this end the opinion stated that such a dialogue "could also cover technical assistance, financial co-operation, training measures and other assistance that the Community could give Malta in the framework

of a protocol of adaptation”.

Following the in-depth dialogue between Malta and the Commission during 1994 and early 1995 the Commission was in a position to report in March 1995 that Malta's reform programme had by and large been carried out within the time scale set. In December 1994 the Commission also initialled with Malta the draft of a new financial protocol intended to contribute to the objectives of the economic reforms and facilitate the economic transition of Malta in the light of its accession to the Union under the best conditions. At the same time the European Council decided at its 1994 Corfu summit, and reconfirmed at its Essen Summit later in the year, that “the next phase of enlargement of the Union will involve Cyprus and Malta”.

In April 1995 the General Affairs Council concluded that in the circumstances “accession negotiations with Malta will start, on the basis of Commission proposals, six months after the conclusion of the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference, taking into account the results of the Conference”.

Malta considers that the European Union is not an exclusive element, albeit a most important one, in the creation of a modern European consciousness. Other institutions have played and continue to play a significant role in this context. Primary among these are the Council of Europe and the CSCE. It is a further dimension of Malta's fundamental European vocation that it has consistently and actively participated in the work of both these institutions.

Malta has been a member of the Council of Europe since 1965 and has in recent years renewed its commitment to the role and objectives of this organisation. The incorporation of the European Human Rights Convention in Malta's legislation is a tangible expression of this commitment.

Within the CSCE (now renamed the OSCE) Malta has played an active role since the very beginning. It has played an instrumental part in introducing and maintaining the Mediterranean dimension of the CSCE. On Malta's proposal in 1992, the CSCE declared itself a regional arrangement in terms of Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. Three CSCE meetings have been held in Malta, an experts' meeting on the Mediterranean in 1979, a seminar, also on the Mediterranean, in 1993 and an experts' meeting on the peaceful settlement of disputes in 1991.

Following the 1991 meeting on the peaceful settlement of disputes the CSCE concluded a convention on arbitration and conciliation of which Malta is one of the 33 signatories. In April 1995 Malta accepted the invitation open to all OSCE members to join the Partnership for Peace programme. On the occasion of his signing of the Partnership Framework document in Brussels on 26 April, the Government stated that “in pursuing a policy of non-participation in military alliances Malta shares the basic values and objectives of the Partnership – protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the safeguarding of freedom, justice and peace through democracy”.

Malta believes that its closer involvement in Europe will enhance its potential to continue promoting the concepts of security and co-operation in the Mediterranean, both at the regional level as well as at the bilateral level with all its neighbours. The policy of friendship and good neighbourliness with the countries of North Africa which constitutes an important aspect of European policy, within the European Union as well as the CSCE, will therefore reinforce what will remain a significant aspect of Malta's foreign policy. In this spirit Malta is actively participating in the Mediterranean Forum and looks forward to being involved in the EuroMediterranean Partnership which will be launched in the Barcelona Conference of November 1995.

Malta joined the United Nations on 1st December 1964 soon after attaining independence. Since then it has consistently endeavoured to promote and support measures for peace and co-operation world-wide. Through its UN membership it has sought to bring to the attention of the international community, political, economic, social and environmental issues. Its major initiatives in this connection concern the Law of the Sea, the protection of Global Climate, the Elderly and the question of registration of conventional arms transfers. Malta has served on a number of major UN organs, including the UN Security Council, on which it was a member during 1983/1984. In 1990 Malta's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor Guido de Marco, was unanimously elected President of the 45th Session of the General Assembly. During this presidency Professor de Marco played a major role in launching the still ongoing process for the revitalisation of the work of the General Assembly. ■

EDUCATION IN MALTA

The law regulating Education in Malta (Act XXIV of 1988) defines the rights and obligations of students, parents, the State and Non-Government Organisations (foremost among which is the Catholic Church) in the sphere of Education.

Educational institutions provide an extensive system of education catering for all requirements at kindergarten, primary, secondary and post-secondary levels. Schooling is compulsory from the age of 5 to the age of 16, but most children attend kindergarten classes from the age of 3.

About 30% of all students attend non-State schools but education for children in special schools and technical courses is provided in State schools only. Education is free of charge in all State and Church schools but there are also a number of fee-paying private schools. Church schools are heavily subsidised by Government. National Minimum Curricula, set by the State for the different levels of education, are binding for all schools, while National Minimum Conditions Regulations establish standards of hygiene, safety, size of classrooms, spaces and amenities.

Pupils in State schools follow a six-year course of primary education after which they sit for qualifying but non-competitive examinations for admission into the Junior Lyceums. The first three years of the secondary education course are followed in either a Junior Lyceum or a Secondary School. At the end of Form III, students can opt to attend a Trade School where students follow a technology course.

The curricula at both the primary and secondary levels are varied and cover languages, physical sciences, religious knowledge, social sciences, personal and social education, and practical subjects. Language learning is given great importance.

State school students sit for national annual examinations in both primary and secondary levels. At the end of their five-year secondary education course, students sit for the University of Malta's Secondary Education Certificate examinations although the General Certificate of Education examinations set by British University Boards, are still quite popular.

On completing the compulsory school cycle, students are encouraged to continue their education. Academic courses, at the University's

Junior College, as well as private sixth forms, generally lead to Advanced Level Matriculation while vocationally oriented students at the other State and Private Schools and Institutes generally sit for examinations set by the City and Guilds of the London Institute and other established institutions, both local and foreign. About 60% of the students continue their education and training beyond the school minimum leaving age.

A wide range of student services provided by the State aim at a holistic approach to the education of the individual student and at enhancing the quality of education. Although the State education system is still centralised, schools are expected to develop their own particular identities.

Two apprenticeship schemes are provided by the State, the Extended Skills Training Scheme and the Technician Apprenticeship Scheme. Students joining these schemes receive allowances. A wide range of day and evening courses are also offered to adult learners.

The University is mainly financed by the State but it has been developing its links with the banks and private companies; this has led to significant contributions being made to the development of different aspects of the University's teaching and research.

The main research interests of the University are reflected in the multi-disciplinary institutes which complement the fifty mono-disciplinary Departments. The European Documentation and Research Centre also offers its services to University staff and outside institutions.

University students receive a monthly stipend and are given the opportunity to work during the Summer vacation. In October 1994 the total student number reached 5500 including 200 international students from some 40 countries.

A new centre on Malta's sister-island, Gozo, now offers a part-time evening degree course and facilitates short courses and seminars. Associated with the University is the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies while the campus is also home to the International Maritime Law Institute (IMO) and the International Ocean Institute. International conferences and seminars are run by the University's Foundation for International Studies in Valletta. ■

THE ECONOMY

The Maltese economy remained buoyant during 1994 continuing Malta's recent history of real growth rates which have helped the economy pass through the inordinately difficult international economic environment without distorting the labour, financial and credit markets. Malta looks forward to higher economic growth as its main trading partners continue in their path of economic recovery, falling unemployment and increased investment.

1994 continued to manifest substantial improvements in disposable income, employment, manufacturing production, export activity, tourism arrivals and earnings. Moreover, a further consolidation in the accumulation of monetary assets was experienced.

Over recent years the Maltese Government has embarked on an extensive programme of reform and change aimed at reviewing the entire regulatory and operational framework of the economy. A restructuring of the financial system, an active monetary policy and a regime of liberalised exchange control and interest rates remain priorities.

On the fiscal side, the reforms in the indirect taxation system included the introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on 1 January 1995, to replace the past structure of import duties. The intention is to widen the tax base with a flat rate of 15 per cent on most goods and services. Systems are also being put in place to streamline operations and eliminate administrative complexities. Significant Government expenditures are channelled towards the public sector capital investment programme in order to further improve Malta's infrastructure. This was complemented by private sector initiatives, particularly a number of large new projects in the tourism sector.

Economic Performance During 1994

According to current estimates, the Maltese economy experienced a robust rate of economic growth of 6.5 per cent in Gross National Product (GNP) at current market prices. This derives a GNP per capita of Lm2,792 (US\$7,395) which is 5.7 per cent higher than that recorded in 1993. GDP at factor cost is estimated at Lm896.3 million (US\$2.4 billion). Real GDP at factor cost in 1994, is estimated at Lm411.2 million, for a

rise of 4.2 per cent.

In 1994, the employment situation continued to improve over the previous year with a net job creation of 1,641. Such an achievement was supported by the sustained expansion in the private sector which created 1,862 jobs in 1994. Most of these jobs were created in the private market services sector which continued in its phase of rapid development. This is evident from the fact that over the past ten years employment in private direct production increased by 4.4 per cent whilst that in private market services grew by 38.3 per cent. The rapid economic expansion of the Maltese economy ensured that labour demand exceeded labour supply such that the unemployment rate decreased from 4.5 per cent, to 4.0 per cent in 1994.

Manufacturing industry employed 22.1 per cent of the gainfully occupied population during 1994. Manufacturing production rose by Lm31 million to Lm739.9 million of which Lm537.6 million (72.7 per cent) were exported. Manufacturing exports rose by Lm65.4 million or 13.9 per cent over the 1993 level. In its quest for improvement in productivity, net investment in large private manufacturing enterprises totalled Lm21.4 million. In the face of fierce competition, particularly from eastern European countries, a number of locally based industrial plants have continued in their programmes of restructuring and modernisation. Such investment is aimed at improving competitiveness and viability. Although the local economy is diversifying, with an increasing role being played by service industries, the manufacturing industry still plays a crucial role in Malta's economic development. In fact, manufacturing industry remains a prime employer and foreign exchange earner in the local economy. The long-term objective for manufacturing industry is to ensure that most enterprises have the capabilities to succeed in a world of fast-advancing technology and intense competition.

1994 was the third consecutive year in which the one million mark in tourist arrivals was exceeded. At 1,176,223 the total arrivals count in 1994 was 10.6 per cent larger than that recorded in 1993. Apart from contributing largely to Malta's balance of payments, this industry provides numerous employment opportunities to

the local labour market. In fact, the total number of 9,310 employees directly engaged in the industry constitute 7.0 per cent of the gainfully occupied population. Moreover, the gross foreign exchange earnings from tourism in 1994 totalled Lm241.6 million and are equivalent to 24.3 per cent of Malta's exports of goods and services. In an effort to sustain such a healthy performance, the National Tourism Organisation of Malta (NTOM) has embarked on a marketing programme earmarked to target niche markets, diversify operations and attract a greater proportion of up-market visitors.

A high level of activity was again registered in 1994 at the Malta Freeport Corporation where 342,880 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units' passed through for transshipment. This represents an increase of 85,429 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units' (33.2 per cent) over 1993. In view of this encouraging performance, the Malta Freeport embarked on the development of a new transshipment terminal. An issue of US\$205 million, 15 year Global Registered Stock was made in international capital markets in order to finance this project. This issue was underwritten by several institutions of international repute. Furthermore, the facilities at Oil Tanking (Malta) Ltd - a joint venture between the Malta Freeport and Oil Tanking GmbH of Hamburg - were awarded the ISO 9002 certificate. Additional infrastructural works have increased the oil terminal's capacity to 360,000 cubic metres. Substantial activity also took place in other areas such as warehousing activity and the organisation of training courses for participants from foreign countries.

In 1994 the Malta International Business Authority (MIBA) was transformed into the Malta Financial Services Centre (MFSC). Consequently a total of 13 laws were enacted in Parliament including amendments to the Income Tax law so as to establish the necessary legal framework for the development of this sector and to better conform to EU standards. Trade provisions included the Investment Services Act, the Commercial Partnerships (Special Provisions) Act, the Recognition of Trusts Act, the Insider Dealing Act, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the Professional Secrecy Act. Additional legislation included the Banking Act and the Financial Institutions Act.

MFSC is currently responsible for the regulation of financial services provided in and

from Malta. MFSC continued MIBA's tasks of registering general trading and non-trading offshore companies. In 1994, 472 companies were registered, of which 228 were trading ones. This represents a total increase of 12.9 per cent over the previous year. A slowdown in registrations is envisaged during the coming months until 31 December 1996, by which time no further registration of offshore companies will take place. New registrations are expected to favour the International Trading Company and the Holding Company structures introduced through amendments in the Income Tax Act. Moreover the majority of the existing offshore companies are expected to convert to the new corporate structures prior to 23 September 2003. Between September and December 1994, 44 international trading companies were registered.

Maltese industry registered a creditable performance in 1994 as Malta's major European trading partners slowly emerged from a long recessionary period. In 1994, 73.3 per cent of Malta's exports were directed to EU countries, while 75.7 per cent of Malta's imports came from the EU. Domestic exports registered a 13.8 per cent increase rising by Lm65.7 million to reach the Lm542.4 million mark in 1994. Re-exports also experienced a double-digit increase and stood at Lm46.1 million. Imports expanded at a slower rate than exports. The 9.0 per cent increase in imports advanced Malta's import bill to Lm905.9 million. This is made up of industrial supplies (61.3 per cent), consumer goods (20.0 per cent), capital goods and others (18.6 per cent) - virtually the same ratios recorded in 1993. Net capital imports during the year included the purchase of aircraft valued at Lm22.4 million. Excluding this exceptional item, the current account of the balance of payments registered a deficit of Lm3.2 million.

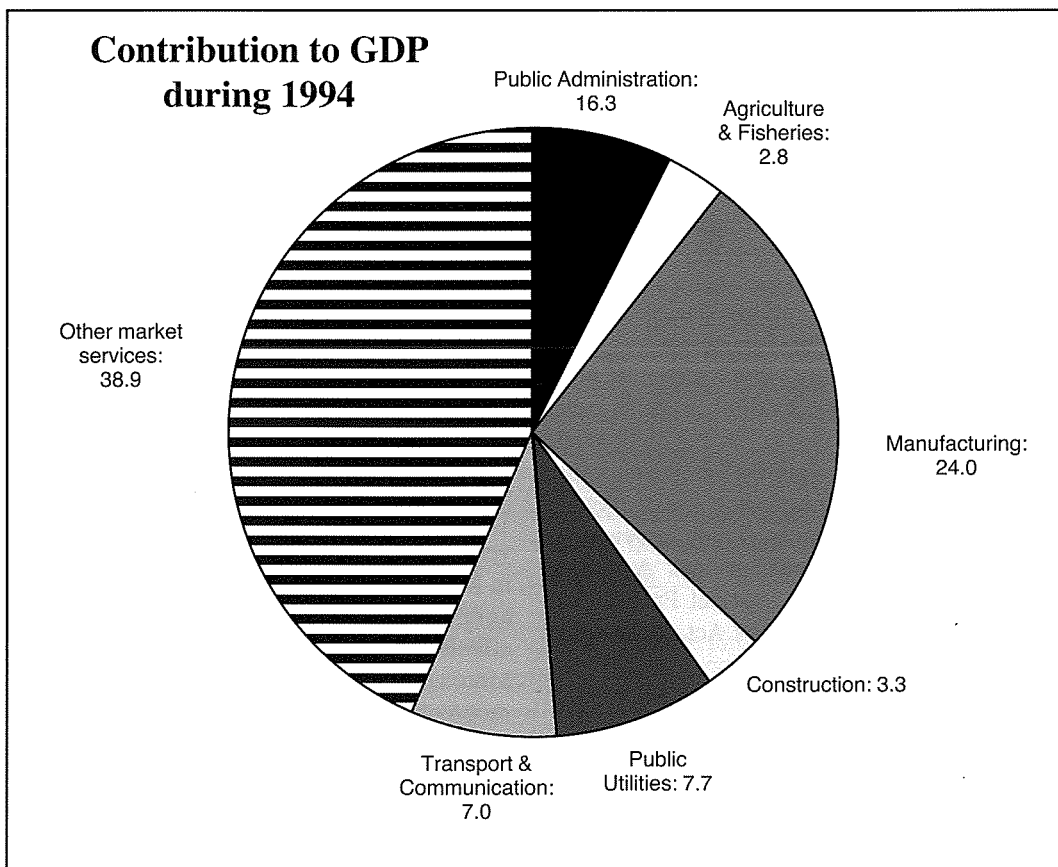
Malta's inflation rate has remained unchanged at 4.1 per cent between 1993 and 1994. The fluctuations in the Retail Price Index (RPI) in 1994 mirrored those recorded in the previous year. In fact, during 1994 inflationary pressures in Malta emanated from the seasonal prices of agricultural products which were adversely effected by high temperatures and low rainfall. Moreover, some non-seasonal increases were recorded in the prices of certain imported commodities. This occurred as a result of the fluctuations occurring in the currency markets, altering the value of the Maltese lira with respect to Malta's major importing partners.

MALTA INFORMATION

During 1994, Malta's external reserves increased by Lm141.1 million. This is mainly attributed to a Lm85 million increase in the foreign reserves of monetary authorities. This increased as a result of higher receipts of official loans and grants from abroad. On their part, the net foreign assets of the commercial banks and other financial institutions experienced a slight drop of Lm0.6 million to Lm 187.1 million in December 1994.

Malta's status within the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was upgraded to Article eight following the liberalisation of current

account payments and transfers of foreign exchange. The upgrading signified international recognition of Malta's developed economy. This continued to add to the air of confidence towards future economic development, particularly as Malta's major trading partners are seen to come out of a protracted period of recession. The promising performance of the economy has supported the process of modernisation of the economy based on liberalisation and transformation in an effort to achieve efficiency and competitiveness in the face of increased global competition. ■



MAIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	1986	1988	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
POPULATION AND LABOUR							
Maltese population	343334	349014	355910	359543	362977	366431	369135
Labour supply	123608	130126	132283	135257	137157	138434	139485
Gainfully occupied	115109	124973	127196	130338	131609	132259	133900
Private Sector Employment	66074	68267	71775	74732	75437	76829	78691
of which:							
Direct Production	36224	36263	37574	38380	37952	37717	37958
Market Services	29850	32004	34201	36352	37485	39112	40733
Unemployment	8499	5153	5087	4919	5548	6175	5585
Employment in manufacturing	30452	31483	31961	32374	31558	31394	29553
NATIONAL INCOME (Lm million)							
GNP at current market prices	539.9	634.8	789.8	856.7	916.5	967.9	1030.8
Personal consumption	343.4	387.6	460.8	494.5	531.4	558.9	600.7
Government current expenditure	89.5	105.2	129.2	147.1	164.3	188.9	208.5
Gross investment	130.5	174.6	245.3	254.7	241.0	264.3	282.3
PRODUCTION (Lm million)							
GDP at factor cost	461.8	542.6	649.6	709.9	769.6	826.6	896.3
(i) MANUFACTURING (Lm million)							
Total production	327.1	383.3	518.9	582.5	673.1	708.9	739.9
Exports	178.6	214.5	314.0	369.8	448.7	472.2	537.6
(ii) TOURISM							
Number of arrivals	574189	783846	871776	895036	1002381	1063213	1176223
Gross income from tourism (Lm million)	83.9	138.2	157.4	175.3	180.5	232.2	241.6
BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (Lm million)							
Exports of goods and services	370.2	480.0	626.4	701.9	804.1	899.6	993.1
Imports of goods and services	421.7	540.9	726.9	791.2	866.0	979.2	1079.2
Resource gap	-51.5	-60.9	-100.5	-89.3	-62.0	-79.6	-86.1
Net investment income from abroad	28.1	28.3	55.0	49.7	41.7	35.4	25.4
Transfers (net)	28.1	55.1	27.7	37.3	29.9	23.3	35.1
Surplus/deficit on current account	4.6	22.5	-17.7	-2.4	9.6	-20.9	-25.6
Changes in Malta's external reserves	15.8	16.7	-4.5	12.3	97.2	47.1	141.1
FOREIGN TRADE (Lm million)							
Domestic exports (f.o.b.)	180.3	217.1	328.7	372.0	451.5	476.7	542.4
Re-exports	14.4	18.8	29.2	33.5	39.4	40.6	46.1
Imports (c.i.f.)	347.9	447.4	620.5	684.0	747.7	830.9	905.9
Industrial supplies	208.7	268.0	382.9	424.6	464.6	504.1	555.7
Capital goods and others	57.0	76.9	115.3	115.4	121.8	157.4	168.8
Consumer goods	82.2	102.5	122.3	144.0	161.4	169.9	181.4
Balance of trade	-153.2	-211.5	-262.6	-278.5	-256.9	-312.6	-317.4
MONEY AND BANKING (Lm million)							
Total Monetary Assets							
Currency in circulation	273.8	314.3	330.3	344.3	337.6	353.3	365.9
Total bank deposits	437.1	534.2	711.3	788.6	901.2	1013.5	1204.4
Domestic credit							
Claims on private and parastatal sectors	248.8	325.5	486.8	576.8	638.1	720.7	816.6
Net claims on Government	-2.4	28.3	91.2	119.5	121.6	137.3	150.6
Total external reserves							
Monetary authorities	468.6	495.4	432.4	413.1	477.9	534.0	619.0
Commercial banks and other financial institutions (net)	68.2	78.2	139.9	169.1	199.0	187.7	187.1

INFRASTRUCTURE

Industrial development is linked to the expansion of infrastructural facilities in the fields of water and energy, transport and communications. A vast programme of infrastructural works has been carried out over the past seven years to upgrade and expand existing facilities, and to provide new ones. The following selected projects give an indication of Government's commitment in this sphere.

Telecommunications

Telemalta Corporation, with the assistance of the International Telecommunications Union, prepared and put into operation a programme for the changing of Malta's telecommunications from an electromechanical to a completely digital system.

An International Gateway with 2,000 ports, giving the island direct telephone exchange with the rest of the world, was commissioned in 1989. International circuits were increased threefold.

With 159,000 new digital lines Telemalta Corporation has the switchgear and transmission equipment necessary to meet demand up to 1996 and beyond.

Telemalta Corporation also introduced a set of new services including 'star' services which allow full call transfer and conference facilities, 'telecare' services which provide security for the elderly in their homes, 'TAFDA' services for the partially deaf and 'telecard' to enable non-cash payments at phone boxes. Telebanking has also been introduced by one of Malta's commercial banks.

Following the provision of well over 50,000 new telephone services during the past six years, a programme for the enhancement of the distribution network is currently under way. Service on demand is now possible in most parts of Malta and Gozo.

In 1990 Telemalta Corporation entered into a joint venture with Racal-Telecom of UK resulting in the setting up of a Maltese registered company known as Telecell Limited. The object of this company was to establish a cellular telephone system.

In March 1994 Telemalta introduced two new services, namely "Freephone" and "Service on demand".

In April 1995, Telemalta Corporation entered into another joint venture with Valletta Investment Bank, APS Bank and Mobilc Telecommunications Corp. of USA for the provision of a nationwide radio paging service. This service is provided by Telepage Limited.

During the current year, the Government of Malta awarded a telecommunication operator's licence to Elsag-Bailey of Italy to provide international telecommunication services between countries using commercial satellites controlled by a Network Controlled Station in Malta.

Also, during 1995 Telemalta Corporation launched the first ever submarine fibre optic cable between Malta and Sicily which affords Malta the facility to join the information super highway. E-mail facilities are now also available.

Internet and other international data network services were liberalised in October 1995.

Air Terminal

The provision of an efficient and safe air transport system is of major importance in Malta's development strategy, not only because tourism and the tertiary sector are two of the pillars of the economy, but also because air communications constitute a vital link with other countries.

One of the first priorities of this Administration was the construction of a new air terminal capable of handling the projected passenger throughput.

The Air Terminal, built at a cost of Lm20 million, was completed in less than three years and inaugurated in February 1992.

The main building has five floors covering an area of about 16,000 square metres. The Terminal is equipped with the latest technology systems and its facilities are designed to handle 2.5 million passengers per year.

The Terminal is run on commercial lines by Malta International Airport Ltd., which was set up in 1991.

Malta Freeport

The Malta Freeport Corporation was set up by the Maltese Government in 1988 with the



Malta International Airport

specific scope of developing the Port of Marsaxlokk into a commercially viable hub port of international standards. Malta Freeport's objective is to act as an effective interface, a reference point through which business can service markets efficiently.

Malta Freeport Corporation established three major companies, namely Freeport Terminal (Malta) Ltd., Freeport Industrial Storage Malta Co. Ltd., and Oiltanking Malta Ltd., enabling focusing on distinct activities. These activities are all geared to establish the Freeport as a major maritime logistic centre in the Mediterranean.

Freeport Terminal (Malta) Ltd. is responsible for running the Container Terminal which is used for the handling of containers and break bulk cargo. The growth registered so far at the Container Terminal has significantly surpassed its initial projections. Terminal One is now operating at its full design capacity of half a million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units. Work on the development of the second terminal is well underway. Once completed, in 1998, Terminal Two will double the annual handling capacity to over one million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units.

Freeport Industrial Storage Malta Ltd. operates the warehousing facilities within Malta Freeport. The warehousing facilities provide extensive opportunities for strategic storage; and related activities, including light assembly and elements

of processing within a tax and customs free zone. Each warehouse has an area of 2,400 square metres, including water and electricity services, a security system, communication and other essential infrastructure. The regulating law is attuned with EU legislation and incorporates policies in favour of local and foreign investment with minimum bureaucracy. Excellent transport networks link Malta to a number of important markets on a daily basis.

Oiltanking Malta Ltd., a joint venture between Malta Freeport Corporation Ltd. and Oiltanking GmbH of Germany was set up to run the Oil Products Terminal. The terminal's principal activity is the storage and blending of oil products. However, it provides other services such as butanizing, injection of additives, circulation, tank to tank transfer, ship to ship transfer and leading. Presently, the capacity of the Oil Terminal is 360,000 cubic metres but there are prospects to further extend the capacity to 500,000 cubic metres.

Other related activities in which Malta Freeport has invested and which already provide fruitful results include: Coastal Management Co. Ltd., formed between Malta Freeport Corporation and Ingenieursbureau Svasek B.V. of the Netherlands. This company provides consultancy services on coastal engineering following in-house acquired knowledge during the development of the Freeport. The Freeport

Training Centre is responsible for the training of all Freeport personnel. It operates in close collaboration with the Port of Rotterdam College for Transport and Shipping. The Freeport Training Centre's services and programmes are also conducted to international entities.

Electricity Generation

Enemalta Corporation is in the process of upgrading the supply and distribution of electricity.

The new Power Station at Delimara is being extended from the present 120MW to an estimated 195MW by the addition of two 37.5MW gas turbines. These turbines will be fully operational later this year. By 1997 a 117MW addition will take place through the commissioning of a Combined-Cycle Block, with an option for a second one, to be built consequently. Thus, by 1997 the total generating capacity will be approximately 310MW.

A project for the extension of the 132Kv primary distribution system is also under way.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security measures came into force for the first time after the introduction of Self Government in 1921. They have been systematically augmented ever since.

Until December 1986, Social Security in Malta was administered through three separate laws: The Old Age Pensions Act 1948, The National Assistance Act 1956 and The National Insurance Act of 1956. A more comprehensive approach was adopted in January 1987 when these acts were consolidated into the Social Security Act.

Great importance is given to the operation of Social Security schemes that provide benefits, assistances and pensions to the poor, sick, elderly and the unemployed. These schemes provide financial assistance to those sections of the community which need them to maintain decent living standards. Social Security is a dynamic process which inherently entails frequent legislative amendments in order to extend entitlement and eligibility criteria.

Water Production

Water in Malta is produced through desalination (reverse osmosis) and from natural ground water resources. Desalination in 1994 reached some 65% of total water production by additional reverse osmosis equipment installed at Pembroke. A site for a new plant on the southern coast of Malta is being identified.

This high ratio of desalinated water means that standards of the distributed potable water continue to improve. Strict quality control is also maintained on the micro-biological quality of the water supplied to consumers.

The relatively low production costs of ground water and the strategic value of the aquifer requires the Water Services Corporation to protect these resources to the scientifically sustainable maximum.

The Water Services Corporation is committed to improving tap water quality and encouraging water conservation and re-use while ensuring that an uninterrupted supply is guaranteed to the consumer. ■

Act XXV of 1994 brought about further improvements in existing benefits as well as continued the process of introducing new benefits in line with the new exigencies of Maltese society. The total annual expenditure incurred has now topped the Lm125.7 million figure.

Malta has ratified the European Convention on Social and Medical Assistance and the European Social Charter. Reciprocal agreements on Social Security have to date been signed with the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Libya to safeguard the interests of Maltese who are either working in – or who, with their dependants, have emigrated to – these countries. As a member country of the Council of Europe, Malta has a Permanent Representative on the Steering Committee of the Council, which is responsible for the harmonization of standards in the field of Social Security. It is the Government's intention to secure new reciprocal agreements in the field of Social Security with other countries. ■

APPENDIX I

Malta's Administration

Prime Minister:

The Hon. Edward Fenech-Adami K.U.O.M., B.A., LL.D., M.P.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs:

The Hon. Guido de Marco K.O.M., B.A., LL.D., M.P.

Minister for Social Development:

The Hon. Louis Galea B.A., LL.D., M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Antoine Mifsud Bonnici M.D., B.Sc., B. Pharm., M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Giovanna Debono B.A. (Educ.), M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Louis Deguara, M.D., M.P.

Minister of Education and Human Resources:

The Hon. Michael Falzon B.Arch., A.&C.E., M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Joseph Cassar B.A., LL.D., M.P.

Minister for Gozo:

The Hon. Anton Tabone M.P.

Minister of Finance:

The Hon. John Dalli F.C.C.A., C.P.A., M.B.I.M., M.P.

Minister for Transport, Communications and Technology:

The Hon. Michael Frendo LL.D., LL.M., M.P.

Minister for the Environment:

The Hon. Francis Zammit Dimech LL.D., M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Ninu Zammit B.A.Arch., B.Arch.(Hons), A.&C.E., M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Stanley Zammit M.D., M.P.

Minister of Justice and the Arts:

The Hon. Michael Refalo B.A. (Hons), LL.D., M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Richard Muscat M.P.

Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries:

The Hon. Censu Galea B.E. & A., A. & C.E., M.P.

Minister for Economic Services:

The Hon. Josef Bonnici B.A. (Hons), M.A., Ph.D. (Econ), M.P.

Parliamentary Secretary:

The Hon. Joseph Psaila Savona M.D., D.T.C.D., M.P.

Minister for Home Affairs:

The Hon. Tonio Borg LL.D., M.P.

APPENDIX II

List of Maltese Prime Ministers

1921 - 1923	Mr Joseph Howard (Unione Politica Maltese*)
1923 - 1924	Dr Francesco Buhagiar (Unione Politica Maltese*)
1924 - 1927	Dr (later Sir) Ugo P Mifsud (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1927 - 1932	Count Sir Gerald Strickland (Constitutional Party)
1932 - 1933	Sir Ugo P Mifsud (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1947 - 1950	Dr (later Sir) Paul Boffa (Malta Labour Party and later Malta Workers' Party)
1950 (Sept-Dec)	Dr Enrico Mizzi (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1950 - 1951	Dr Giorgio Borg-Olivier (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1951 - 1953	Dr Giorgio Borg-Olivier (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1953 - 1955	Dr Giorgio Borg-Olivier (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1955 - 1958	Mr Dominic Mintoff (Malta Labour Party)
1962 - 1966	Dr Giorgio Borg-Olivier (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1966 - 1971	Dr Giorgio Borg-Olivier (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1971 - 1976	Mr Dominic Mintoff (Malta Labour Party)
1976 - 1981	Mr Dominic Mintoff (Malta Labour Party)
1981 - 1984	Mr Dominic Mintoff (Malta Labour Party)
1984 - 1987	Dr Carmelo Mifsud-Bonnici (Malta Labour Party)
1987 - 1992	Dr Edward Fenech-Adami (Partit Nazzjonalista)
1992 -	Dr Edward Fenech-Adami (Partit Nazzjonalista)

* later merged with the Partito Democratico Nazionalista to form the Partit Nazzjonalista



Auberge de Castille, Valletta (Office of the Prime Minister).

APPENDIX III

List of Presidents of Malta

1974 - 1976	Sir Anthony Mamo
1976 - 1981	Dr Anton Buttigieg
1981 - 1982	Dr Albert V Hyzler (<i>Ad Interim</i> - Dec 27 to Feb 15)
1982 - 1987	Miss Agatha Barbara
1987 - 1989	Mr Paul Xuereb (<i>Ad Interim</i> - Feb 16 to Apr 3)
1989 - 1994	Dr Censu Tabone
1994 -	Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici



San Anton Palace, Attard (Residence of the President of Malta).

APPENDIX IV

The Maltese Courts

The Constitutional Court

The jurisdiction of the Constitutional Court is appellate in cases involving violations of human rights, interpretation of the Constitution and invalidity of laws. It has original jurisdiction to decide questions as to membership of the House of Representatives and any reference made to it relating to voting for election of members of the House of Representatives.

The Court of Appeal

This Court, composed of three judges, hears

appeals from the Commercial Court and from the First Hall of the Civil Court; the same Court composed of one judge hears appeals from the Court of Magistrates in its civil jurisdiction. An appeal also lies to the Court of Appeal from decisions of a number of special tribunals.

The Criminal Court

In this Court the judge sits with a jury of nine persons to try, on indictment, offences exceeding the competence of the Court of Magistrates as a Court of Criminal Judicature. This court may in certain cases sit without a jury.

The Court of Criminal Appeal

This Court, consisting of three judges, hears appeals from persons convicted before the Criminal Court. A person convicted on indictment may appeal against his conviction in all cases or against the sentence passed on his conviction unless the sentence is one fixed by law. An appeal can never result in a sentence of greater severity. An accused person may also appeal against a verdict of not guilty on the ground of insanity. In certain cases the Court may also order a re-trial. The Attorney General, who is the prosecutor before all the Superior Courts, cannot appeal from a verdict of acquittal or against the sentence passed. The Court also hears appeals by the accused and by the Attorney General from decisions on preliminary pleas and from decisions on pleas regarding the admissibility of evidence.

This Court, when formed by one judge, hears appeals from judgments delivered by the Court of Magistrates as a Court of Criminal Judicature. In this case the person convicted can also appeal in all cases, whether against conviction or against the sentence passed. The Attorney General's right of appeal from these judgments is limited in most cases to appeals on points of law, though increasingly, particular laws are conferring a general right of appeal to the Attorney General in connection with some offences.

The Commercial Court

This Court takes cognizance of all causes of a commercial nature or relating to commerce exceeding the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court. It is exclusively competent to take cognizance of all proceedings in bankruptcy as well as all causes relating to marine insurance, collisions of vessels and salvage.

Amendments have been enacted by Parliament to have the Commercial Court amalgamated with the Civil Court. The Minister of Justice will decide the effective date of this amendment by Government Notice

The Civil Court: First and Second Halls

The First Hall takes cognizance of all causes of a civil nature exceeding the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Court. Of particular importance is its taking cognizance of all applications for redress in respect of violations of the constitutionally

protected human rights, as well as Fundamental Human Rights protected by the European Convention which was made part of the Laws of Malta by Act XIV of 1987.

The Second Hall is a Court of voluntary jurisdiction in matters of a civil nature, such as the tutorship of minors, adoption, the interdiction and incapacitations of persons of unsound mind, the opening of successions, and the confirmation of testamentary executors.

The Magistrates' Courts

These Courts, which are always composed of a single Magistrate, exercise both civil and criminal jurisdiction.

The Magistrates' Court for Malta, in the civil field, has only an inferior jurisdiction of first instance, in general limited to claims not exceeding two hundred and fifty Maltese Liri. In the criminal field, the Court has a twofold jurisdiction, namely as a Court of Criminal Judicature for the trial of offences falling within its jurisdiction, and as a Court of Inquiry in respect of offences falling within the jurisdiction of the Criminal Court. In the first case, the Court is competent to try all offences punishable with up to six months imprisonment. In the second case, it conducts the preliminary inquiry in respect of indictable offences and transmits the relative record to the Attorney General. If there is no objection from the accused, the Attorney General may send back for decision by the Court of Magistrates cases punishable with up to ten years imprisonment.

Amendments recently enacted by Parliament have established a higher limit for claims to be heard by the Magistrates' Court in their Civil jurisdiction. The upper limit has been raised to one thousand Maltese Liri. Money claims of one hundred Maltese Liri or less will be decided by the newly established Small Claims Tribunal. Again it is within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Justice to decide on a date when these laws should become effective.

The Gozo Courts

The Magistrates' Court for Gozo in the civil field, has a two-fold jurisdiction, an inferior jurisdiction comparable to that exercised by its counterpart Court in Malta, and a superior

jurisdiction, both civil and commercial, in respect of causes which in Malta are cognizable by the First Hall of the Civil Court and by the Commercial Court.

Within the limits of its territorial jurisdiction, this Court has also the powers of a Court of voluntary jurisdiction.

As an appellate Court, composed of three Magistrates, it has also a twofold jurisdiction, namely an inferior jurisdiction and a superior jurisdiction in respect of appeals from judgments given by the Court, composed of one Magistrate, in its inferior and superior jurisdiction respectively, in the latter case (saving agreement between the parties) subject to a limit of five hundred Maltese Liri.

Small Claims Tribunal

The Small Claims Tribunal has been set up recently by an Act of Parliament. The Act provides for the appointment of an adjudicator who will decide these cases on principles of equity and the law. Proceedings are summary and there is little or no formality of proceedings. The intention is to have claims of one hundred or less Maltese Liri decided in one sitting. The adjudicator may be a lawyer with at least one year practice or a Legal Procurator with three years practice. Sittings of this Tribunal may be held in Malta or in Gozo.

Commissioners of Justice

A small number of infringements of the law such as minor traffic offences (parking in a non-parking area, etc.), illegal disposal of litter, non-compliance with the Education Act etc. have been depenalised and are heard by Commissioners of Justice. The Commissioners are selected from among persons holding a law degree and given a three year appointment. As the offences have been depenalised the case may be decided even in the absence of the accused.

The Juvenile Court

The Juvenile Courts Ordinance (Cap 71) was repealed by Act XXIV of 1980. The Juvenile Court is now provided for by Act XXIV of 1980 as subsequently amended by Act XI of 1985. It consists of a Magistrate sitting in a place different from that of the ordinary Courts of criminal jurisdiction and hearing charges against, or other proceedings relating to, persons under the age of sixteen years. In the proceedings before it, the Court is assisted by two persons, one of whom is a woman, whom the Court may consult in any case for its decision, such consultation to take place in open Court. The Court is not, however, bound to abide by the opinion of the assistants. Sittings are at present being held at the "Ċentru Hidma Soċjali" in Santa Venera.

Independence of the Judiciary

The Judiciary (Judges and Magistrates) and the Attorney General enjoy security of tenure and are independent from the other organs of the State.

The Constitution provides for this independence through its various provisions. ■

APPENDIX V

Malta's Parliaments since 1921

1921		1953	
Unione Politica Maltese	14	Partit Nazzjonalista	18
Constitutional Party	7	Malta Workers' Party	3
Labour Party	7	Malta Labour Party	19
Partito Democratico Nazionalista	4		
1924		1955	
Unione Politica Maltese	10	Malta Labour Party	23
Constitutional Party	10	Partit Nazzjonalista	17
Labour Party	7		
Partito Democratico Nazionalista	5	1962	
1927		Partit Nazzjonalista	26 ²
Constitutional Party	15	Malta Labour Party	16
Partit Nazzjonalista ¹	14	Democratic Nationalist Party	3
Labour Party	3	Christian Workers Party	4
		Progressive Constitutional Party	1
1932		1966	
Partit Nazzjonalista	21	Partit Nazzjonalista	28
Constitutional Party	10	Malta Labour Party	22
Labour Party	1		
1939		1971	
Constitutional Party	6	Malta Labour Party	29 ³
Partit Nazzjonalista	3	Partit Nazzjonalista	26
Labour Party	1		
1945		1976	
Malta Labour Party	9	Malta Labour Party	34
Jones's Party	1	Partit Nazzjonalista	31
1947		1981	
Malta Labour Party	24	Malta Labour Party	34
Partit Nazzjonalista	7	Partit Nazzjonalista	31
Democratic Action Party	4	1987	
Gozo Party	3	Partit Nazzjonalista	35 ⁴
Jones's Party	2	Malta Labour Party	33 ⁵
		Independent	1 ⁵
1950		1992	
Partit Nazzjonalista	12	Partit Nazzjonalista	34
Christian Workers' Party	11	Malta Labour Party	29 ⁶
Malta Labour Party	11	Independent	2 ⁶
Constitutional Party	4		
Democratic Action Party	1		
Independent	1		
1951			
Partit Nazzjonalista	15		
Christian Workers' Party	7		
Malta Labour Party	14		
Constitutional Party	4		

1. Formed following a merger between the Partito Democratico Nazionalista and Unione Politica Maltese.
2. Following the move of one MP from the Christian Workers Party to the Partit Nazzjonalista.
3. Following the move of one MP from the Partit Nazzjonalista to the Malta Labour Party.
4. Following the addition of four seats to give the Party winning a plurality of votes a Parliamentary majority.
5. From October 1989 as one MP was expelled from the Malta Labour Party but retained his seat independently.
6. From May 1995 as two Malta Labour Party MPs resigned the Party Whip.

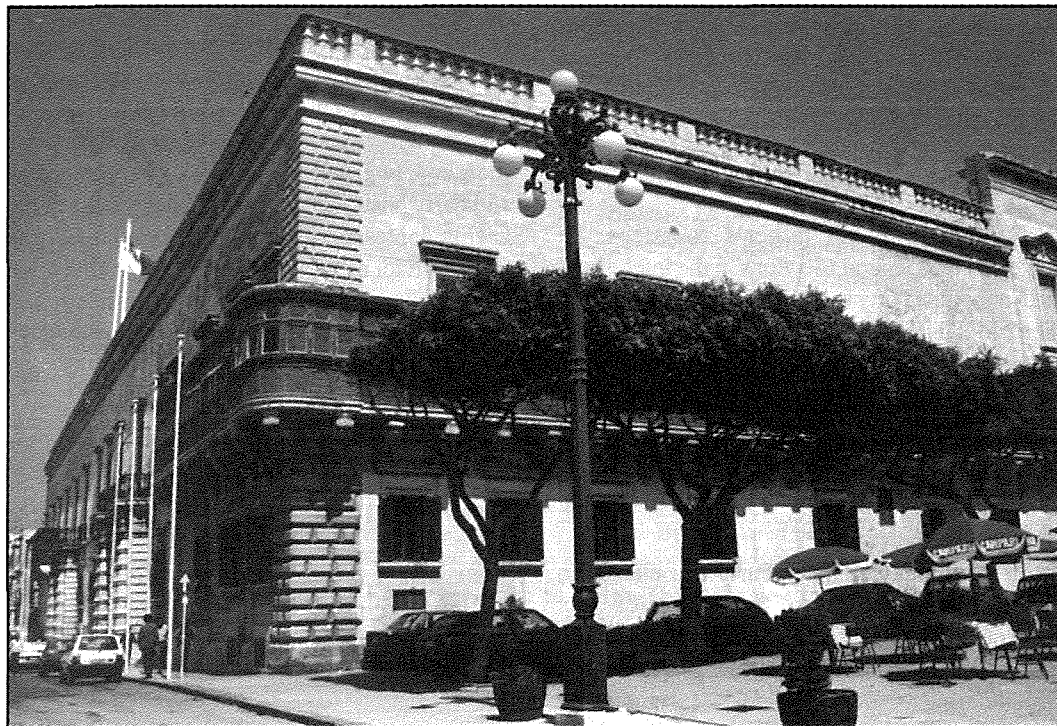
APPENDIX VI

1994 Local Council Elections

	First Preference Votes	Final Count of Votes	Councillors	Mayors	Deputy Mayors	Local Councils Association
Partit Nazzjonalista	43.9%	44.2%	200	34	20	4
Alternattiva Demokratika	3.3%	2.4%	8	—	1	—
Other Parties ¹	6.6%	6.1%	28	6	1	—
Independents	46.2%	42.8%	189	27	8	2
Non transferable votes	—	4.5%				
Total	100.0%	100.0%	425	67	30	6 ²
Percentage Voting	68.3%					

1. As defined in the Local Councils Act, 1993.

2. Elected by all Local Councillors through a system of proportional representation (single transferable vote).



The Palace, Valletta (Office of The President).

APPENDIX VII

Biographies

The President of Malta Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici



Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, son of Carmelo and Maria nee' Ross, was born in Cospicua on 8 November 1932. He was educated at the Lyceum and the Royal University of Malta. He graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1952 and as a Doctor of Laws in 1955. As a lawyer, Dr Mifsud Bonnici practised in all the Law Courts of Malta. On 3 May 1959 he married Gemma nee' Bianco. They have three children: Carmelo, Anton and Jeanne-Pia.

Following in his father's footsteps, he contested the General Elections in the interests of the Nationalist Party in 1966. He was elected from the 2nd District which comprised Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Senglea, Kalkara and Fgura. He has been re-elected in all subsequent General Elections. For fifteen years (1972-1987) he was the Nationalist Party's spokesman for Education. In 1977 he was also elected President of the Party's General and Administrative Councils.

In 1987 the Nationalist Party was elected to Government and Dr Mifsud Bonnici was appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Education. His portfolio included Education, Environment, Broadcasting, Culture, Youth, Museums and Sport. In 1990 he became Minister of Education and the Interior. Following the 1992 elections Dr Mifsud Bonnici was appointed Minister of Education and Human Resources.

As a Member of Parliament, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici took an active interest in the updating of Malta's legislation. He was a member of numerous

Select Committees including the Committee set up to draft the Constitutional changes that declared Malta a Republic.

As a Minister, Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici worked on the drafting of important legislation such as the Education Act, the Environment Act, the National Archives Act and the Occupational Health and Safety Promotion Act.

Notwithstanding his commitments, Dr Mifsud Bonnici is a prolific writer. His articles have appeared in various newspapers and some of them were published in two books: *Il-Linja it-Tajba - L-Aħjar Artikli ta' Dottor Ugo Mifsud Bonnici* and *Biex il-Futur Rega' Beda*. He also spent some years as editor of a literary magazine *Malta Letterarja*.

The Prime Minister Dr Edward Fenech-Adami

A graduate in arts and laws from the University of Malta, Edward Fenech-Adami, born in 1934, is the son of a customs officer who was a one-time emigrant to the USA.

He established a reputation in the Christian Democratic Nationalist Party from the early sixties as a reserved but determined and capable constituency official and Member of Parliament. These qualities endeared him to the Party's grass roots and, after serving in various Parliamentary and Party posts, he emerged the net winner in the keenly contested election to replace Dr George Borg-Olivier as Party Leader in 1977. Under his direction, younger, more open-minded and socially-alert elements were encouraged to associate themselves with the Party.

Dr Fenech-Adami's style of leadership immediately upset the governing Labour Party



and in the first General Election after he assumed the leadership, his Party obtained an absolute majority of votes, giving it its largest measure of support since the Second World War. A gerrymandering exercise, however, cheated the Nationalists of power in 1981 and it had to be another five long, disheartening and bitterly-contested years before Dr Fenech-Adami won the premiership, again with 51% of the votes cast. Dr Fenech-Adami led his Nationalist Party to another electoral victory in February 1992, winning 52% of the national vote. With a third successive mandate he is set to make Malta a full member of the European Union.

Charting a middle course and emphasising a social market economy, Prime Minister Fenech-Adami has avoided confrontation and depolarised society, sometimes running the risk of alienating his supporters who had opposed the idiosyncratic local version of socialism during the sixteen years between 1971 and 1987. A good debater, Dr Fenech-Adami has rapidly assumed a statesmanlike stature and has seen that the country's legacies of previous years have been left behind.

Dr Fenech-Adami's Government has moved Malta away from the inward-looking import-substitution economy it found in 1987. The country today stands out in Europe as a vibrant centre of international trade; a centre which is expanding its role as a regional industrial, maritime and financial hub.

The Chief Justice Dr Joseph Said Pullicino

Dr Joseph Said Pullicino was appointed Chief Justice in 1995. Born in 1937, he was educated at the Lyceum and the University of Malta. He graduated as a Doctor of Laws in 1961. Dr Said Pullicino who had served on various Government Commissions was appointed judge on 14th November 1990 presiding (*inter alia*) over constitutional cases involving human rights. Presently he is Malta's representative on the Council of Europe's Venice Commission for Democracy through Law. The Chief Justice is the son of John Said Pullicino, a former Clerk of the House of Representatives, and Elda neé Pace. He is married to Geraldine neé Micallef and they have a daughter, Lara.

The Speaker Dr Lawrence Gonzi

A nephew of the late Archbishop Michael Gonzi, Dr Lawrence Gonzi (1953 -) became Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1988. A lawyer from the industrial harbour area, Dr Gonzi is a former President of the Malta Catholic Action and has been active in helping the handicapped and prison inmates. His doctoral thesis, submitted in 1975, was on the subject of unlawful assembly. He is also a keen sportsman. His modest but firm bearing has helped calm frayed tempers in the House and avoid unnecessary squabbling.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Prof Guido de Marco

Professor Guido de Marco (1931-) was first elected to Parliament in 1966. He has been Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1990 and Deputy Prime Minister since 1987. Between 1987 and 1990 he was Minister of the Interior and Justice. In 1990-91 he served as President of the 45th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

A graduate in arts and laws from the University of Malta he was appointed lecturer in the Law Faculty at the University in 1967 and later became Professor of Criminal Law. He is a former Secretary General of the Nationalist Party and has been its Deputy Leader since 1977. He was a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for almost twenty years.

The Leader of the Opposition Dr Alfred Sant

After the Malta Labour Party's electoral defeat in February 1992, Dr Alfred Sant (1948 -) became leader of the Opposition, succeeding Dr Carmelo Mifsud-Bonnici. An economist, he studied and worked in Malta as well as in France, Belgium and the United States. He obtained a Doctorate in Industrial Leadership from Harvard University in Boston, United States. For some time he was Executive Deputy Chairman of the Malta Development Corporation. In 1982, he was appointed Chairman of the Malta Labour Party's Information Department. In 1984 he was elected President of the Labour Party, a post he occupied until 1987 when he was co-opted to the House of Representatives.

APPENDIX VIII

Some available publications on Maltese historical, political and economic development, published in Malta

- 1995 Charles Briffa, *The Illustrious Blitz* (Progress Press)
Carmel J. Farrugia, *Polluted Politics, background to the deportation of Maltese Nationals in 1942* (Midsea Books)
- 1994 Richard England, *Sagri Luoghi* (Libreria Amalfi)
Stephen Spiteri, *Fortress of the Cross*, (Heritage Interpretation Services)
Dominic Cutajar (Ed), *Contemporary Sacred Art in Malta* (Cathedral Museum)
Henry Frendo and Oliver Friggieri, *Malta Cultural Identity* (Ministry of Youth and the Arts)
- 1993 Henry Frendo (Ed.), *Maltese Political Development 1798-1964, Selected Readings* (Ministry of Education and Human Resources)
Brigadier A. Samut-Tagliaferro, *The Coastal Fortifications of Gozo and Comino* (Midsea Publications)
Emmanuel Azzopardi, *Malta – The History of the Coinage* (Said Publications)
Lino Bugeja/Mario Buhagiar/Stanley Fiorini, *Birgu, A Maltese Maritime City* (Malta University Services Ltd.)
Nicholas de Piro, *The Sedan Chair in Malta – Is-Suggetta* (Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti)
Quentin Hughes, *Malta, A Guide to the Fortifications* (Said Publications)
V. Mallia-Milanes, *Hospitaller Malta 1530–1798* (Mireva)
- 1992 Jimmy Farrugia, *Antique Maltese Domestic Silver* (Said Publications)
Joseph C. Sammut, *From Scudo to Sterling* (Said Publications)
Roger Ellul-Micallef/Stanley Fiorini, *Collected Papers* (University of Malta)
- 1991 Joseph M. Pirota, *Fortress Colony: The Final Act* Vols. I & II (Studia Editions)
Henry Frendo, *Party Politics in a Fortress Colony: The Maltese Experience* (Midsea Publications, 2nd Edition)
- 1990 Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez, *Paintings at the National Museum of Fine Arts* (Said Publications)
Charles Cini, *Gozo – The Roots of An Island* (Said Publications)
- 1989 Henry Frendo, *Malta's Quest for Independence* (Valletta Publishing Co.)
M. Frendo and J. Bonnici, *Malta in the European Community* (Chamber of Commerce)
A.H.J. Prins, *In Peril of the Sea* (Said International)
T. Cortis (Ed.), *L-Identità Kulturali ta' Malta* (Department of Information, Valletta)
Carmel Testa, *The Life and Times of Grand Master Pinto* (Midsea Books)
- 1988 Lino Briguglio, *The Maltese Economy* (David Moore)
V. Mallia Milanes (Ed.), *British Colonial Experience* (Mireva)
- 1987 E.P. Delia, *Focus on Aspects of the Maltese Economy* (COPE)
J.M. Pirota, *Fortress Colony* (Studia Editions)
- 1986 Adrianus Koster (Ed), *Lord Strickland* Vol. 2 (Vol. 1 – 1984) (Progress Press)
- 1985 Godfrey Wettinger, *The Jews of Malta in the Late Middle Ages* (Midsea Books)