



SOVEREIGN MILITARY
HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM
OF RHODES AND OF MALTA



HMEH THE 77th PRINCE AND GRAND MASTER FRA' ANGELO DE MOJANA

PALAZZO MALTA
ROMA - VIA CONDOTTI, 68

SPECIAL REVIEW

COMMEMORATING

THE STATE VISIT TO MALTA

BY

His Most Eminent Highness
The Prince and Grand Master
Fra' Angelo de Mojana

Thursday, 13th June to Monday 17th June 1968

HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER WITH MALTA

Because of its position and wealth of natural harbours, from earliest times Malta has attracted many powerful nation to her shores. The Phoenicians were the earliest known foreigners to occupy the Island. They were followed by the Carthaginians who remained until 218 B.C. when they were ousted by the Romans. A memorable event during the Roman domination was the shipwreck of St. Paul on the Island in A.D. 60 while on his voyage to stand trial in Rome. Then came the Arabs, Normans, the German Swabians, the Aragonese and finally the Castellians from Spain.

In 1530 the Knights of St. John and their Grand Master Fra' Philippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam, who had been driven from Rhodes by the Turks, received a feudal grant from King Charles V of Sicily and took up residence on the islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino. These islands remained their sovereign home for almost three centuries.

Malta's grandeur is owed, very largely, to the Knights of St. John. Valletta, the capital was built by the French Grand Master of the Order, Jean de la Valette, after the epic siege of 1565. The Co-cathedral of St. John, formerly the conventual church of the Knights, is the most important monument on the island and its glorious interior radiates the most vivid impression of the noble cause for which the Knights and the islanders together valiantly fought.

In 1572 the fleet of the Order took part in the famous battle of Lepanto resulting in the total destruction of the forces of Islam. The seafaring activities of the Order were unceasing during the 17th and 18th centuries; among outstanding feats was the brilliant action by the naval squadron of the Order in 1656 at the Dardanelles, under the leadership of the future Grand Master, Fra' Gregorio Carafa, which effectively contributed to the victory of the Venetian fleet.

During the period 1530 to 1798 Malta became the bastion of European and Christian civilisation. In recognition of the international prestige acquired by the Order, honours and titles were conferred upon Grand Masters by Emperors, Kings and by the Holy See.

The French Revolution in 1789 was followed by an aggressive military government under General Napoleon Bonaparte, who besieged the Island in 1798 and on June 10th captured Valletta and occupied Malta. The French were subsequently driven out by the British.

At the Treaty of Amiens in 1802 it was agreed that Malta should be returned to the Knights but this treaty was never ratified and the British ruled the Island until it became an independent nation within the Commonwealth in 1964. In June 1966 the Knights of St. John renewed their contact with Malta by appointing an ambassador.

The State visit of Grand Master Fra' Angelo de Mojana and his Knights in June 1968 is thus, in every sense, an event of historic importance.

THE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO MALTA

His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Angelo de Mojana

His Excellency Bailiff Grand Cross of Obedience
Quintin Jermy Gwyn, Grand Chancellor

Her Excellency Mrs. Gwyn

His Excellency Knight of Justice
Count Gian Carlo Di Maniago,
Receiver of the Common Treasury

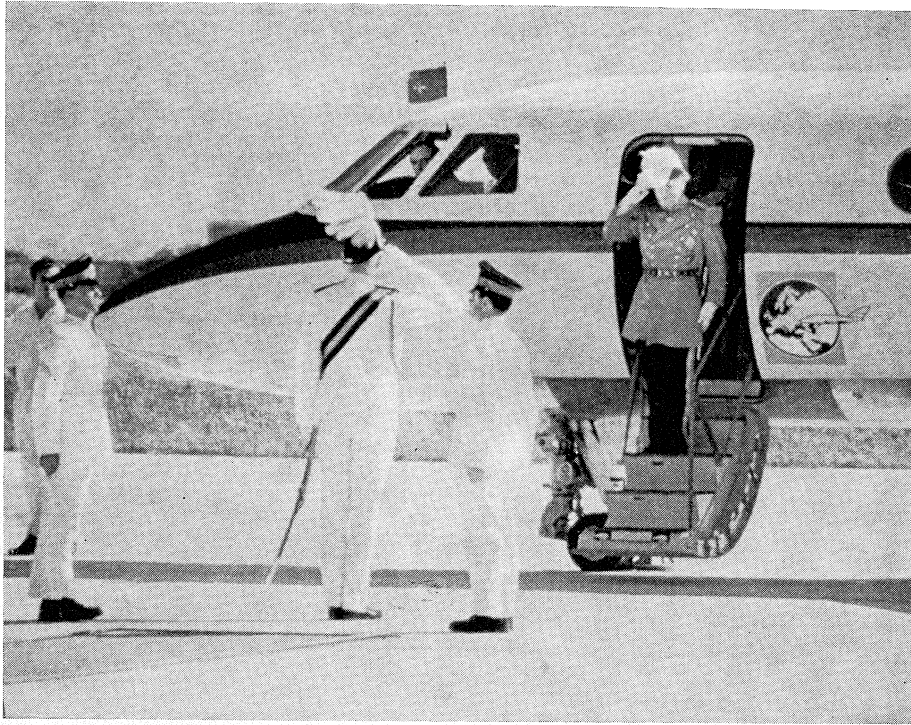
His Excellency Venerable Bailiff Fra' Oberto Pallavicini
Master of Ceremonies

His Excellency Knight of Honour and Devotion
Ambassador Raimondo dei Marchesi Giustiniani
Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Knight of Justice Novice
Count don Gherardo Hercolani Fava Simonetti
Protocol Secretary

Embassy to Malta of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

His Excellency Dr. Dino Marrajani, Ambassador
Signora Marrajani



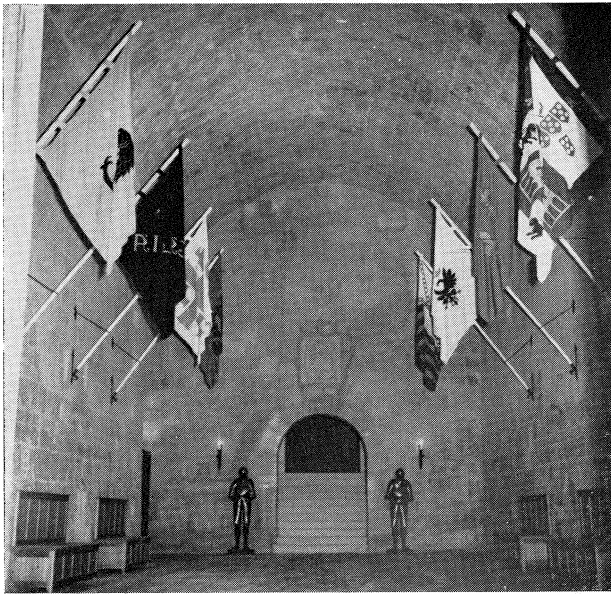
After 170 years the red banner with the white cross of the Knights of Malta flew once more from the ramparts and palaces of VALLETTA in honour of the five day state visit of the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

His Most Eminent Highness FRA ANGELO DE MOJANA, the Head of the Order, arrived in a special aircraft with his suite.



The Grand Master was greeted at the airport by Governor-General, Sir MAURICE DORMAN, the Prime Minister, Dr. GIORGIO BORG OLIVIER, and by Archbishop GONZI. His Highness was accorded all honours due to a Head of State and for the duration of his visit he and his entourage were guests of the Governor-General at the palace of San Anton built by earlier Knights.

The Correspondent from Rome of the London "Times" in an article entitled "Malta Today Sees New Aim of Ancient Order", observed: "The Malta Government is aware of the architectural and artistic legacy of the knights. It will be beguiling to have the knights back, however briefly, in their full panoply to people the places which they built for themselves. The modern requirements of the Order and of Malta will also have their place".



St. John Cavalier.

The Grand Master with the Sovereign Order's Ambassador to Malta, H.E. Dr. Dino Marrajeni.

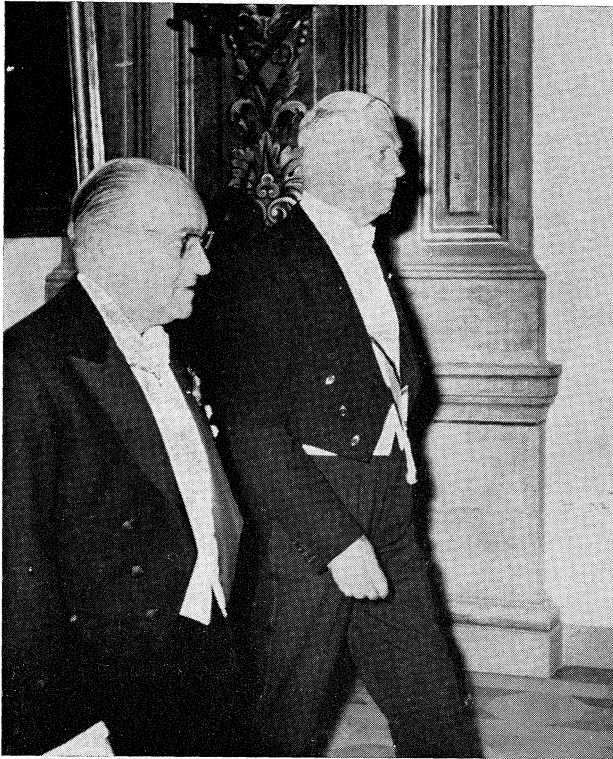


The Sovereign Order's embassy at Malta is appropriately housed in the great bastion of St. John Cavalier once part of the defences of Valletta. The Times of Malta commented: "The visit of the Grand Master is an historic event for our island, not of a sovereign trying to claim lost territory but of a head of state with whom particularly friendly relations exist".

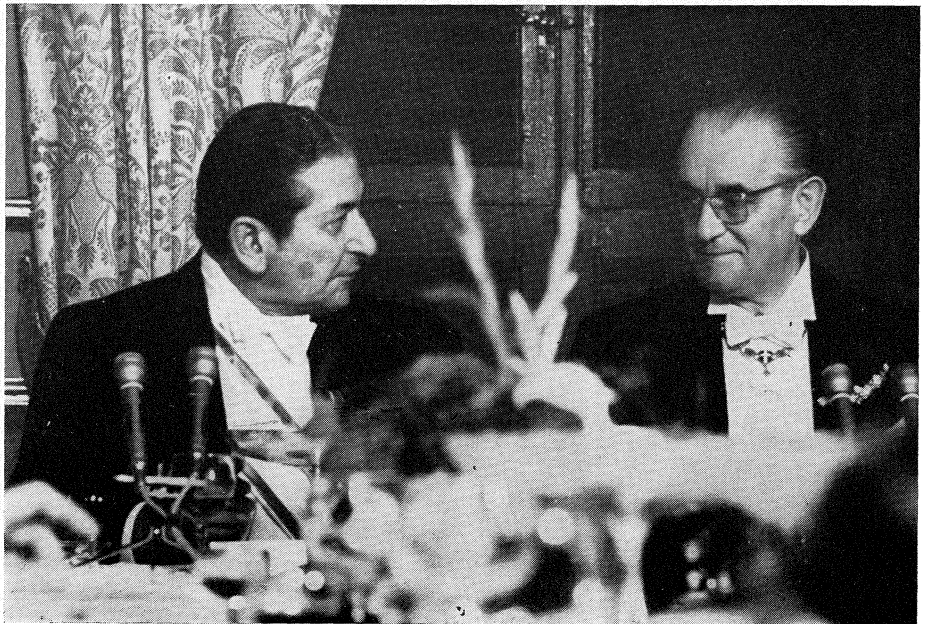
On the same note, the Prime Minister ended his official Address of Welcome from the Throne Room of the Valletta Palace with the words: "The Maltese continue to nourish an affection for the Order with which the name of Malta is associated and it is our most fervent wish that your visit will serve to strengthen the relations between the Order and my people". During the visit the Grand Master conferred the Grand Cross of Merit on the Malta Prime Minister.



Informal gathering in the Yellow Room of the Valletta Palace after the official Address of Welcome



State Banquet at the Valletta Palace
H.E. the Governor-General with
H.M.E.H. the Grand Master



The Grand Master in conversation with the
Prime Minister during the State Banquet

The BBC Mediterranean Correspondent, who covered this historic visit for radio and television, in one of his commentaries said, "In a crowded visit many places closely associated with the Knights were visited and there was a moment of deep emotion when Prince Angelo de Mojana laid a wreath at the tomb of his illustrious predecessor Grandmaster de la Valette, the hero of the siege of Malta who defeated Turkist invaders in 1565".



At the Tomb of La Valette

"As well as contemplating past glories the Grand Master inaugurated a blood bank, inspected two dispensaries and a diabetic clinic and visited industries. Against the unsettled background of Malta's economy it was appropriate that the Knights should also turn their attention to the more practical problems of Independent Malta".



Visit to Messrs Cardona
leather goods factory



Inspecting the
laboratory at the
brewery of Messrs.
Simmonds-Farsons-Cisk



At St. Paul's Home of
the Little Sisters of the
Poor, Hamrun.

Numerous banquets and receptions were held in splendid palaces which were once the homes of the Knights and which today still give dignity and lustre to official occasions.

Political and religious leaders, diplomats and notable citizens were presented to the Grand Master and his suite.



The Grand Master at St. Paul's Bay



H.E. the Grand Chancellor and Mrs Gwyn receiving guests

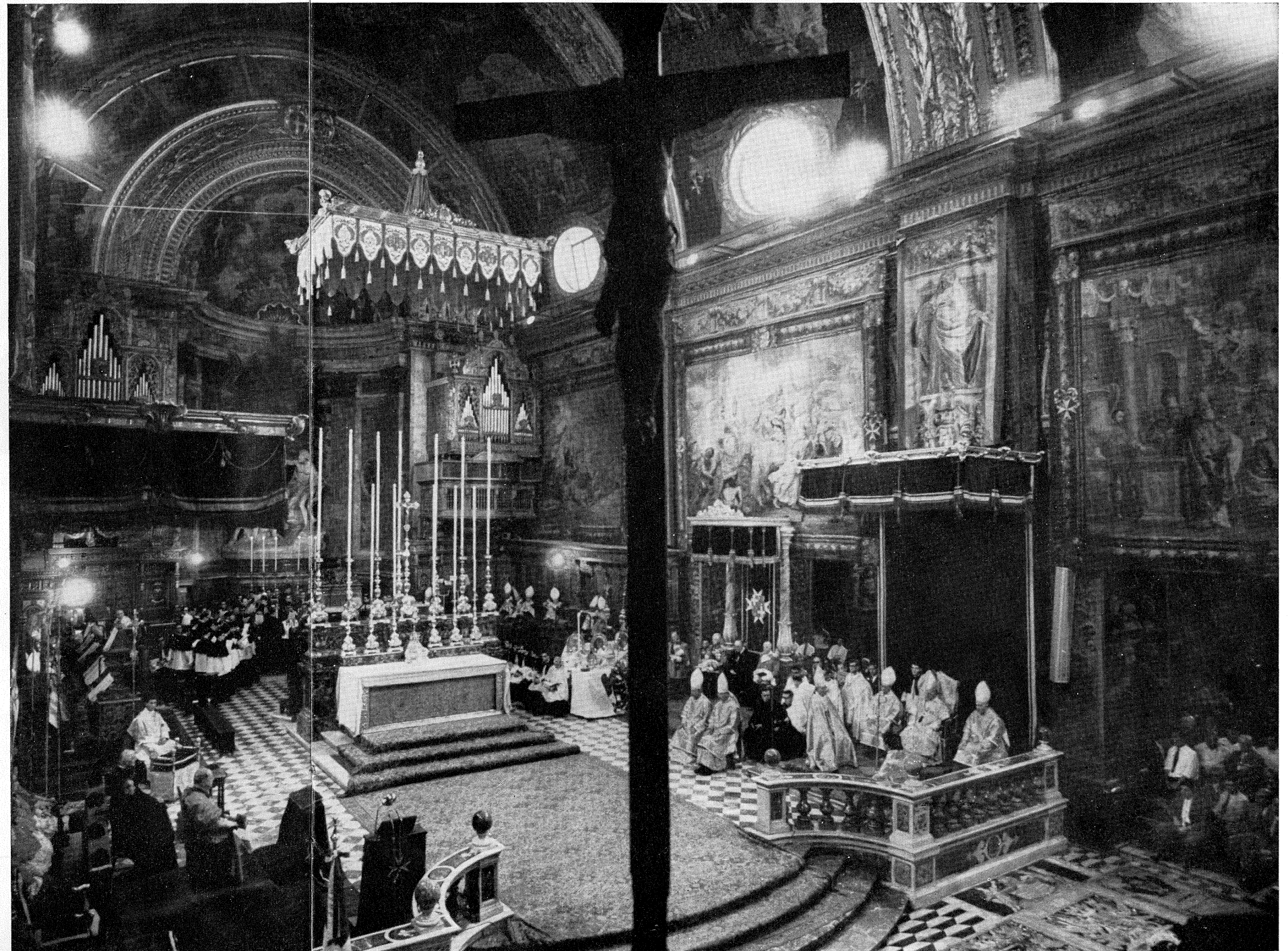
Reception
at Verdala
Palace



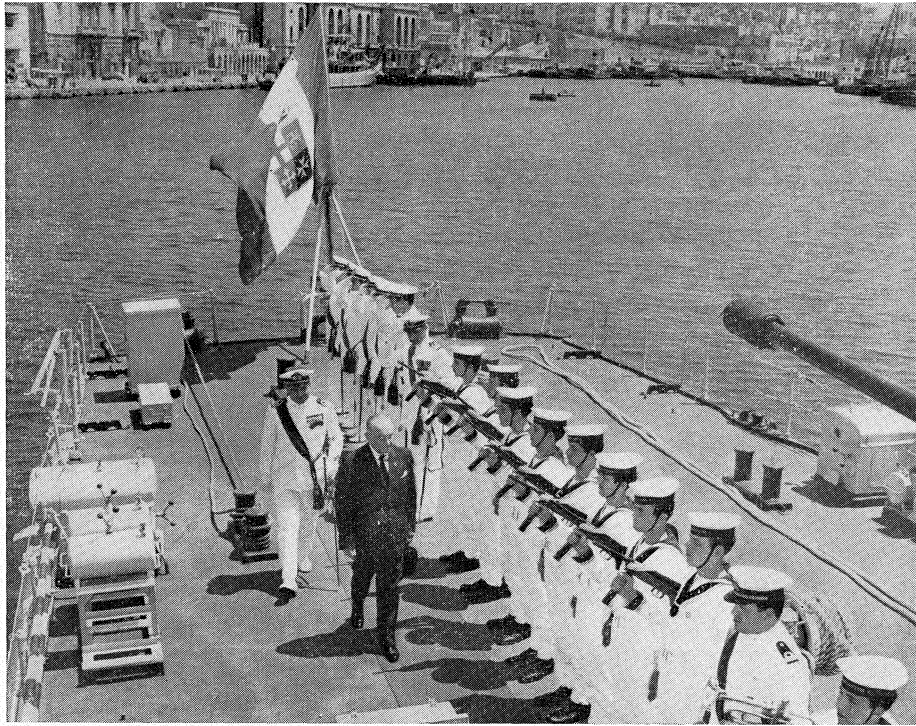


Attended by Knights in ceremonial and ecclesiastical dress, the Grand Master in Renaissance robes of black velvet and silk with the eight-pointed white Maltese cross on his breast, took his place on a special throne near the altar.

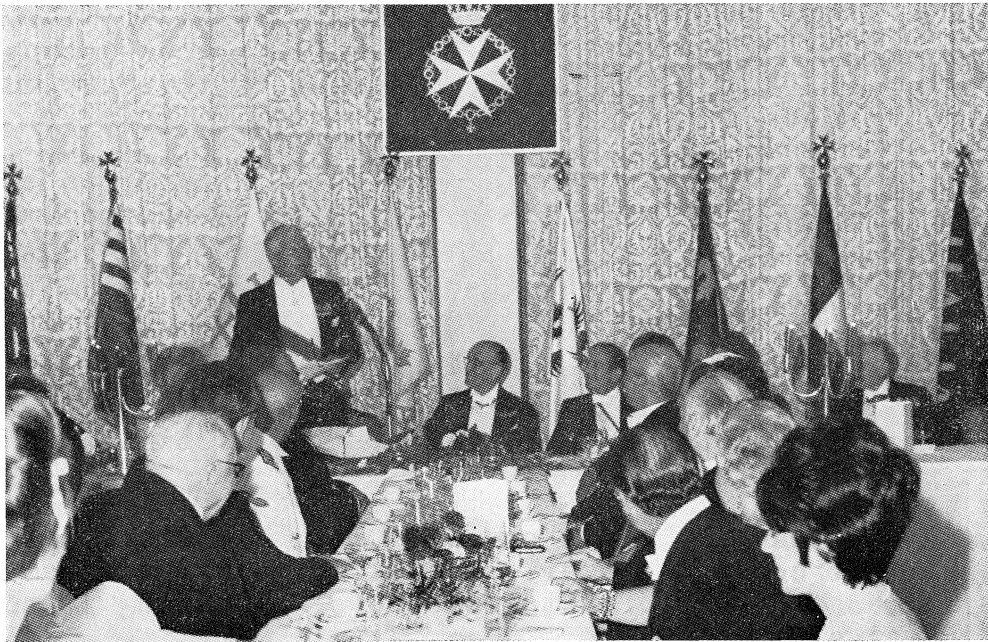
Under the frescoed vaults of the richly decorated St. John's Co-cathedral, Archbishop GONZI of Malta celebrated Pontifical high mass in the presence of Papal Nuncio Archbishop O'CONNOR and many other dignitaries.



With the tourist season in full swing the Grand Master and his party set sail in an Italian frigate, flagship of the NATO Forces, for the neighbouring island of GOZO to see many other links with the Order.



Sir MAURICE DORMAN, the Governor General, who throughout the State visit was able to inform the Grand Master of the special opportunities which this new Commonwealth country has before it, seized the occasion to ask for the Order's special help. At a banquet given by the Grand Master in his Host's honour, Sir Maurice said, "having as great an interest in the future well-being of the ordinary people of these islands, as well as in the historic memorials of the past, there is one simple service you can do us. You have many influential people in your ranks and access to many prominent industrialists; tell them that here is an island with a skilled, adaptable labour force, it is less expensive and more efficient to take the factory to the worker rather than to take the worker to the factory". The Governor General also referred to the great project of the St. John Exhibition of 1970 to be mounted by the Council of Europe in the State Rooms of the Valletta Palace and suggested that this might be a time when members of the Order throughout the world would find a pilgrimage to one of the Order's previous homes most rewarding.



The Grand Master and his fellow Knights took a friendly farewell of the Islands after five days in which they made, in the words of the Prime Minister, "A sentimental journey".



ROMA, 12th August, 1968

VIA CONDOTTI - PALAZZO MALTA

GRAN CANCELLIERE

With this special Bulletin commemorating the State Visit of His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master to Malta, I take the opportunity to greet you as new Grand Chancellor.

The recent State visit to Malta was an historical occasion of great importance not only in re-establishing links with the past but by presenting a challenge to each one of us.

I would, most particularly, like to draw your attention to the words of the Governor General, recorded on the previous page.

In the same spirit I ask each Member of the Order to consider if there is a way in which he, or those concerned with him in industry, tourism or international affairs can co-operate with the courageous people of these Islands in the development of their economy and resources.

The Grand Magistry in Rome or the Sovereign Order's Embassy at St. John's Cavalier, Valletta, will be glad to hear from anyone who may be interested in examining investment or development possibilities.

As modern members of an ancient Order the tasks and opportunities that confront us are very different from those that our predecessors had to meet, but the same guiding principle of service remains unchanged.

Yours sincerely,

Quintin Jermy Gwyn



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ALLIED NAVAL FORCES,
SOUTHERN EUROPE.