

A HISTORIC MEETING BETWEEN TWO 'BELAND' SOCIETIES

Beland Band invited to play in Germany

Sunday April 14th, 1991 will go down in the annals of the Beland Band Club of Zejtun as a historic day. The Beland society welcomed for the first time at its club the President and Committee of the **Otto von Bylandt cultural society of Rheydt in Monchengladbach**. Two cultural societies from Malta and Germany bearing the same name 'Bylandt' 'Beland', started an era of friendship and cooperation in the cultural sphere. This memorable occasion was made possible through the untiring efforts of **Mr. W. Xerri**, an Englishman, whose father hailed from Zejtun. The Otto von Bylandt society has its seat at the **Rheydt** castle, which once belonged to the Von Bylandt family.

The German group accompanied by their President **Dr. H. Schurhoff Goeters** and **Dr. Wolfgang Lohr** were given a rousing welcome at the Beland Club. The Beland Band under the direction of its bandmaster **Mro. F. Mercieca** played the German and Maltese national anthems and afterwards entertained the distinguished visitors to a short musical programme.

In his welcoming speech the Club's President **H.E. Dr. A. Cachia Zammit**, stressed about the importance of this event to the club and that he was sure this occasion will be the start of an era of close cultural relationship between these two societies.

In his reply the president of the Otto von Bylandt, **Dr. H. Schurhoff Goeters** said that he and his committee were struck by the very warm and cordial reception. They thought that theirs was the only Bylandt society, until they found that in Malta existed another Beland society much older and very much established in the musical sphere. Another speech was delivered by **Dr. M. Frendo** as Parliamentary Secretary for Youth and Culture, who while congratulating these two cultural societies on this occasion, suggested that they should embark on joint cultural activities such as youth exchanges between young members. Then both Presidents and **Dr. Frendo** exchanged gifts. Also present was the German ambassador to Malta **Dr. Gottfried Pagenstart**. A reception followed.



The German Ambassador to Malta H.E. Dr. Pagenstart addressing the guests.

At a farewell dinner attended by both committee members, **Dr. H. Schurhoff Goeters**, President of the Otto von Bylandt society, **invited the Beland Band to go and play in Germany at the official reopening of the Rheydt castle**, which at the moment is undergoing repairs and redecoration. On behalf of the Beland Band Soci-

ety **Dr. Cachia Zammit** thanked **Dr. H. Schurhoff Goeters** and his society for the invitation extended to the Beland band and said that as a result of this visit the committee has unanimously agreed that as from now on the President of the Otto von Bylandt society will be **de facto** the **Honorary President** of the Beland Band Club.