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Col Dandon, Cabinet Office

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A I S Coltman Esq
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REC'D	23
06 APR 1979	
DESK	

Your reference

Our reference

Date

Mr Ashton
29 March 1979

Dear Sir

pa Italy/Malta 3/4
PZ
5/11

We thought you would like to see the generous message sent to Rear Admiral Cecil by Angelo la Marte, the Italian Chargé. Angelo is a good friend of ours and it is kind of him to write as he has. The problems he alluded to in his letter concern the preremptory dismissal of the Italian Military Mission from Malta. This Mission, much akin to the Specialist Team Royal Engineers which left Malta in November 1977, has contributed a good deal to several infrastructural developments over the past years and has now been given its marching orders in retaliation for Italy's unco-operative attitude to Malta's "need" for economic support after 31 March.

2. When the Italians first had the intimation that they had to be out by 29 March, they thought that by skillful footwork they could delay their departure, perhaps to a more propitious *moment* by which time Mr Mintoff could change his mind. General Poli was sent from Rome for this purpose. He learnt from Lorry Sant that the Italian Mission's departure was in deference to the wishes of Colonel Qadhafi as much as any other reason. No stay of departure was granted and the Mission found to their discomfort that Mr Mintoff's deadline on this occasion was *inm*mutable. I enclose a press cutting which, at the end, gives a glimpse of the Italian Mission's feeling.

Yours ever
Stephen

S E TURNER

led but cancelled its trip to Italy and Malaga returned to Tripoli. Some of the personnel who were on the ship had to find a means of transport returning to Italy.

"Garnata", or her sister "Toletteta", is expected to return to Grand Harbour later week to serve as the entertaining hotel for the Libyans.

A decorative stand put up by the students on the Regional 1, which was destroyed by vandals earlier week, was replaced with a banner on the same day. The banner carries the same message of Libyan students rejoicing in Malta attaining Freedom.

IN GOZO

March 31 at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 1, the program continues with band marches by the St. Joseph Band, Ghajnsielem and La Stella Band. At 9 a.m. Mgr. N. D. Bishop of Gozo, will lead a Pontifical celebration at the Gozo Cathedral in Victoria. At 5 a.m. when the Te Deum is intoned. More band marches will follow with the bandsmen of the Leontine Band who will be accompanied by foreign folkloric groups.

The President of the festivities sub-committee, Mr. Gorg Pisani, will deliver the commemorative speech at 10.45 a.m. followed by Mr. Debonnel's unveiling of a plaque to the Central Secretary for Gozo. Other activities during the day include folk dancing by the foreign participants at 11.15 a.m. and two football matches at the silver Jubilee Ground at 12.15 p.m. and horse races at the Tamet Race Track at 2.30 p.m.

Mexican delegation's mootings

Mr. Augusto Gomez Villanueva, Mexican Ambassador resident in Roma, will be leaving tomorrow after a four-day visit. The Ambassador's delegation is composed of officials from the Joint Ventures Department, Industrial Development Secretariat, General Directorate of Public Investment; Planning and Budgetary Secretariat; Mexican Police Institute; Foreign Trade Ministry; and Embassy officials.

The Mexican delegation has held meetings with officials of the Malta Air Malta, Ministry of Trade and Industry and has also visited the Malta Drydocks and a number of factories.

CINEMA COMPLEX MARCH 1979

Memorable Occasion
Present two great films
by all Movie Fans
Late Night Viewings
NOT MISS

GOJJELL

TOMORROW FRIDAY

10.30 p.m.

KABIR BEDI

Harbour next Sunday at 11 a.m. wearing the flag of the Commander British Forces Malta, Rear Admiral O.N.A. Cecil.

London's departure from Grand Harbour will be preceded by a Nimrod solo-flight past low over Grand Harbour. The Nimrod will be piloted by Air Commodore H.D. Hall, the last Air Commander Malta who will represent the President of the Republic, Dr. Anton Buttigieg, by tipping its wings. The President will be at Fort St. Elmo. The Nimrod will then fly around the island before setting on a course to Britain.

An R.A.F. Squadron No. 203, equipped with Nimrods had been based in Malta for almost six years until a few months ago. Although the unit's main role is to keep watch on the Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean, it carried out several rescue and rescue operations contributing to the safety of vessels and seamen of various nationalities. The Nimrods had also taken a leading part in the rescue of survivors of the small, Maltese, cargo-ship "Queen of Peace".



Col. P. Zamperli holding the silver tray presented to him by Mr. L. Sant yesterday, in the presence of Italian Military Mission officers.

BA EXTRA FLIGHTS TO MALTA

By a Staff Reporter
British Airways will be operating a total of eight extra flights during April to cope with the increased demand for seats to and from London. The flights will be operated on April 7, 21, 28 and 29.

Coach services to Heathrow

The BA coach link between Heathrow Terminal and West London Air Terminal in Cranwell Rd. will discontinue as from next Saturday. But regular and frequent coach services will continue to operate between Heathrow and the BA Terminal at Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria. Alternatively, passengers could head to London's Centre (Piccadilly) through the direct underground network from Heathrow itself, and vice versa.

MARINES' LAST PARADE

The last 130 Royal Marines at Malta will mount the last parade today at H.M.S. St. Angelo. The Parade will form on the quay at Vittoriosa alongside the RFA ship Sir Lancelot at about 9.15

GOZO STAFF

By a Staff Reporter

The service between Malta and Gozo, being run by the Gozo Channel Company, will start operating today when the ferry "Ghaudra", makes her first trip from Sa Maison, Pieta, at 9 a.m. Another trip to Gozo will be operated at 2 p.m. while departures from Gozo will be at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. The price for passengers is 50 cents each way.

A special trip will be operated at 5 p.m. next Saturday to Gozo for Gozitians who wish to attend the March 31 ceremony at Vittoriosa with a return trip to Gozo after the ceremony.

Government's appreciation to Italian Military Mission

By a Staff Reporter

Mr. L. Sant, Minister of Works and Sport, yesterday presented a silver tray to Col. P. Zamperli, Head of the Italian Military Mission in Malta, in appreciation of the Mission's work here. Mr. Sant, who had worked closely with Mission officers on various projects undertaken by his Ministry, said that on behalf of the Government and the people of Malta he wanted to thank them for their contribution in the field of infrastructure during their five-and-a-half years stay

here. The Minister explained to the Italian Military Mission the work of the Maltese Government for peace in the Mediterranean area for Malta to have guarantees from European and Arab countries.

Mr. Sant said he and his friends regretted the departure from Malta of the Italian Mission. He assured that the Maltese workers would remember the days they had worked together. On behalf of the Prime Minister, Mr. Sant then presented Col. Zamperli with a silver tray and an album of photographs depicting members of the Mission at work on various projects. He also presented a book on Malta to each officer.

Col. Pietro and Sigra Jole Zamperli wish to say goodbye to all their friends in Malta and to apologize for not being able to do so personally, due to unforeseen lack of time.

ACCIDENTS

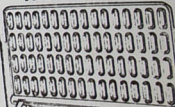
John Vella, 15, of Birkirkara, was injured when, riding a bicycle, he was involved in a collision with a Landrover.

Violet Micallef, 61, of Gzira, was injured when she was hit by a car in Gzira on Tuesday evening.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

Dr. Richard Soller, D.O. (Edn.), F.R.C.S. (Edn.), will be attending the Third International Intra-Ocular Lens Symposium in Los Angeles between April 8 and 12. During his six-week visit to the United States Dr. Soller will be visiting the Oculon Workshop at the University of California in San Francisco and the Ophthalmic Centres at the Ford Hospital in Detroit. He will be accompanied by his wife and two children. Dr. Soller is also a member of the Wily Dubucq, Belgium, Manager Yamaha, Marketing returned to Belgium after leading two groups of Yamaha singing two groups of Yamha singing for their convention in Malta.

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GAMES (DE MALTA)

29/73



AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA

Malta, 27th March 1979

Dear Admiral,

I feel in duty bound to apologise for not attending yesterday night's reception on board the HMS London. Questions very much akin to those you have experienced in recent times have prevented me from doing so.

I take this opportunity, on the eve of your and British Forces's departure from Malta, to express my admiration for the extreme dignity and distinction which have characterized your command-ship under such difficult circumstances and my sadness in seeing the Army, Navy and Air Forces of a friendly and allied Country to leave the shores of this Island. We shall miss you as will - I am sure - a large section of people in Malta.

Cordially yours,

A. La Marte
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

Rear Admiral O.N.A. Cecil
Commander
British Forces

M A L T A