



PRESIDENT BUTTIGIEG leads the two children down after they placed flowers on the monument. Right: fireworks lit up the midnight sky. Below, left: the bastions of the Three Cities festively lit up; centre: Prime Minister Mr. Mintoff and GWU Secretary-



General Mr. George Agius lighting the Eternal Flame. Right: Mr. Mintoff surrounded by Ministers and members of the public watching the ceremony; inset: Mr. Mintoff shakes hand with the British sailor who hauled down the Union Jack.

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 tember 21, 1964, when Malta became independent, had such an event been marked with so much enthusiastic noise, light and fireworks. Certainly not in such a setting, beneath the parish church of St. Lawrence, in Vittoriosa, whose bells pealed at midnight and were answered by all other churches in Malta and Gozo. Apart from the many construction works which opened up the area, so close to the dockyard gates and Fort St. Angelo, for so long the hub of British naval presence in Malta, the scene of the ceremony was lit by thousands of electric bulbs and decorated with bunting.

Only the weather turned sour. From early afternoon, a steady drizzle fell and continued until, later in the evening, as dusk was

## Grand Harbour spectacle

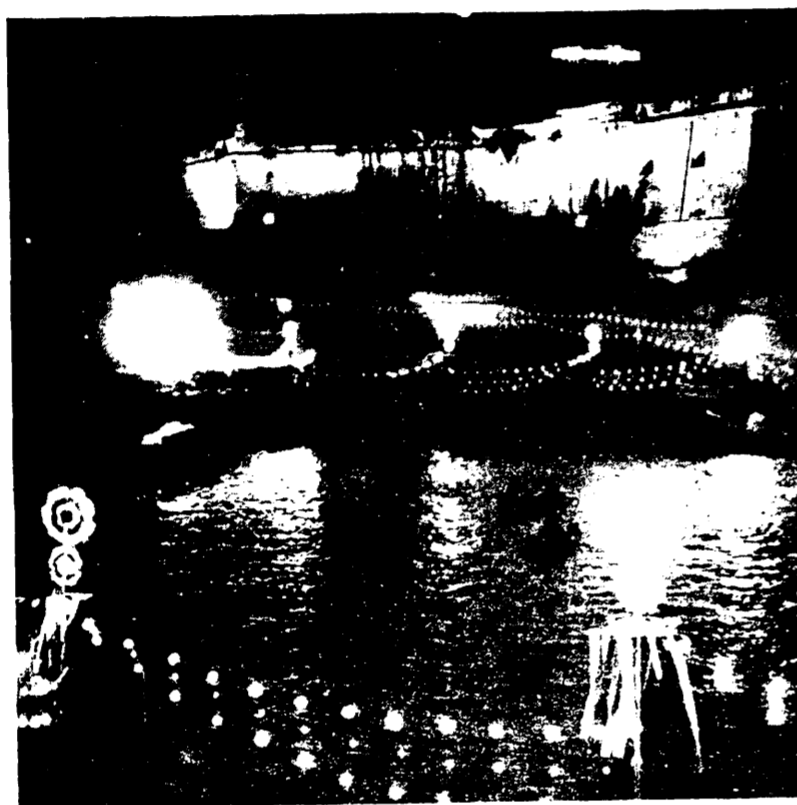
ILLUMINATED and decorated seacraft inside the Grand Harbour yesterday evening provided a splendid setting for the Regatta which had its course from the Customs House to Dockyard Creek.

Those taking part were Cospicua, Vittoriosa, Kalkara, Senglea, Marsa, Marsamxett and Marsaxlokk. The races included the traditional ones for one-oared boats, fancy boats (*Tal-Medajji*, *frejgati*, caiques, two-oared boats, four-oared boats, canoes and other craft. Local bands, dancing and singing foreign groups also took part.

## Regatta results

The following are the results of the Regatta:

**One-oared boats:** 1. Senglea; 2. Vittoriosa; 3. Marsamxett.  
**Fancy boats:** 1. Vittoriosa; 2. Marsamxett; 3. Kalkara.  
**Frejgati:** 1. Senglea; 2. Marsa; 3. Vittoriosa.  
**Two-oared boats:** 1. Marsamxett; 2. Cospicua; 3. Marsa.  
**Caiques:** 1. Senglea; 2. Cospicua; 3. Vittoriosa.  
**Four-oared boats:** 1. Kalkara; 2. Marsamxett; 3. Senglea.



## Gaddafi: "We will stand by you"

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done this because they believed that the future of Malta was the same as that of the Arab people. The two peoples had common Phoenician origins "and it is clear that our enemy is a common enemy". Those who had caused so much damage to Malta were the same people who caused damage in his country.

Why were the Italians, the Germans, the French, the Americans and the British not celebrating with Malta? The Arab people, and particularly the Libyan people, were directly celebrating with Malta and "this is proof of a common future".

Colonel Gaddafi went on to say: "We will stand by you strategically. We do not stand by you during the celebrations only, but all through your life span".

Colonel Gaddafi started his speech by saying that there was no doubt that this "freedom" had been brought about as a result of the work of the Malta Labour Party, under Mr. Mintoff.

The support given by the Libyan people had also led, in one way or another, to the freedom which the Island was celebrating, he said. As the British had left Libya in the month of March, they were also leaving Malta in March. British colonialism had been a common enemy to both Malta and his country.

The departure of the British from Libya led to the departure of the British from Malta, and this, said Colonel Gaddafi, strengthened Libya's freedom. Therefore, said the Libyan Leader, they were celebrating a common event. There was now need for the two countries to support other countries aspiring to obtain their freedom. And here he mentioned support for the Palestinian cause.

## At Ta' Giorni

COLONEL GADDAFI, addressing some 1,000 Libyan students at the Libyan Electrical Institute, Ta' Giorni, said that Libya will help to defend Malta if called upon to do so. Libyan intentions towards Malta were inspired only by the spirit of brotherhood, he said.

Given a rousing welcome by the students, who are studying in Malta, Colonel Gaddafi said he was glad to be in Malta during celebrations marking the closing down of the British base because this almost coincided with the anniversary of the evacuation of British forces from their bases in Libya. Malta and Libya should stand together against all forms of imperialism and Zionism.

Colonel Gaddafi said that the Maltese were cheated for a long time by being given the impression that the Arabs were their enemies; he added that Malta, like Libya, had gained nothing from Western colonialism.

Colonel Gaddafi told the students they were ambassadors for the Arab world and should strive to dispel any wrong impressions the Maltese have about the Arabs. The students should also help in strengthening the friendly relations which exist between the two countries. He stressed the importance of personal contacts with the Maltese people.

Western propaganda in Malta, Colonel Gaddafi went on, aimed at creating fear of Arab countries, and also the feeling that without the British to protect Malta, the Island would be defenceless. Yet not one Euro-

pean country has offered to help Malta, while Libya has promised the Island unlimited support.

The Libyans in Malta should consider all Maltese as their brothers and forget about local political differences.

Referring to the Egypt-Israel peace treaty signed in Washington last Monday, Colonel Gaddafi said that Egypt was thereby acting against the Libyan people. Egypt had now become a tool in the hands of the imperialists, which had been trying for a long time to find an instrument to serve them in the Arab world.

Colonel Gaddafi then dwelt on the principles of the people's authority exercised through the Congresses and the People's Committees. This system, unlike others, gave the power to the people and eliminated the possibility of one sector dominating the rest. There can be no real democracy, unless it came directly from the people through the Congresses, he said.

Colonel Gaddafi was accompanied by Mr. Lorry Sant, Minister of Works and Sport, and the Libyan Ambassador, Mr. M.Z. Jallala.

COLONEL GADDAFI waves to the crowd which turned up to listen to him speaking at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valetta. Below, he is seen patting a young student at the Libyan Electrical College at Ta' Giorni, where he spoke to over 1,000 Libyan students now studying in Malta. Next to Colonel Gaddafi is Mr. Lorry Sant, Minister of Works and Sport.

