



EXHIBITION 44-45

A preview of the prehistoric art exhibition, put up by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*, which opens at the Gozo Ministry in Victoria, this evening.



PHILATELY 56-57

CARMEL G. BONA VIA looks at the way various countries have commemorated the Passion of Christ through their postage stamps.



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PROFESSOR DE MARCO with Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli in Turin

De Marco back from IGC

by James Calvert

FOREIGN MINISTER Guido de Marco yesterday returned from Turin where he attended the opening of the European Union's Inter-governmental Conference.

Speaking on his arrival at the airport Professor de Marco said the IGC, which is expected to take around a year, will be focusing on three main aspects.

It will be looking at ways of bringing the EU closer to its citizens, preparing for expansion from 15 to more than 20 members and outlining a common foreign and security policy, he said.

The IGC, a series of on-going discussions, will be meeting four times a month - three times at senior official level and once at ministerial level.

Malta, along with the other countries who have applied for membership of the EU, will be briefed on its progress at meetings every two months where it will also be given the opportunity to express its opinion on the IGC's development.

The importance of the IGC for both Malta and Cyprus is enormous as both countries have been promised that formal membership negotiations will start six months after the conference finishes.

Professor de Marco said yesterday that he had had useful and interesting talks with other ministers in Turin which had shown that Europe was 'on the move'.

One of the topics that will be discussed by the IGC is the possibility

of having a two-speed Europe for the countries more and less economically developed.

However Professor de Marco emphasised that Malta does not have any of the problems afflicting some of the other applicant states that might restrict their immediate economic participation in the union.

In fact he said Malta was one of the few countries in Europe which meet nearly all the criteria for European Monetary Union laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

"A common currency will eventually be the natural corollary to a common market. I think there is wisdom behind the proposal which will be of benefit to all Europeans," he said.

"The EU will be stronger with a common market, common currency and common foreign and security policy."

During his whirlwind trip to Turin the Foreign Minister joined foreign ministers from the other 10 prospective EU members for a meeting with their Italian counterpart Susanna Agnelli.

Professor de Marco said the fact that all the applicant countries had been invited to the opening and were to be briefed every two months was evidence they would soon become members.

Stephen Calleya - page 2

Minister's brother doing work for new hospital, Sant says

by Rosanne Zammit

MIXER LTD, a batching company belonging to the Finance Minister's brother Sebastian Dalli, is carrying out work for the Swedish company Skanska - the San Raffaele Hospital project tender winner.

This was stated yesterday by Labour leader Alfred Sant when he addressed a mass meeting in Hamrun to mark Freedom Day being celebrated today.

Dr Sant recalled the events which led to the award of the project, saying that the companies with the cheapest offers had been Skanska (Lm31.7 million) and CMC (Lm29.3 million).

The tenders evaluation committee chose Skanska, even though their offer was Lm2.4 million higher, but the contracts committee, which, as the law states, should have had the final say, chose CMC.

Dr Sant said Finance Minister John Dalli pressured the contracts committee to change its decision but the latter

insisted on its position.

Mr Dalli took the issue to Cabinet, which, on the recommendation of the minister, who never explained his reasons, decided in favour of Skanska.

The courts, Dr Sant said, condemned the government twice, saying it was acting against the law.

He said that Mr Dalli's brother Sebastian, "who was incidentally the

same person who turned water into whisky" (a reference to a cargo of whisky which had been declared to be bottled water), bought the plant from the brother of Parliamentary Secretary Ninu Zammit on April 15, 1995.

And in the past weeks concrete works on the San Raffaele Hospital project were being carried out by Mixer Ltd, which was not using its own trucks to transfer the concrete but

(Continued on back page)

Briton found dead in shaft

DEREK HOOLEY, a 48-year-old British tourist, yesterday afternoon was found dead at the bottom of a lift shaft of a building still under construction in Autumn Street, Bugibba.

Hooley is believed to have died after falling into the shaft. He was certified dead by Dr J.K. Soler from the Mosta health centre.

Magistrate J. Apap Bologna carried out an on-site inquiry and appointed a number of referees to report to him on the accident. The police have ruled out foul play.



DR ALFRED SANT last night stressed the importance of not taking freedom for granted during a wreath-laying ceremony on the Freedom monument in Vittoriosa, marking the anniversary of the closing of the British military base on March 31, 1979. Dr Sant said everyone should work towards making the country more modern, free and prosperous. His speech was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony where he was joined by the MLP's two deputy leaders, Dr George Vella and Dr George Abela. Earlier in the proceedings a selection of poetry was read out by Ray Mahoney and Joyce Cassar and Mr J.J. Camilleri delivered a short speech. Official activities to mark Freedom Day will be held this morning at 11 at the War Memorial in Floriana, where President Ugo Mifsud Bonnici will take the salute and inspect an AFM guard of honour, followed by an address by the Prime Minister. Dr Fenech Adami will later present long and efficient service medals to AFM personee at Castille.

Local Industries Supplement

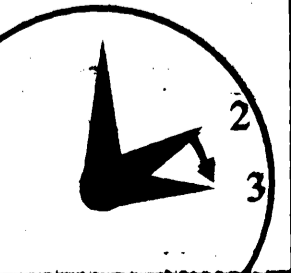
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Summertime

Summertime started this morning at 2 o'clock when clocks should have been put one hour forward bringing Malta time two hours ahead of GMT. Summertime ends at 3 a.m. on October 27.



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