

MALTA BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

covering the period from  
29th September 1961  
to  
31st March 1962

Report on the work of the Malta Broadcasting Authority during the period 29th September, 1961 to 31st March, 1962.

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## I. INTRODUCTORY

The Malta Broadcasting Authority was appointed by virtue of Ordinance XX of 1961 which came into force on 29th September, 1961. As from that date all Sound and Television Broadcasting Services in Malta (except Forces Broadcasting) became the exclusive responsibility of the Authority. Under the Ordinance these services can be supplied exclusively by Contractors appointed by the Authority (See Appendix II - The Broadcasting Contracts) but without prejudice to the right of the Authority to provide such services itself.

The Authority in other words can be compared with the Independent Television Authority in the U.K. as indeed the Broadcasting Ordinance is modelled on the Independent Television Act of 1954. (See Appendix I - The Ordinance). The main difference is that the Malta Broadcasting Authority can and does produce its own programmes. A further difference is that under the Wired Sound Contract with Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd. and the Television Contract with Malta Television Service Ltd., the Authority must spend in each financial year the sum of £10,000 and £25,000 respectively on Wired Sound and Television programming.

These financial provisions give the Malta Broadcasting Authority a much closer interest in programmes than its counterpart in the United Kingdom. But its main function remains that of a supervisory and regulatory body charged with safeguarding general broadcasting standards, in accordance with the Ordinance, on behalf of the Public.

## II. SOUND BROADCASTING

Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd. have operated Wired Sound Broadcasting in Malta since 1935 under successive licences from the Governor. Their service has grown progressively until they now broadcast approximately thirty four hours of programmes a day on two channels. The provisions of the new Ordinance lay down much stricter standards in broadcasting both as to content and quality than the old licences. Moreover, the Ordinance introduces a whole new set of regulations governing the broadcasting of advertisements.

A major task of the Authority therefore, has been to ~~initiate~~ a survey of the whole sphere of Rediffusion's programmes in the light of the new Ordinance and to decide on the scope and nature of any changes which may be required. In particular the problem has to be solved as to how the Authority should organise itself in order to exercise such supervision. It was obvious at once that thirty four hours of daily programmes could not be continuously monitored. It fell to the Chief Executive of the Authority to report on this problem as a result of which it was decided to appoint two Programme Editors who would devote their whole time to supervision of programmes. These two officials had not been appointed during the period covered by this report. The general nature of their responsibilities had however

/been worked.....



been worked out and during the period the Authority was gradually evolving the outlines of a **system** of control and supervision.

The duties imposed by the Ordinance on the Authority and incorporated in the Broadcasting Agreements as powers of the Authority over its Contractors are clear in general intention but often present difficulties of interpretation. For instance the contractor is required to provide programmes "calculated to promote the general interest", "of good quality, both technically and as to subject matter", which "maintain a proper balance in their subject matter in particular as between entertainment, information and **education**", etc. etc. The object of the Ordinance is clearly to leave it to the opinion of the Authority to decide whether the programmes maintain such standards. In exercising control over the Contractors, however, there are many problems. The Authority could set too high a standard for the resources of its Contractor, for instance. It must be remembered that high standards in broadcasting depend in the final analysis on the application of more money to programmes and the Contractor cannot be dictated to in the matter of its own financial allocations. The fact that the Authority itself devotes money to programmes (in various ways which will be described below), is of relevance here. But quite independently of this factor the Contractor is under a clear contractual agreement to provide programmes of the necessary level.

In practice the maintenance and improvement of standards depend on three underlying factors.

1. Harmonious relationship between the Authority and its Contractors.
2. A constant knowledge and comprehensive grasp on the part of the Authority, of all current programmes.
3. A lively day to day communication between the Authority and the Contractor during which the Authority impresses on the Contractor its awareness both of the defects and of the excellencies of the programmes being transmitted.

Although during the first six months of the Authority's life only a beginning could be made in the task of the improvement of standards, a good deal of necessary groundwork was laid. It is obvious already that an increasing strain is being put on Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd's resources by insistence on the fulfilling of the provisions of the Ordinance and the ~~Wireless~~ <sup>Wire</sup> Sound Agreement. This is inevitable, for, ~~the Contractor is required~~ <sup>more</sup> of the Contractor under the new agreement than under the old licences. The Authority now feels that if Rediffusion, in the long run, is to discharge its new functions adequately, it will have to devote greater resources, particularly in staff, to its programmes.

As a beginning, during the period covered by this report, the Authority paid special attention to programmes devoted to news and current affairs. Programmes under this heading are an entirely new development in Malta. To explain this adequately a backward look is necessary at the structure

of broadcasting immediately before the coming into force of the Ordinance. Before this date Rediffusion restricted themselves mainly to programmes of an entertainment and general interest nature. The Government itself (through the Department of Information) under an agreement with Rediffusion, was responsible for Schools Broadcasting and programmes of an informational kind. The Government Broadcasting Board (a separate body) was responsible for a regular series of unscripted discussions and for Party Political Broadcasts.

The new Ordinance, setting up an independent statutory body responsible for all Broadcasting meant that as in the United Kingdom broadcasting ceased to be the responsibility of the Government of the day and that in practice, under the terms of the Broadcasting Agreements, all broadcasting would normally be undertaken by the Authority's Contractors. In fact however, the Authority (as it is entitled to do) retained control of Schools Broadcasting (in collaboration with the Department of Education) and of Party Political and General Election Broadcasts. Rediffusion however was required to undertake the responsibility for an integrated programme output including news and views of current events.

This clearly implied a comprehensive local news service (something which had never existed before) and the first step towards this under the new system was a Current Affairs programme of thirty minutes for five days a week.

This is supplemented by a weekly discussion programme very much on the lines of the programmes initiated by the former Government Broadcasting Board.

It would be unrealistic to claim at this stage too much for the new programmes in the Current Affairs and News Section. For many reasons, a comprehensive local news service supplemented by a daily news Magazine programme of unscripted local comment and views runs into numerous difficulties. A difficult political situation plus unfamiliarity with an independent impartial service of this kind combine to make such a service a matter of considerable difficulty and often controversy particularly in the matter of selection. Certain sections of opinion refuse to take part for reasons connected with the political and constitutional situation, but are quick to detect alleged bias, other sections of Society are as yet somewhat timid of self expression while still other sections are extremely suspicious of free comment and of the views of those who differ from them politically and in other ways. An independent news service invariably experiences criticism and perhaps the Authority and its Contractor can take encouragement from the fact that criticism has been levelled at them from all sections of opinion rather than from one section alone. To sum up, the Authority is satisfied with the progress which has been made in particular by Rediffusion's Local News Service and by its News Magazine. These programmes are broadcast five days a week at the moment and the Authority is discussing with Rediffusion an extension of the programmes in the first instance to six days a week.

The Authority is less satisfied with the programmes of unscripted discussion and of the "Radio Press Conference" type. The problem here is not a special one. Such programmes to be worthwhile, must be on subjects which are topical issues

/where disagreement....



where disagreement exists. There is an ingrained reluctance in Malta, not restricted to any particular section of Society, to discussing matters of disagreement on the air. This is experienced, of course, in other countries, but exists in an acute form in Malta. The result is that too often the subjects discussed seem to the listener to be of minor importance in comparison with the real issues of the moment. The truth is that both the Authority and Rediffusion experience great difficulty in mounting worthwhile discussions at all because of the numerous refusals on the part of responsible persons from all walks of life to participate in them.

The Authority, nevertheless, regards these regular discussions as of great importance (and recognises its debt to the Government Broadcasting Board which initiated them). It hopes that by persistence and still greater efforts by Rediffusion, they will in time improve sufficiently so as to provide the public with a regular and genuine reflection of the ideas and issues of the day.

The next sphere of programming which has engaged the attention of the Authority is that of programmes of a religious nature. The Authority found here a state of affairs which it frankly found unsatisfactory. This is a matter of extreme complexity in view of the importance of religious broadcasts in Malta. It is perhaps sufficient to say at this stage that the Authority has consistently felt that on the one hand nothing like the necessary effort and preparation was being given by Rediffusion to the production of religious services and on the other hand many of those taking part in broadcast religious ceremonies have not fully realised both the challenge of a broadcast ceremony and the fact that the nature of the medium demands much greater thought and discipline in their presentation. The basic fact that a broadcast ceremony is not the same as a ceremony which is not broadcast is an assertion which does not yet carry conviction universally.

The Authority sought the advice of Fr Agnellus Andrew O.F.M. Roman Catholic Religious Advisor to the B.B.C. who spent a week in Malta and later issued a report jointly to His Grace the Archbishop and to the Authority. The matter is discussed in greater detail below (See Appendix III- - Religious Broadcasting). Here it suffices to say that the chief recommendation of the report was that it was urgently necessary that a Religious Broadcasting Organiser should be appointed who would co-ordinate, supervise and largely produce all religious broadcasting in Malta (both in Sound and later in Television). The person appointed should be a priest who would devote his full time to this most important task. The Authority felt that for organisational reasons it might be better if such an official were a member of its Contractor's Staff. It failed to convince the Contractor of this and eventually decided to appoint a Religious Broadcasting Advisor to its own staff. The Religious Broadcasting Organiser had not been appointed during the period covered by this report.

The next subject to which the Authority devoted attention during the first six months was the situation regarding advertising, a review which has not yet been

completed. In general, Rediffusion's practice in the broadcasting of advertisements was similar to the requirements of the new Ordinance. There were however, differences of detail in particular on the question of sponsored programmes. Several minor adjustments were made during the six months under review. A number of issues were moving towards clarification which properly belong, however, to the report which the Authority will make for the period 1962/63.

A great deal more work remains to be done in the sphere of programme supervision and improvement of programmes. In the six months covered by this report it was only possible to make a beginning in this task. It is hoped, in the next report which the Authority will submit that much greater progress will be reported.

Reference has been made above to the Authority's contractual obligation to spend in each year \$10,000 in respect of Sound Programmes. This money can be spent in three different ways. The Authority has the power to prescribe and provide programmes. In this case the only role the Contractor plays is in the provision of studios, technical facilities and airtime. For these the Contractor under the contract can charge the Authority its full normal rates.

The Authority may also prescribe programmes to be provided in full by the Contractor. If the total cost to the Authority of these two items is less than \$10,000 in a full year (or proportionately for a lesser period, as for instance the period under review) the Authority must apply the balance "exclusively in or towards the improvement .....of the programmes provided by the Contractor." In the sphere of programme prescription, the Authority spent the bulk of its programme money on Schools Broadcasts and Party Political and General Election Broadcasts (See Appendix IV - Schools Broadcasting and Appendix V - Political Broadcasting). The remainder left unspent (see the Authority's Accounts) was devoted towards the improvement of "Malta Magazine" (the News Magazine referred to above) and to "Argument of the Week" and "Radio Press Conference." In respect of the latter two programmes the Authority met the cost of the contributors' fees together with certain technical services.

### III. TELEVISION BROADCASTING

Television Broadcasting under the agreement signed with the Malta Television Service has to commence subject to certain contractual qualifications within fifteen months of the signature of the Agreement i.e. by 27th December 1962. During the period of this report preparations began towards the provision of such a service. The Authority acquired from the Government a site at Gharghur for the erection of a Transmitting Station and Tower. For technical reasons the tower is to be operated jointly by Malta Television Service Ltd. and the Admiralty. The land was therefore conveyed in two parts - the first part to Malta Television Service Ltd. for the transmitter building, the second part to the Admiralty for the erection of the transmitter tower. At the moment of writing it is hoped that a regular Television Service will commence on or about October 1st of this year.



IV. The Authority has throughout the period under review worked in a close and harmonious relationship with its Contractors and has every confidence that this relationship will be maintained in the future.

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## A P P E N D I X I

### The Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961

This was brought into force on 29th September, 1961 and the members of the Authority were appointed on the same day. The Ordinance can be compared with the Independent Television Act of 1954 of the United Kingdom in that the Authority (like the Independent Television Authority) although ultimately responsible for Broadcasting, may appoint a Contractor or Contractors actually to produce the programmes. The relevant Clause is Clause (3) subparagraph (2) which reads as follows:

"The services referred to in subsection (1) of this section may be provided for and on behalf of the Authority by broadcasting contractors who, under contract with the Authority, have, in consideration of payment to the Authority and subject to the provisions of this Ordinance, the right and duty to provide such services for and on behalf of the Authority, which right and duty in respect of **any** of such services may be conferred by the Authority under a contract as an exclusive right and duty for the duration of the contract without prejudice to the right of the Authority to provide such services."

The Malta Broadcasting Authority is responsible for both Sound and Television.

Clause 7 lays down the Authority's responsibility as to what may and may not be broadcast.

Clause 9 and the Third Schedule contain full requirements as to the broadcasting of Advertisements.

Clause 12 describes how the Authority is to be financed. The intention of this Clause is that until the revenue from Radio and Television licences exceeds £45,000, the Authority may receive each year subject to its estimates, a sum not exceeding £45,000. Should licence fees exceed £45,000, the Authority, subject to its estimates may receive a sum greater than £45,000 a year provided the Government has deducted the sum of £15,000 a year in respect of expenditure incurred for the collection thereof.

The clear intention of the Ordinance is that, after meeting its own expenses, the revenue of the Authority should be applied mainly in the financing of Sound and Television programmes.



## A P P E N D I X   I I

### The Broadcasting Agreements

The Broadcasting Agreements were negotiated between the Contractors and the Government of Malta and signed on the 28th September, 1961, immediately before the coming into force of the Broadcasting Ordinance. Clause 15 (1) of the Ordinance, however, reads:

"Subject to the provisions of subsection (2), any contract entered into between the Government and a broadcasting contractor before the commencement of this Ordinance relating to the provision of any broadcasting service shall have effect in favour of and against the Authority as if, instead of the Government, the Authority had been named therein or had been a party thereto."

Under this Clause, therefore, on the coming into force of the Ordinance and the setting up of the Authority the Agreements became agreements between the Authority and the Contractors.

The provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance relating to the responsibilities of the Authority in the entire sphere of sound and vision broadcasting are translated in the Agreements as powers and rights of the Authority over its Contractors.

The Agreements are three in number.

#### I. An Agreement relating to a Wired Sound Broadcasting Service with Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.

This is an agreement conferring on Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd. the exclusive right to provide Wired Sound Broadcasting in Malta for twenty five years from 28th September, 1961 (without prejudice to the right of the Authority itself to provide such services). It cancels the Licence dated 30th August 1946 granted by the then Governor of Malta to Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.

There is a clause empowering the Authority to prescribe programmes (as required by Clause 5 of the Second Schedule of the Ordinance). A further clause requires the Authority to expend at least \$10,000 a year in the prescription and/or improvement of programmes. This Clause reads as follows:

"(1) As from the date hereof the Authority shall in each consecutive financial year ending the 31st day of March during the continuance of this Agreement (and proportionately for any broken part of a financial year) apply in or towards the prescription of programmes under Clause 11 hereof, or the improvement of the Contractor's programmes broadcast hereunder, or partly in the one way and partly in the other, the sum of ten thousand pounds (\$10,000); Provided that if and whenever the Governor, acting under subsection (3) of section 12 of the Ordinance, shall direct the application of any excess revenue of the Authority (as in that subsection described) for the further prescription, improvement or extension of programmes then, in so far

/as the Governor....

as the Governor may direct the application thereof for wired sound broadcasting purposes, the sum to be applied by the Authority under the foregoing provision of this sub-clause during the next succeeding financial year shall be correspondingly increased.

(2) The sum to be so applied by the Authority in any such financial year (whether being the sum of ten thousand pounds or, by virtue of the proviso to the preceding sub-clause, a larger amount or a proportionate part of such sum or larger amount in respect of a broken period) is hereinafter referred to as "the available fund" and shall be utilised by the Authority as follows:-

- (a) the Authority may apply the whole or any part of the available fund in meeting the cost to the Authority of the provision (whether by the Authority or the Contractor) and broadcasting of programmes prescribed by the Authority under Clause 11 hereof; Provided that the amount to be so applied in respect of programmes provided by the Authority under paragraph (b) of sub-clause (1) of that clause shall not exceed such proportion as may be agreed between the Authority and the Contractor, or in default of agreement be determined by the Authority, to be reasonable, but so that nothing in this proviso shall require the Authority to apply in the provision of programmes under the said paragraph (b) a lesser sum in respect of any financial year than it is required by the Governor so to apply;
- (b) The Authority shall apply the remainder (if any) of the available fund exclusively in or towards the improvement, or if the Governor shall so direct the extension, of the programmes provided by the Contractor in such manner as may be agreed in consultation between the Authority and the Contractor, or in default of agreement as the Authority shall determine, and shall make the same available to the Contractor as and when required by it for such purpose, with power to the Authority to make any payment in advance of the broadcast of any programme to which such payment relates during the same financial year or broken part thereof as that in which the programme is to be broadcast.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Authority to ensure that the whole of the available fund is expended for the purposes and in the manner specified in this clause in respect of programmes which are broadcast or to be broadcast during the financial year or broken period to which it relates.

2. An Agreement relating to a Television Broadcasting Service with the Malta Television Service Ltd.

This is an agreement conferring on the Malta Television Service Ltd. the exclusive right to broadcast Television programmes in Malta for twenty five years from

/28th September.....



28th September 1961 (without prejudice to the right of the Authority to provide such services). It obliges the Contractor (subject to certain extensions due to unforeseen circumstances) to commence regular broadcasting within fifteen months of the signature of the Agreement.

The Agreement requires the Contractor to broadcast a minimum of three hours a day and a minimum of twenty eight hours a week from the commencement of broadcasting and to ensure that at least four hours each week shall be occupied by programmes consisting in recorded or other matter of Maltese origin and Maltese performance and that a reasonable part of such programmes shall be in the Maltese language.

As in the Wired Sound Agreement with Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd. the Authority may prescribe programmes, and must spend at least £25,000 a year in the prescription and/or improvement of programmes.

3. An Agreement relating to a Wireless Sound Broadcasting Service with Malta Television Service Ltd.

This agreement confers on the Contractor an exclusive right to provide Wireless Sound programmes in Malta for ten years from 28th September 1961 (without prejudice to the right of the Authority to provide such services). The date of commencement of this Service is any time within five years of the signature of the Agreement, and the Agreement is ipso jure determined if the Contractor does not commence Wireless Sound broadcasting by the expiry of five years from the date of signature.

### A P P E N D I X III

#### Religious Broadcasting

The first step the Authority took in its examination of Religious Broadcasting was to invite Fr. Agnellus Andrew O.F.M., the Catholic Religious Adviser of the B.B.C., to visit Malta and write down his impressions. Fr. Agnellus' qualifications for this task are well known and the Authority felt it could not receive advice from a better quarter. The Authority was grateful to the BBC for putting Fr. Andrew at its disposal and most appreciative of Fr Andrew's efforts and willingness, at a very busy period, to come to Malta and place his wide knowledge at its disposal.

During his visit Fr Agnellus met the Chairman, the Chief Executive and members of the Authority, His Grace the Archbishop, the Diocesan Broadcasting Commission, the College of Parish Priests, and the General Manager of Rediffusion and members of his staff.

Fr Andrew subsequently issued a report, some parts of which are quoted below.

##### i) General

Religious Broadcasting, so far, has been in the hands of the ordinary general producers of Rediffusion, who have been advised by the Diocesan Broadcasting Commission. Fr. Born has not been in any sense in charge of Religious Broadcasting, and there has been no clear routine of planning and production.

##### ii) Sunday Morning main Service

For a great part of the year, this consists of a direct outside broadcast from a parish church which is celebrating its Festa. On the other Sundays, it is usually a direct broadcast from Radio Vatican of a Mass with commentary.

The Festa broadcasts are very long, including the singing of an elaborate Mass, often accompanied by an orchestra, and the preaching of a long panegyric, mostly in very oratorical style. I was able to listen carefully to a recording, and found the result unsatisfactory:

- (a) the material itself seemed to me to be unsuitable for broadcasting, merely being a skimming of the sound off the top of a ceremony not designed for sound, but involving physical presence in the building for full understanding. The panegyric seemed to me to be in quite the wrong style for broadcasting, the music was exceedingly florid, and the work of the orchestra and singers not of high quality. But my chief impression was that the whole thing had no real essentially religious effect at all.
- (b) There was no attempt at all at production or presentation. I understand that a producer does not attend these ceremonies and certainly the whole thing was shapeless and badly done.

/(c) In my opinion....



- (c) In my opinion, the balance and control were poor, and I very much doubt whether any real care had been taken about microphone placings or any of the other obvious and elementary pre-requisites of good broadcasting.

I understand that the parishioners are much attached to these ceremonies and wish them to be broadcast, and that questions of local patriotism and emotion are involved. I venture to doubt whether this is a sufficient reason for broadcasting a Mass of this kind, and also whether this is the best use that could be made of this important Sunday morning religious space. Further, the parishioners themselves, by definition, cannot possibly hear this broadcast, and I am informed that the other parishes are seldom greatly interested. Could the matter not be dealt with differently? I would suggest that a regular 45-minute space be set aside at the same time each Sunday morning for a broadcast of the Mass originating in Malta itself. There might be variations between Sung Mass, Dialogue Mass, Mass for children, in which a priest leads them with prayer and explanation, Mass for the Sick, etc. This Mass could be most carefully prepared and produced, and one or two commentators might be trained, so that the broadcast would be a real religious act, valued by many, and particularly by the sick, and performing a real service in deepening a knowledge and an understanding of the Mass itself. This might normally be an outside broadcast, although in many countries, including Rome, it is quite usual to have a chapel or an altar in the studio, and to bring a different congregation in each Sunday. The local Festa could be given full prominence in programmes, but not treated as a religious broadcast. On selected Sundays, a space of perhaps 15 minutes or more might be set aside for a talk about the Saint in question, but suited to broadcasting: something about the story of the parish concerned: and some account of the day's Festa, even including recorded effects, if facilities were available. This could be built into a coherent piece of broadcasting of interest to all and heard by the actual parish concerned.

If this proved too revolutionary a step to be taken at once, perhaps an arrangement could be negotiated by which the parish Festa was broadcast on perhaps every third year. This would mean that perhaps 15 Festas would be broadcast each year, and the other 37 weeks used as I have described.

I regard this proposal as being of the very greatest importance.

### iii) Hajja Kattolika

The magazine weekly programme clearly satisfies a need, but it would be improved by having a much sharper and clearer line of purpose and more careful production. One person should be in charge, who should be completely trusted, who should know what he is trying to do, and should aim at an informative and interesting programme with definite fixed points each week and yet flexible and varied.

/ (iv) Religious.....

#### iv) Religious Outside Broadcasts

The occasional broadcasts of functions, particularly out-of-door Rallies, present great difficulties peculiar to themselves. First of all, they are much too long, too diffuse, and too unorganised for good broadcasting: secondly, they reflect the essential characteristics of large-scale crowd occasions: and thirdly, the speakers, particularly if they are lay and inexperienced, may be carried away by the emotion of the moment and involve the broadcasting authorities, who have editorial responsibility, in grave difficulties. Further, those involved never hear the broadcast.

Would it be possible to record these occasions and then, later in the day, to present an edited version, giving an accurate and truthful account of what happened, but in a more organised, better, radio form? This would obviate three or four difficulties at once."

Fr Agnellus' recommendations were as follows:

- "i) The Malta Broadcasting Authority clearly must have some ultimate responsibility, but whether the Authority should take full charge of the detailed organisation and arrangement of Religious Broadcasting is open to question. There are manifest advantages in removing Religious Broadcasting from the ordinary pressures on Rediffusion. But this must be examined and decided locally.
- ii) It seems absolutely clear that some person should be found and trained as a Religious Broadcasting Organiser for Malta. He could be chosen jointly by His Grace the Archbishop and by the Authority, and he would then be left with the full responsibility of arranging and organising all religious broadcasting on the island, answerable to the Archbishop for the religious character of the work, and to the Authority or Rediffusion for its professional quality. I can see little prospect of a satisfactory solution of current problems without the appointment of such a person, who, it seems to me, ought to be a priest, and probably a man in his early thirties with some eight to ten years of experience behind him, and yet still a young man.

This Religious Broadcasting Organiser should be given facilities for training in the techniques of communication and of broadcasting and we would also be willing to have him for a period at the Catholic Radio and Television Centre in London, so that he might have an opportunity of working with us on broadcasting and observing methods. With the coming of Television, either he would require further training in television, or he could act as professional advisor to the television producer in charge of religious work.

- iii) The present Diocesan Broadcasting Commission has fulfilled a useful purpose. But in my view it should be re-constituted to include within it persons representing the principal elements in the life of the island. The



bodies to be represented should clearly include the College of Parish Priests, the Religious Orders, various lay organisations, the University, and others. This new Commission, numbering perhaps sixteen to twenty, need meet only at intervals of perhaps every two months, but would be competent to give advice to the Religious Broadcasting Organiser, to make criticisms and comments on programmes, and to make suggestions.

- iv) The question of censorship of scripts might be eased with the appointment of a priest Religious Broadcasting Organiser to whom the Archbishop and the Broadcasting Authority might delegate necessary powers. He would always have the normal rights of an editor, and he might also be considered as the safeguarder of the policy both of the Church and the Authority."

Needless to say, during the six months covered by this report, only a beginning could be made on the very large task of improving religious broadcasting. The recommendations of Fr Andrew were however accepted in principle.

#### A Religious Broadcasting Organiser

As described in the main body of the Report, it was considered at first that, mainly for organisational and administrative reasons, it would be better if the Religious Broadcasting Organiser were a full member of the Contractor's staff. The Authority approached Rediffusion in this sense, offering to pay the Religious Broadcasting Organiser's salary under the heading (described in the Report) of "Improvement of Programmes". The Authority was not successful in persuading its Contractor to do this. Accordingly, it eventually decided to appoint a full time Religious Broadcasting Organiser to its own staff, in consultation with His Grace the Archbishop. The Authority stresses that in present circumstances, Religious Broadcasting can only be improved when such a full time Organiser has been appointed and trained.

#### Broadcast Religious Services

Fr Andrew's proposals were:

- i) That Festa High Masses should be reduced to 15 or 16 a year.
- ii) That those Festa High Masses not broadcast should be replaced by Masses (Sung, Dialogue, etc.) specially prepared for Radio.
- iii) That on the remaining Sundays there should continue either to be a relay of the Vatican Low Mass or an act of worship should be originated in the studio itself.
- i) An eventual agreement was reached between the Authority, His Grace the Archbishop, the College of Parish Priests and Rediffusion that the total number of Festa High Masses in any one year would not exceed sixteen. A beginning was made on a comprehensive attempt to

/ensure.....



ensure that these were, as far as possible, professionally produced and presented. It is hoped to record further progress in the Authority's next report.

- ii) The Authority's staff, in collaboration with Fr Volla and Rediffusion prepared and presented two Dialogue Masses specially for broadcasting and plans were made for a special series of Dialogue Masses to become a regular feature of programmes.
- iii) Agreement was reached, in the sense of Fr Agnellus proposals that no direct outside broadcasts (apart from acts of worship) should be made. On a number of specified occasions however, the events would be recorded and a special edited version would be broadcast not later than 48 hours afterwards. The events decided upon were:

- i) Bishop's Day
- ii) St Joseph the Worker
- iii) The Holy Name Congress
- iv) Christ the King.

Apart from the above, a number of modifications and improvements were instituted mainly in the preparation, presentation and production of Religious broadcasts. It cannot be said that any very spectacular improvement in Religious Broadcasting had been achieved during the period covered by this Report. Time is needed before the importance and urgency of changes in this sphere of broadcasting have been recognised by all concerned. A beginning has however been made in this important task, a task which it is hoped will be tackled fully and adequately by the Authority's future Religious Broadcasting Organiser.

## A P P E N D I X   I V

### Schools Broadcasting

During the negotiations leading to the establishment of the Broadcasting Authority it became clear that, although under the Ordinance, the Authority could pass over the responsibility for producing all programmes to its contractor, for a number of obvious reasons it would be inappropriate for it to do this in the case of Schools Broadcasting. It was accordingly agreed that the only practical solution was for the Authority to assume the responsibility for the production and financing of all Schools Broadcasts. These broadcasts would, in other words be 'prescribed programmes' paid for and provided by the Authority. Arrangements were accordingly set in hand for the secondment of the members of the Department of Education's Schools Broadcasting Unit to the Broadcasting Authority.

It will be appreciated that Schools Broadcasts in Malta have developed as a service designed primarily for Government Schools. Hence the Department of Education, even when the financing of Schools Broadcasts was assumed by the Broadcasting Authority retained an immediate interest in what was being produced. The principle of the new ordinance - that all broadcasting should be controlled by the Authority - holds good in Schools Broadcasting, too, of course. And indeed, discussions were held with other interested parties including His Grace the Archbishop, at which the point was made that educational interests and organisations outside the Department of Education should be represented on the Authority's Schools Broadcasting Committee. The fact remains, however, that, as the Schools Broadcasts are planned in relation to the syllabus of Government Schools (particularly Primary Schools) the Department of Education is demonstrably concerned. In practice, the Authority has worked in the very closest co-operation with this Department and the Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee (which it appointed under Clause 10 of the Ordinance) is composed largely of Headmasters, teachers and Inspectors from the Department. The Authority has however widened its composition to include members of the Committee of the Malta Union of Teachers and of the Private Schools Association.

The Authority's first task was to recast the organisation and finances of Schools Broadcasting. The system adopted before the formation of the Authority was that nearly all the actual scripts were written by script-writers in Government Service. This system was inexpensive, as the salaries of the officers were met by the Government and the scripts therefore cost nothing directly, and a small cadre of individuals had been built up over the years skilled in the special techniques of writing for schools radio.

It will be appreciated that a Schools Broadcasting Unit consisting of five persons cannot plan, produce and write all the scripts required. Nor would this be desirable, even if possible. Apart from a few exceptions, therefore, all Schools scripts are now commissioned and written, against payment by the Authority, by outside contributors. The aim is, of course, to create a large pool of experienced script-writers, particularly among the School Teachers themselves,

/who can.....

who can be responsible for an adequate and varied flow of schools broadcasts scripts. A beginning has already been made in this direction but it will be appreciated that a high proportion of scripts during the period were still being commissioned from the small number of existing scriptwriters available in Malta.

However, not only are other potential contributors being encouraged to submit scripts but, with the ready co-operation of the Ministry of Education a scheme is being instituted for training suitable applicants from class teachers in the techniques of scriptwriting. Each term two class teachers are to be seconded on full time to work alongside the members of the Schools Broadcasting Unit. Only in this way, can the ordinary teacher be introduced to the experience and technique of all phases of Schools Broadcasting. This system of secondment will also be open to teachers from Private Schools, if they wish to take advantage of it.

The next task before the Schools Broadcasting Unit is the exploration of new methods of teaching by radio and the gradual experimental introduction of new subjects. Foreign contacts and knowledge of the methods of overseas broadcasting organisations is vital here. The Schools Broadcasting Organiser was sent by the Authority to a Schools Broadcasting Conference in Rome. Not the least of the programme ideas which received an impetus from this visit was the increased awareness of the necessity of introducing more science lessons into Primary Schools broadcasts. An experiment is now in progress for the teaching of science to the lower forms and science broadcasts to the upper forms are being expanded.

A continuing aim in the whole field of improvement is the gradually increasing participation in Schools Broadcasting of the children themselves. Various avenues are being investigated. Besides actual participation, competitions are organised leading out of the programmes, in which the children submit essays, paintings, etc. and receive prizes. The winner is often then actually interviewed over the air.

Individual training of Staff producers abroad is another valuable way of improving standards. One member of the Schools Broadcasting Unit was sent by the Authority to the B.B.C. for a General Course in Broadcasting in London. Other vacancies are expected from time to time and will be gladly accepted by the Authority.

A further project has arisen out of the necessity of encouraging and increasing the contact between Schools Broadcasting and the Schools themselves. A series of one day Seminars was planned between the Authority and the Ministry of Education which will be attended by the Head Teacher and a representative of the staff from each school taking part.

At these Seminars, the various problems underlying the production of a Schools Broadcast will be demonstrated and various officials will talk on the problems and developments of Schools Broadcasting. In their turn the teachers and headteachers present will be asked, not only to



contribute to the discussion but to offer their comments, criticisms, and suggestions for better programmes. It cannot be emphasised too much that Radio as a means of education is capable of greater use than is at present being made of it. Another aspect of co-operation and mutual exchange of information is the regular visiting of schools by members of the School Broadcasting Unit to find out for themselves how programmes are being received by both teachers and children. With the co-operation of the Ministry of Education, this is being arranged.

It will be seen that the success of Schools Broadcasting depends upon a close and cordial co-operation between the Authority and the Ministry of Education. Many of the joint developments in progress depend particularly on the personal collaboration of the Director of Education. The Director is, of course, the Chairman of the Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee, and many members of his staff have given their advice freely in the further improvement of Schools Broadcasting. The Authority registers its great appreciation of the help received during the whole of the period under review.

## A P P E N D I X    V

### Political Broadcasting

#### I.    Party Political Broadcasts

Up to October 1961, when the Authority came into being, political broadcasting was organised by the Government Broadcasting Board. In March, 1959, this Board had instituted a series of Party Political Broadcasts. Previous to this there had been no political broadcasting as such except during the periods immediately preceding General Elections. The scheme devised by the Government Broadcasting Board was open to all parties but at the time of its inception only the Progressive Constitutional and Democratic Nationalist Parties took part. Later, on their formation, the Democratic Christian and the Christian Workers Parties joined the scheme. The Nationalist Party and the Malta Labour Party did not broadcast.

Soon after being formed, the Broadcasting Authority wrote to all the existing parties asking for their views on a new scheme for political broadcasts (broadcasts between but not immediately preceding General Elections). Four of the parties, namely, the Progressive Constitutional, the Democratic Nationalist, the Democratic Christian and the Christian Workers Parties claimed 'parity' in terms of broadcast time i.e. that all parties should be allocated the same time on the air. The Nationalist Party and the Malta Labour Party, on the other hand, claimed more time on the air for themselves than for the other Parties: the Nationalist Party claimed a ration of 3 to 1 in favour of these two Parties, the Malta Labour Party 4 to 1.

The Authority was faced with a delicate situation. The Nationalist and Malta Labour Parties made their claim largely on the basis of representation in the last Legislature. The other parties (none of which had been represented in that Legislature) claimed that not only had the slate been wiped clean by the intervening period of Crown Colony rule but that each of the two parties represented in that Legislature had been split by the formation of the Democratic Nationalist and the Christian Workers Parties.

After reflection the Authority decided that weight had to be given to the Nationalist and Malta Labour Parties' representation in the last Legislature. It decided on a ratio of 2 to 1 between each of these and of the other four parties. This decision was a compromise between the two points of view and was subjected to heavy criticism by all Parties without exception.

The Authority however proceeded to institute its scheme on a month to month basis, allocating in each month two broadcasts each to the Nationalist and Labour Parties, one each to the others. All Parties took part except the Malta Labour Party. The Labour Party joined the scheme during January, but after one broadcast they withdrew. The script submitted for their second broadcast talk contravened, in the opinion of the Authority, Section 7 (2) (a) of the Broadcasting Ordinance.

"It shall be.....



"It shall be the duty of the Authority to satisfy itself that, so far as possible, the programmes broadcast by the Authority comply with the following requirements, that is to say -

- (a) that nothing is included in the programmes which offends against religious sentiment, good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling or which contains any offensive representation or reference to a living person."

Accordingly the Authority invited the Labour Party to submit another script. This the Labour Party were not prepared to do.

The Authority, it will be noted, undertook full responsibility for these broadcasts - their organisation, allocation, vetting of scripts etc. etc. In the terms of the Authority's agreement with its Contractor, these were "prescribed programmes provided by the Authority." The Authority accordingly paid its contractor for the Air-time employed and for the Contractor's technical facilities made available for these broadcasts.

This series of Party Political Broadcasts proceeded smoothly. The Authority's Legal Advisor minimised the occasional friction caused by the desire of speakers to express themselves in terms more exuberant than that permitted by the Broadcasting Ordinance. The Authority was, however, sued by the Editor of "Il-Berqa" in connexion with a Party Political Broadcast on behalf of the Nationalist Party given on January 2nd 1962. The case was eventually withdrawn following an amicable settlement reached out of Court.

## II. General Election Broadcasts

The series of Party Political Broadcast was terminated at the end of January 1962 in view of the forthcoming General Election. It was replaced by a series of "General Election Broadcasts" which commenced on the day after the last day for the receipt of nominations of candidates for the elections, and ended on the day before the first day of the polls. The Authority invited all the Parties to a meeting to discuss the arrangements for this series of General Election broadcasts. The meeting was attended by all Parties except the Malta Labour Party. This meeting decided to follow the precedent established at all previous General Elections since 1947 i.e. that the allocation of broadcasting time should be based on the number of nominations submitted by each Party contesting the Elections. The Authority offered a maximum of three 20-minutes broadcasts for each party with over 44 nominations, 2 broadcasts for parties with 25 to 44 nominations and 1 broadcast for parties with between 5 and 24 nominations. The Nationalist Party representative at the meeting dissented from this arrangement but agreed to take part in the broadcasts. Sixteen

/General.....



General Election Broadcasts were allocated, three each for all parties except to the Christian Democratic Party which received one. The Labour Party did not take part, thus reducing the actual broadcasts to thirteen. In addition, there was a separate series of ten-minute broadcasts specially for Gozo (although of course the broadcasts referred to above were heard in both Malta and Gozo) restricted to parties contesting the Gozo electoral division, in effect all parties except the Christian Democratic Party. The Labour Party did not take part.

All General Election broadcasts proceeded smoothly without undue complications. There was a minor amount of tampering with the Rediffusion system.

## A P P E N D I X     V I

### Foreign Relations

#### I.    The British Broadcasting Corporation

The Authority, from the moment of its formation, has been in the closest touch with the British Broadcasting Corporation. Much valuable help and advice has been given by the B.B.C. on technical and programme matters.

##### i)    Staff Training

The B.B.C. has agreed in principle to afford training facilities to members of the Authority's staff in both Sound and Television. During the period under review a member of the Schools Broadcasting Unit was accepted for two courses in London and arrangements were made for a Television Course for the Schools Broadcasting Organiser.

##### ii)   Programmes in Maltese from London

These programmes which are of long standing are financed by H.M. Government's External Broadcasting Vote, although entirely under the control of the B.B.C. The Authority felt they could be improved and had consultations with the Colonial Office with a view to an allocation of further funds for this purpose. These consultations were successful and after a visit to Malta by the B.B.C.'s Head of Overseas Regional Services, a new daily programme for Malta was initiated on 25th March, 1962.

##### iii)   Television Programmes

Negotiations were commenced with the B.B.C. for the provision of programmes of an educational and cultural nature. The Central Office of Information were also consulted with a view to making available, at a reduced price, a number of B.B.C. programmes.

#### II.   The Independent Television Authority

Much valuable advice was obtained from the Independent Television Authority particularly on Advertising practice on Television.

#### III.   The European Broadcasting Union

Contact was established with the E.B.U. but after consideration, it was decided that it would not be in the Authority's interest at this stage to apply for Associate Membership.

#### IV.   RAI (Radiotelevisione Italiana)

On behalf of the European Broadcasting Union, RAI organised an international School Broadcasting Conference in Rome in December, 1961. An invitation was extended to the Authority to take part, and the School Broadcasting Organiser was sent to attend the Conference. RAI were also very helpful in furnishing information to the Authority in the organisation of Party Political Broadcasts in Italy.

V. UNDA (Association Catholique Internationale pour la  
Radiodiffusion et la Television)

After preliminary contact and correspondence, it was proposed to join this Association, in the hope that after the establishment of Television, it could be of help in advising the Authority on the supply of outstanding television material from the Catholic World.



## A P P E N D I X     V I I

### The Members of the Authority

By Government Notice No. 457 published in the Government Gazette of 29th September, 1961, the following were appointed to be members of the Authority:

Lt Col. G.C. Micallef-Eynaud (to be Chairman)

Mrs Inez Galea, O.B.E.

Rev. Fr Charles G. Vella, Ph.B., S.Th.L.

(nominated by the Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta)

Professor V. Caruana Galizia, O.E.E., LL.D.

(nominated by the Vice-Chancellor and Rector  
**Magnificus** of the Royal University of Malta)

Kenneth Brown, Esq., to be the Chief Executive of  
the Authority.

It had been publicly announced beforehand (by a Press Release from the Palace dated 24th August, 1961) that the Hon. Mr E.G. Arrigo, C.B.E. had agreed to serve as Chairman of the Authority but that until he was free to take up his duties, Lt. Col. Micallef-Eynaud had consented to act as Chairman.

On 16th February, 1962, the Government Gazette carried another notice (No. 121) announcing the formal appointment of the Hon. Mr E.G. Arrigo, C.B.E. as ~~Chairman~~ **Chairman** and of ~~Mr Edgar Staines, C.B.E. and Mr E.G. L.C. Tabone~~ as new members of the Authority.

From the inception of the Authority, Mr A.J. Bellizzi has acted as its Secretary

# A P P E N D I X   V I I I

## Accounts of the Malta Broadcasting Authority

### Balance Sheet at 31st March, 1962

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Depreciation Provided</u>	<u>Net</u>
	£      s      d	£      s      d	£      s      d
<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>			
Freehold land	629.14. 9.	-	629.14. 9.
Office Equipment, furniture and fittings	2,081.14. 8.	149. 5.11.	1,932. 8. 9.
Technical Equipment	302.10. 6.	37.16. 4.	264.14. 2.
	<u>3,013.19.11.</u>	<u>187. 2. 3.</u>	<u>2,826.17. 8.</u>
<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments		2,058. 4. 1.	
Cash in Hand		4.15. 2.	
Cash at Bank		6,254.14. 8.	
		<u>8,317.13.11.</u>	
<u>Deduct:</u>			
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
Sundry creditors and accrued charges		<u>3,777.10. 4.</u>	
			<u>4,540. 3. 7.</u>
<u>Working Capital</u>			<u>7,367. 1. 3.</u>
<u>Net Assets</u>			<u><u>7,367. 1. 3.</u></u>
<u>Represented by:</u>			
<b><u>GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS</u></b>			
Amount applied for Capital purposes (see above)			3,013.19.11.
Balance of Income and Expenditure Amount (page 3)			<u>4,353. 1. 4.</u>
			<u><u>7,367. 1. 3.</u></u>

### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE MALTA BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and the annexed Income and Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the books and records kept by the Authority. Proper books of account have been kept so far as appears from our examination thereof. In our opinion and according to the information and explanations given to us, the said Balance Sheet presents a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority as at 31st March 1962, and of the surplus for the period from 29th September 1961 to 31st March 1962.

21st June, 1962

(sd)    TURQUAND, YOUNGS & CO.  
Chartered Accountants

19 Coleman Street, London E.C.2.

MALTA BROADCASTING AUTHORITYINCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTFOR THE PERIOD FROM 29. 9.61 TO 31. 3.62

	£	s	d.	£	s.	d.
<u>INCOME</u>						
Government Contributions				17,200.	0.	0.
Licence Fees from Contractors				51.	00.	0.
Ground Rents				20.	16.	0.
Bank Interest				3.	9.	9.
				<u>17,275.</u>	<u>5.</u>	<u>9.</u>

Deduct:

Prescription and improvement of Sound  
Broadcasts in accordance with clause  
12 of an agreement dated 28.9.61  
with Rediffusion (Malta) Ltd.

Programmes provided by the Authority  
(Note 2)

Contribution towards improvements  
carried out by Rediffusion  
(Malta) Ltd.

4,014.10. 8.

1,041. 0. 5.5,055.11. 1.

12,219.14. 8.

Deduct:ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGES

Honoraria to Board Members	585.14.11.
Wages and Salaries	2,777.18. 0.
Rent of Office Premises	205. 6. 8.
Stationery	150.19.11.
Water, Electricity and Telephone	75. 7.11.
Transport	31. 5. 7.
Audit Fees	52.10. 0.
Sundry Expenses	97. 8. 8.
Messengers' Uniforms	16.12. 0.
National Insurance Contributions	8.17. 6.
Legal Fees and Expenses	111.18. 4.
Postages	23.10. 3.
Subscriptions to Newspapers, magazines, etc.	41. 7. 7.
Duty visits abroad	101. 1. 0.
Entertainment and Hospitality	34. 0. 4.
Medical Expenses	24. 4. 8.
Monitoring and supervision of programmes	204.15. 0.

Depreciation:-

Furniture & Fittings	10%	72. 8. 8..	
Office Equipment	20%	45.13. 0.	
Soft Furniture	33 1/3%	31. 4. 3.	149. 5.11.
	3		<u>4,692. 4. 3.</u>

Less: Charged to the cost of  
programmes provided by  
Authority (see note 2)

268. 2. 6.4,424. 1. 9.

C/F

7,795.12.11.



B/T

3.  
7,795.12.11.

B/F

£      s      d  
7,795.12.11.

Deduct:SPECIAL CHARGES

Initial Cost of decorating and  
repairing office premises

428.11. 8.

SURPLUS FOR THE PERIOD TO DATE

7,367. 1. 3.

Less: Applied for Capital Purposes

3,013.19.11.

4,353. 1. 4.

MALTA BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE PERIOD 29. 9.61 TO 31.3.62

Note 1

The excess revenue of the Authority calculated in accordance with Clause 12 (3) and (4) of the Ordinance is as follows:-

	£	s	d
Balance of Income and Expenditure Account (Page 3)	4,353.	1.	4.
Provision for Depreciation not immediately required	187.	2.	3.
Represented by Working Capital	4,540.	3.	7.
<u>Less:</u>			
Prepayments and unpaid Debtor Balances	2,058.	4.	1.
	<u>2,481.</u>	<u>19.</u>	<u>6.</u>

Note 2

The following expenditure was incurred by the Authority in the production of School and Political Broadcasts:-

	£	s	d
Scriptwriters' and Actors' Fees	483.	0.	0.
Salaries and Allowances	1,627.	7.	5.
Air time and studio charges	1,099.	1.	10.
Records, tapes and publications	316.	9.	1.
Incidental expenses	12.	19.	6.
Training of Staff	139.	17.	0.
Duty visit abroad	29.	17.	0.
Depreciation of Technical Equipment (25%)	<u>37.</u>	<u>16.</u>	<u>4.</u>
	3,746.	8.	2.
Proportion of Overhead Expenses estimated at 5.7%	<u>268.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>6.</u>
	<u>4,014.</u>	<u>10.</u>	<u>8.</u>

To Page 2

APPENDIX IX

SCHOOLS BROADCASTING  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This Committee, appointed by the Authority under Clause 10 of the Broadcasting Ordinance consists of the following ladies and gentlemen

Chev.

S. Gatt, Esq.,

Miss M. Mortimer

Mgr. M. Azzopardi

G. Mangion, Esq., M.A.

G. Zarb Adami, Esq.

Miss R. Chetcuti

F.X. Mangion, Esq.

P. Miceli, Esq.

J.A. Cilia, Esq.

J.M. Demanuele, Esq.

Rev. Fr. P. Cachia, O.P.

Miss M. Attard Gouder