

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS**

1975 - 76



MALTA

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Covering the Year ended
31st March, 1976

CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTORY	1
PROFILE OF THE YEAR	4
The Authority	4
The Authority's Staff	5
Control and Supervision of Programmes	6
Finance	9
The Authority in Court	10
International Organisations	12
The Tokyo Song Festival	13
POLITICAL BROADCASTING	15
Party Political Broadcasts	15
Ministerial Broadcasts	17
The Right of Reply	18
The Legal Basis of the Right of Reply	20
PROGRAMME REVIEW	24
Television Programmes	25
The Sound Service	34
News and Current Affairs	43
Schools Broadcasting	47
Technical Developments	50
ACCOUNTS	52

INTRODUCTORY

Important and far reaching decisions about the general structure of broadcasting in Malta were taken during the year. These decisions emerged from Government's policy to remove broadcasting from the private to the public sector and to amalgamate all broadcasting services under the control of a para-statal organisation. In turn, this organisation absorbed the functions of other telecommunications media which, hitherto, had operated independently. This amalgamation brought together under the operative control of the Telemalta Corporation all activities pertaining to broadcasting, internal and external telephone communications as well as cable and telex services.

The previous system which had evolved in Malta was a mixture of public service and commercial broadcasting, with private enterprise providing Sound and Television services under the overall supervision and control of the Broadcasting Authority set up by the Constitution and charged with the responsibility of maintaining balance and impartiality in the various sectors of programming. This system which may not have been perfect or easy to operate had withstood the strains and stresses of the past fourteen years. It came to an end on the 31st July, 1975 when Xandir Malta officially became the broadcasting division of the Telemalta Corporation.

During a short period of time before the official setting up of Xandir Malta, the Authority began to shed its previous responsibilities for programme production and to transfer its manpower and technical assets to Xandir Malta. Radio Malta, which had

commenced in 1973 and which by the transfer date had expanded to three services on medium wave and on VHF-FM, was wholly affected by Government's directives to group the media under centralised control. The change over was completed by June 3 when the International Programme of Radio Malta continued its transmissions from the new Xandir Malta studios complex and not from the Authority's studios where it had originated together with the other two wireless services.

Schools Broadcasting was another sector of programming which was affected by the new policy. All the employees in this unit were seconded by the Authority to the recently set up para-statal organisation where they continued to provide under new management direct broadcasts on both media to primary and secondary schools.

Under the new system, the Authority reverted to its primary role of acting as 'watch-dog' over the broadcasting media with Telemalta as its new Broadcasting Contractor. This para-statal organisation inherited and assumed responsibility for the rights and obligations laid down in the Broadcasting Agreements which had originally been entered into with the Rediffusion Group of Companies in Malta. The Authority had given its formal consent in terms of the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance for the assignment of the Agreements to Telemalta.

With its former programme production and programme prescription responsibilities drastically curtailed, the Authority concentrated its efforts on the supervision and monitoring of the Contractor's programmes. This essential aspect of the Authority's legal obligations occupied most of the Authority's time both at Staff and Board levels. The task to maintain balance and ensure

impartiality in programming is not normally an easy one but in the highly charged atmosphere of a pre-election year, the situation was rendered even more difficult. However that may be, it is clear that no national broadcasting service could be considered adequate if it does not take into account and strive to meet the wide range of interests, tastes and political aspects of the audience it is designed to serve. The overall balance of programme output must reflect the views and interests of the audience as a whole.

PROFILE OF THE YEAR

The Authority

Section 121 of the Constitution lays down that "there shall be a Broadcasting Authority for Malta" with its membership being regulated in accordance with legislation which may be in force from time to time. The method of appointment of members of the Authority is also provided in the Constitution which stipulates that members are to be appointed by the President of the Republic acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister given after he has consulted the Leader of the Opposition. The Broadcasting Ordinance prescribes a maximum of six and a minimum of four members other than the Chairman. When this section, together with the method of appointment, is seen in relation to the Authority's quorum requirements - three members other than the Chairman - it will be readily appreciated that the Authority's day-to-day business would function more smoothly if membership were to be increased from the present minimum to the full number allowed by law. However, for many years, the Authority's membership has consistently been limited to a Chairman and four members.

During the year under review and up to the 3rd June 1976, the Authority was constituted as follows:-

Chev. Prof. C. Coleiro, M.D.	-	Chairman
Mr G. Borg)	
Mr N. Debono)	
Dr. A. Manche, LL.D.	)	- Members
Mr E.C. Tabone)	

On the 4th June, 1976 Professor Coleiro and Mr Borg retired at the expiration of their term of Office and were replaced by Brigadier G.V. Micallef and Mr R. Dalli as Chairman and member respectively.

During the year, the Authority held 26 formal sessions.

The Authority's Staff

The establishment of the Authority on 31st March, 1976 was as follows:

Administrative	...	...	...	3
Programming	...	...	...	5
Clerical and Secretarial	...	...	...	5
Others	...	...	...	4

As stated in the introductory section of this report, the curtailment of the Authority's programme production functions brought about a drastic reduction in staff with the redundant personnel being absorbed either by direct transfer or on secondment terms by Xandir Malta. This exercise was undertaken by negotiation in which the Government, the Authority and staff unions and associations were involved. The nucleus that remained with the Authority were among those with several years of experience in the various spheres of broadcasting and with specialised overseas training in programme production to their credit. Their duties have been redefined in accordance with actual requirements but it is hoped that an acceptable formula may be found in future through which full use may be made of the potential experience available without impinging in any way on the Authority's primary function of supervision and control.

The staff who work in broadcasting have the need not only to take pride in the work they have done but also to see clearly the future in which they will be able to exercise and develop their skills.

The Authority's day-to-day business and the management of its staff is entrusted to the Chief Executive. The Prime Minister had appointed Mr Joseph Grina to this post in November, 1971. Mr Grina relinquished his appointment on the 1st June, 1976 to take up a career in politics. The Authority would like to record its appreciation of Mr Grina's services rendered during his period of employment with the Broadcasting Authority.

Control and Supervision of Programmes

The Authority's primary function which emerges from the provisions of the Constitution is to ensure impartiality in matters of political or industrial controversy, or relating to current public policy and, that facilities and time are fairly apportioned between persons belonging to different political parties. In addition to the Constitutional requirements there are also the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance and the Broadcasting Agreements which oblige the Authority and its Contractor to maintain balance and impartiality in programming and to exclude from programmes any matter designed to serve the interests of any political party.

These functions are mostly of a supervisory or negative character but they have also their positive facets. The Authority may require the Contractor to broadcast or not to broadcast programmes for the reasons indicated in the Constitution. It also has the right to vet programme schedules and to ask for scripts or other information in advance for the purpose of ensuring that

the legal and contractual obligations are complied with.

Under the present arrangements, the Authority is more than sufficiently removed from the actual programme production process not to feel personally involved in individual programme decisions and in considering complaints it does not act at one and the same time as judge, jury and defending counsel as was sometimes suggested under former circumstances. In any dispassionate consideration of this matter, however, it must be borne in mind that programmes originate from an independent Contractor and investigations in depth into allegations about programme content and the implementation of a corrective process, if complaints are justified, take time to be carried out.

During the year, the Authority received a considerable number of complaints mainly from the Nationalist Party. These were all referred to the Contractor for its comments prior to further investigation and decision by the Authority. These complaints may be classified as follows:-

i) News

Lack of coverage or inadequate and unfair presentation of Nationalist Party activities as well as allegations of consistent transmission of material calculated to promote the interests of the party in Government.

ii) Parliamentary reporting

Imbalance in reporting time devoted to speeches from the House of Representatives together with unfair treatment of reported speeches made by members of the Opposition.

iii) Current Affairs programmes

Lack of balance in the selection of participants for discussion programmes; frequent interviews with Government or Labour Party spokesman and claims that Nationalist Party views and activities are not adequately dealt with.

iv) Documentaries and reporting of Editorials

Allegations that events of historical interest were not treated with due accuracy and impartiality and unfair reporting of a section of editorial opinion with the overall effect of evading criticism of current Government policy.

The Authority dealt with a number of complaints and, where necessary, took corrective action. The Contractor's explanations on several others were referred to the Nationalist Party for its information. However, at the end of the year under review, a considerable back-log of these complaints had still to be investigated by the Authority.

The Authority's monitoring service was extended to various areas of programming and reports were sent regularly for the Contractor's attention. Where major points of substance were raised, these were dealt with at Board level and suitable follow-up action taken.

It is hoped to review the monitoring system with a view to provide an easier flow of information between the Authority and Xandir Malta and to obtain more rapid action where this is found to be justified.

Finance

According to the spirit of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Authority's finances should be adequate and guaranteed. For a number of years they were neither and up to the financial year 1974-75, the Authority consistently declared a deficit. The final position during the year under review was somewhat different as shown in the audited accounts which appear as an appendix to this report.

Income received during the year through Government grants from Wireless Licence Fees, the payments made by the Contractors and other miscellaneous revenue stood at £M101,654. On the other hand, after the major surgical operation which removed the Radio Malta operation from the Authority's direct control, expenditure was substantially reduced and the overall effect produced a cash surplus of £M21,609. In terms of Section 12(3) of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Authority will be making recommendations to the President of the Republic about the manner in which it would wish these funds to be applied.

Despite the surplus which resulted at the close of the financial year, during the first quarter of the year the Authority was in grave financial difficulties. It had to resort to bank overdrafts and when these were curtailed it was doubtful whether it could still find the means to meet its expenses. Happily, the problem was resolved when a part of the Government's annual grant was made available in June, 1975 - three months after it was due. These difficulties are bound to recur unless an agreed workable system is found which would guarantee the adequate financing and the method of payment of funds to the Authority.

The Authority in Court

During the year under review, various lawsuits were instituted by the Nationalist Party against the Authority. These principally concerned the right to reply to Ministerial Broadcasts. Details about some important developments in this highly sensitive area of programming are provided in the chapter dealing with "Political Broadcasting". The Authority also featured in Court actions on other occasions.

On the 3rd February 1976, the Hon. Minister of Finance, Customs & Ports delivered a Ministerial Broadcast. The Authority granted a right of reply to the Nationalist Party and Dr. M. Felice, on behalf of the Nationalist Party, recorded his reply on the 20th February 1976 for transmission on the 23rd February, 1976. The Broadcast, prior to its being recorded was vetted by the Authority's Legal Adviser. A serious case of leakage materialized, owing to which the Hon. Minister of Finance requested the Authority not to transmit the broadcast, as he contended that certain parts of it were seditious. Such a request was made only a few hours before the broadcast was scheduled to go on air and the Chairman of the Authority decided to suspend its transmission for further consideration of the point raised. Dr. Felice's broadcast was ultimately transmitted on the 3rd March 1976. The Nationalist Party had filed a summons in Court a day or two before and the case was continued on the ground

that the Nationalist Party had an interest in obtaining a declaration that the Authority had failed in its duty of impartiality by suspending the transmission of Dr. Felice's Broadcast. The First Hall of the Civil Court, by its Judgement of the 1st June 1976 dismissed the demand for such declaration. The Nationalist Party's appeal from the Judgement is pending before the Court of Appeal.

Another Lawsuit instituted by the Nationalist Party against the Authority concerned the programme "Is-Snin ta' Bidla" - a series of programmes dealing with various phases of Malta's development over the last 70 years.

During the discussion by the Authority about the contents of this programme, difficulties arose due to a lack of quorum and the session had to be deferred. The Nationalist Party requested the Court to order the issue of a precautionary warrant of prohibitory injunction restraining the Authority from transmitting that particular edition of the series. The Court granted the provisional injunction on the ground that it was incumbent on the Authority to decide whether the Programme had its approval or not. The Authority subsequently approved the programme subject to certain modifications. The case on its merits is pending before the Court.

International Organisations

During the year, Broadcasting Authority delegates attended and took an active part in various international gatherings. The 27th Session of the Prix Italia international competition for radio and television programmes was held in Florence between the 17th and 29th September, 1975. The Authority was represented by its Secretary, Mr Antoine Ellul, who acted as a member of the jury for radio documentaries. The aims of the Prix Italia is to promote the quality of programmes of both media and to encourage the exchange of programmes submitted for the competition. It is also intended to facilitate cooperation between those engaged in creative broadcasting work and to stimulate the study of creative and cultural questions relating to broadcasting.

The Commonwealth Educational Broadcasting Conference was officially inaugurated at the Sydney Opera House on the 7th October, 1975. One of the Maltese delegates to the conference was Mr Joseph Grima, the Authority's Chief Executive. The General Manager of Xandir Malta, Mr Joseph Avellino and Father Dionysius Mintoff were the other Maltese representatives. After several working sessions, the Conference adopted various recommendations and one of these had been proposed by Malta. The Maltese sponsored recommendation proposed to the Commonwealth Secretariate the setting up of a visual/audio programme bank into which Commonwealth countries should be invited to deposit educational and cultural radio and television programmes for Commonwealth distribution. On its part, Malta would be prepared to make its contribution, and to set up a centre to deal with the storage, cataloguing and distribution of films and tapes, if requested to do so. A committee of experts

was to look into and recommend solutions to any problems that may arise in the implementation of this proposal.

The Government also nominated the Authority's Chief Executive to attend the non-aligned symposium on information which was held in Tunis from the 26th to the 30th March, 1976. Mr Grima was appointed Rapporteur of Group III of the Symposium. The Agenda included the promotion of mass information media between the non-aligned countries; the role of these media in strengthening economic and social cooperation between the participating countries and the encouragement of cultural interaction between the non-aligned countries.

For several years the Authority has been an Active Member of the European Broadcasting Union and of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association. During the year, the Authority's E.B.U. membership ran into difficulties due to the financial aspects of membership. However, after successful negotiation, the Authority renewed its membership for 1976 and its delegate, the Authority's Secretary, attended the E.B.U.'s 27th Ordinary Session of the General Assembly which was held in Helsinki from the 2nd to the 5th July, 1976.

The Tokyo Song Festival

Malta was once again represented at this famous annual international song festival and it is with satisfaction that the Authority records the success attained by local singer MARY SPITERI in the Festival. She was one of five singers acclaimed for their Outstanding

Performance. Mary Spiteri was presented with a silver medallion, a certificate and 500 US Dollars as prize money. In Tokyo, Miss Spiteri interpreted the song "Go On.....", composed by Joe Vella, who also directed the festival orchestra at the Budokan Hall.

After negotiations held between the Yamaha Music Foundation - the Organisers of the Festival - and the Broadcasting Authority, it was agreed that Malta be offered the same facilities to enter the Tokyo Festival as before. The Organizers, however, reserve the right to choose the song to represent Malta in the Festival.

A special Organising Committee responsible for the local selection was set up under the Chairmanship of Mr E.C. Tabone, board member of the Broadcasting Authority. The Committee was made up of representatives from the Authority, Xandir Malta (who are jointly responsible with the Authority for Malta's participation at the Festival) and the Maltese Guild of Composers and Authors (UKAM).

Six finalists were chosen out of a total of 43 compositions submitted for the festival. These six competed in a 'Song for Tokyo' television contest. An international jury selected the best three songs which were then sent to the Yamaha Music Foundation for the final choice.

The Authority, together with Xandir Malta, are again competing in the 1976 Festival and the number of entries submitted this year to the local Organising Committee was an indication of the increased interest shown by Maltese composers in this international song competition.

POLITICAL BROADCASTING

Local politics are necessarily an important ingredient of the Authority's programmes. Whenever a broadcasting system is established the problem of politics in broadcasting soon arises. No politician can ignore it and there will be uproar in political quarters if strict impartiality is not seen to be maintained and one party gains a fractionary advantage over another. Broadcasting systems must have a policy to regulate politics and this is expected to be closely controlled. The Authority's policy emerges from the provisions of the Constitution and the Broadcasting Ordinance which lay down balance and impartiality and the fair apportionment of time between persons belonging to different political parties as the basic requirements.

Party Political Broadcasts

The Broadcasting Authority and representatives of the political parties meet annually, or more often if necessary, to agree on the detailed arrangements, the number and the time allowed to each party for such broadcasts. The formula adopted by the Authority relates the total airtime for each party to that party's representation in Parliament.

Two series of Party Political Broadcasts were in operation during the year. The first series covered the period January, 1975 to January, 1976 and was made up of 24 programmes. The second series, similar in pattern but more limited in the number of programmes, began on the 23rd January and will come to an end on the 13th August, 1976 or earlier if Parliament is dissolved before that date.

This latter series of 15 programmes was purposely limited to coincide as closely as possible to the end of the present Parliament's five-year term since after dissolution which is expected to take place not later than the 15th August, 1976 the present basis for airtime allocation would no longer apply.

For the period January to August, party political broadcasts were as follows:-

Malta Labour Party

- 2 Political Conferences - One of 60 minutes and one of 50 minutes
- 1 Press Conference of 60 minutes
- 4 Talks of 15 minutes each

Nationalist Party

- 2 Political Conferences of 50 minutes each
- 1 Press Conference of 55 minutes
- 3 Talks of 15 minutes each

In addition, both parties were offered participation in two Political Debates of 60 minutes each.

Party Political Broadcasts are transmitted on television only and are held fortnightly on an alternate basis. Legal vetting is insisted upon only in the case of straight talks or talks held in interview form. Conferences and debates are free of any similar restraint and this may have led to the legal actions which were instituted during the year as a result of these programmes. Unfortunately, the laws of libel do not exempt the broadcasting media from responsibility for what emerges

from these political programmes. Some Court judgements have awarded damages or imposed fines in criminal and civil actions for libel although it was pleaded that the Contractor had no control over these programmes prescribed by the Authority. On its part the Authority keeps the Contractor indemnified against such risks.

Ministerial Broadcasts

Ministerial Broadcasts are in a class of their own. These are broadcasts for which the initiative comes from the Government and in which the speaker is a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary. These broadcasts are not subject to prior vetting. The following Ministerial Broadcasts were delivered on television and Cable Radio between the 1st April, 1975 and 31st March, 1976:

1. The Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare on the 15th May, 1975 - 6 minutes
2. The Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism on 13th January, 1976 - 16 minutes
3. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on 20th January 1976 - 18 minutes
4. The Minister of Housing and Lands on 27th January 1976 - 19 minutes
5. The Minister of Finance, Customs and Ports on 3rd February, 1976 - 25 minutes
6. The Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on 17th February 1976 - 17 minutes

7. The Minister of Public Building and Works
on 24th February, 1976 - 24 minutes
8. The Minister of Posts and Electricity
on 2nd March, 1976 - 24 minutes
9. The Minister of Education and Culture
on 16th March, 1976 - 26 minutes
10. The Minister of Labour, Employment and
Welfare on 23rd March, 1976 - 25 minutes
11. The Minister of Development
on 30th March, 1976 - 41 minutes

For Ministerial Broadcasts, the Authority allows a maximum airtime entitlement of 240 minutes annually. This allocation was completely taken up during the 12-month period from April 1975 to March 1976.

During the year, the Prime Minister spoke to the Nation on two occasions: on 5th August, 1975 concerning Government administrative and financial measures (30 mins.) and on 31st December 1975 in an end-of-the-year message when he gave an informative review of Government activities (33 mins.) The Prime Minister's Addresses to the Nation are excluded from the airtime allocated to Ministerial Broadcasts.

The Right of Reply

Ministerial Broadcasts are to be as impartial as possible and, in the ordinary way, there is no question of a reply. The definition of what certain broadcasts are by nature is not always easy. Thus controversy arose during the year over several of these broadcasts and the Authority devoted considerable time in discussing the merits of individual broadcasts and in assessing whether these merited

the right of reply as claimed by the Opposition Party. The Authority decided to grant the right of reply to five Ministerial Broadcasts. Several cases were the subject of legal action against the Authority by the Nationalist Party and the Court eventually gave judgements which granted the right of reply to a further three broadcasts. The following lists the replies by the Nationalist Party transmitted as a result of broadcasts which took place during the year:

1. On the 16th February, 1976: 8 mins. in reply to broadcast by Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
2. On the 19th February, 1976: 6 mins. in reply to broadcast by Minister of Housing and Lands
3. On the 3rd March, 1976: 10 mins. in reply to broadcast by Minister of Finance, Customs and Ports.
4. On the 18th March, 1976: 8 mins. in reply to broadcast by Minister of Public Building and Works
5. On the 14th April, 1976: 8 minutes in reply to broadcast by Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism.
6. On the 21st April, 1976: 16 minutes in reply to Prime Minister's end of the year message to the Nation.
7. On the 28th April, 1976: 15 minutes in reply to broadcast by Minister of Development
8. On the 12th May, 1976: 15 minutes in reply to broadcast by Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare (23/3/76)

The Authority also granted to the Nationalist Party the right to reply to a speech delivered by the Minister of Public Building and Works on the occasion of the inauguration of the 13th December 1975 Road at Marsa. The whole inauguration ceremony had been broadcast on radio and Cable Radio on the 31st August, 1975. The reply took the form of an interview in a current affairs programme.

The Legal basis of the Right of Reply

As stated in the preceding Section of this report, various lawsuits were instituted by the Nationalist Party against the Authority in connection with 'rights of reply' to Ministerial broadcasts and Addressees to the Nation by the Prime Minister.

The relevant legal provisions are Section 122(1) of the Constitution and Section 7(2) (g) of the Broadcasting Ordinance. The former provision reads as follows:

"It shall be the function of the Broadcasting Authority to ensure, that, so far as possible, in such sound and television broadcasting services as may be provided in Malta, due impartiality is preserved in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy and that broadcasting facilities and time are fairly apportioned between persons belonging to different political parties".

At the time when Ministerial Broadcasts were originally introduced in 1963, the Authority issued a number of rules as statements of policy to serve as guidelines in the conduct of Ministerial Broadcasts. These guidelines have remained substantially unchanged. The

relevant sections are the following:

"(1) In view of their responsibilities for the care of the Nation, the Government should be able to broadcast from time to time Ministerial Broadcasts, which, for example, are purely factual or explanatory of approved legislative or administrative policies or in the nature of appeals to the nation to co-operate in national policies which require the active participation of the Public.

(3) It will be incumbent on Ministers making such broadcasts to be as impartial as possible, and in the ordinary way there will be no question of a reply".

The Nationalist Party claimed that for the proper observance of the Constitutional and Legal Provisions above mentioned, the Opposition should be granted an automatic right of reply and that the Authority had failed in its constitutional and legal duties in those instances during the preceding twelve months in which it had either failed to grant a right of reply or allotted it inadequate time for such reply. Apart from these declarations, the Nationalist Party requested the Court to grant it a right of reply in regard to various broadcasts.

By Judgement delivered on the 6th February, 1976, the Constitutional Court held that the case was within the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal and not of the Constitutional Court and, on the same day the Court of Appeal delivered a detailed and elaborate Judgement of fundamental importance.

The Court considered that the guiding principles on Ministerial Broadcasts in Malta were the same as those followed by the British Broadcasting Corporation in the United Kingdom before 1969 and that the same criteria were applicable to addresses to the nation by the Prime Minister. The Court of Appeal declared that in matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy the doctrine of impartiality and fair apportionment of time implied the necessity, in the public interest, of a right of reply. If a Ministerial Broadcast were to deal with questions about which in the country as a whole there were two or more opinions or if the Ministerial Broadcast praised too much the political party in Government, or criticised even in an indirect manner, other political parties, a right of reply should be granted to the Opposition. In such cases there should be a serious, real and effective opportunity for a reply, so that the Country would thereby have the benefit of diversity of information. The Authority had an affirmative obligation in terms of the Constitutional and Legal provisions. Within certain limits, the Authority had discretionary powers but if it went beyond those limits as explained in the Judgement of the Court of Appeal delivered on the 22nd May 1971 in the case "Mintoff noe. vs. Montanaro Gauci noe." the Courts had the duty to intervene.

The Court of Appeal held that:

(1) The concept of a Ministerial Broadcast was not in violation of the Constitution or of the Law, provided it was kept within the limits explained in the Judgement. A right of reply was therefore not automatic but was to be granted if the Ministerial Broadcast or Address to the Nation went beyond such limits.

(2) In so far as the Ministerial Broadcasts delivered during the previous 12 months were concerned, the Court held that a right of reply should have been granted in the case of the Ministerial Broadcast of the Hon. Minister of Finance, Customs and Ports delivered on the 17th December, 1974.

(3) In regard to the Address to the Nation of the 5th August, 1975 delivered by the Hon. The Prime Minister, the request for a right of reply was dismissed, as the Court considered that there were not sufficient elements to warrant its upsetting the decision taken by the Authority.

The other Broadcasts about which a right of reply was requested were the following:

(a) The Address to the Nation of the Hon. The Prime Minister of the 31st December 1975.

(b) The Ministerial Broadcast of the Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry & Tourism of the 13th January, 1976.

(c) The Ministerial Broadcast of the Hon. Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries of the 20th January 1976.

(d) The Ministerial Broadcast of the Hon. Minister of Education & Culture of the 16th March, 1976.

(e) The Ministerial Broadcast of the Hon. Minister of Employment and Social Welfare of the 23rd March, 1976.

The Authority granted rights of reply in cases (a), and (c) during the pendency of the Actions, but refused the request in the other cases. The Court increased the duration of the reply in case (a), and granted a right of reply in cases (b) and (e). It agreed with the decision of the Authority in case (d). The relative Judgements were delivered by the Court of Appeal on the 9th April, 1976 and by the First Hall of the Civil Court on the 5th May, 1976.

PROGRAMME REVIEW

An increase in activities in all sectors of programming and a related expansion in technical facilities was the predominant feature registered by Xandir Malta during the year.

A milestone in television broadcasting was established with the acquisition and putting in use of a fully-equipped outside broadcasting unit. Without any outside help or advice, Xandir Malta engineers not only commissioned the unit in a matter of days but also modified it to take a third orthicon camera and two portable microwave links - a highly commendable effort on their part. These measures have enhanced the production capabilities of the unit as well as making live outside-broadcast transmissions possible. Several outside broadcasts were taken in hand and were extremely well received by the viewing public who commented very favourably also about the clarity and technical quality of the transmissions.

Outside Television Broadcasting was introduced for the first time in February 1976 with the 'live' and recorded coverages of events related to "Budget Day". This first "outside broadcast" taking place only a few days after the arrival of the equipment at the station was very much a "baptism of fire".

The coverage included "live" detailed reports on the proceedings, together with recorded historical commentaries on the House of Representatives and interiors of the President's Palace.

Three other coverages were made up to end of the period under review - two sports events and the Malta Song Festival.

Television

The station originated output including news and current affairs programmes, accounted for around 41.1% of total transmission time during the period under review; this shows an increase of 3.1% over the previous year, equivalent to a weekly increase of 3 hours 51 minutes.

This period also saw the introduction of Sunday afternoon transmissions, accounting for over $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours of the total weekly output.

"Live" and "Recorded" outside broadcast coverages were introduced towards the end of the period.

Programmes for Children

39 half-hour programmes were produced for the very young audiences and were intended to create an interest in the world around them. Two series in particular, were devised to "teach" through the child's natural ability to "play".

Programmes included competitive games, songs, word-building, visualised stories on the moral and social aspects of child behaviour and items on civic sense and nature topics. Another series, combined a double-feature of imported, animated cartoons with station originated sound tracks.

Programmes for Young People

A total of 50 programmes were directed at teenage audiences. Content mainly dealt with current world affairs, the international music scene and drama appreciation. Programmes also served as a vehicle for debates on topical subjects, literary works by teenage contributors, various careers,

do-it-yourself projects, and past-times and self-evaluation in relation to the home, family and friends.

Light Entertainment

43 programmes varying in duration from 30 to 60 minutes, together with a number of "ad hoc" programmes totalling 320 minutes, were produced during the period under review. Programmes provided an opportunity for new and established talent with visiting entertainers as guests. Content included a mixed bag of musical entertainment, varying from pure rock to pop, classical, traditional and folk music. The current series "Kuntrasti" introduced an element of music appreciation through a combination of musico-literary numbers and the introduction and execution of well-known classics by students of the Johann Strauss School of Music.

Feature Films

The standard of films shown maintained the very high audience they have always enjoyed. This year's long list of films included such box office hits as: The Greatest Story Ever Told, It's a Mad Mad World, Buona Sera Mrs Campbell, Topkapi, Thomas Crown Affair and the Caine Mutiny.

Prizma

This programme continued to provide a collage of comments, information and criticism on artistic and cultural activities.

Taht Sena Malti

This series brought back most of the elements existing in "Wirt Artna", with the addition of a highly successful feedback from the viewer regarding various aspects

of Maltese customs and traditions. Discussions by invited experts, on unusual local customs, proverbs and "objects d'arts" of a bygone age created an added interest.

Dawra Madwarna

These programmes were directed at the whole family and served as a vehicle for such items as "do-it-yourself" spots for the man around the house, hobbies for the young and the introduction from time to time of personalities from various walks of life. Programmes also included satirical sketches aimed at furthering civic sense and responsibility by providing an opportunity to members of the family to take stock of their immediate environment and society as a whole.

Tghid Veru?

Incorporated items dealing with magic, the occult and allied sciences together with elements of entertainment. Programmes included documented items on the history of various branches of the occult, interviews with persons claiming to have had experience in this field, demonstrations and interviews with personalities experienced in palmistry, astrology, phrenology and other topics related to magic and the supernatural. The combination of entertainment and topics dealing with the possibility of the existence of a sixth sense or a fourth dimension, made this series a success.

Sports

The weekly sport magazine programme and results of sporting activities continued on a regular basis. Special events and international meetings held on the island were given coverage in addition to reports and features mounted for the occasion. Of particular interest were the outside broadcast coverage of Horse Racing from Marsa and the Motor-

Cycle Scramble at Intarfa.

Documentaries

Around 50 documentary programmes were produced during the period under review. Foremost among these were programmes commemorating anniversaries, a series about Malta from 1900 to date and another about places of historic, artistic and architectural importance. Most of the programmes used "on location" footage while others required dramatised action sequences to bring to life unrecorded episodes.

Wirt In-Natura

This series dealt with "nature" aspects of the islands and the need for the preservation of flora and fauna. The series was produced with the co-operation of the Museum of Natural History and the help of various experts from the History Societies.

Wirt Artistiku/Arkitettoniku

These programmes were devoted to the subject of artistic and architectural heritage. The first series dealt with art treasures housed in the New Museum of Fine Arts. Style of presentation provided the viewer with an opportunity to take a very close look at the interiors and treasures housed in the new building, as yet unfamiliar with the public as a whole.

The architectural series visited gems of architecture round the island and in giving their historical background, referred also to restoration work in progress and the present or future role of the buildings in question. The architect in charge of restoration of the historic architectural landmarks, was the main contributor to the series.

Mahdum Malta

Short documentaries dealing with cottage industries highlighting the expertise of established Maltese craftsmen and the training of newcomers in the field.

Snin ta' Bidla

These programmes covered the main social, political, industrial, ecological and educational changes that have taken place in our islands since the turn of the century. The series sought to air some of the factors and situations that contributed towards the principal socio-political developments leading up to the attainment of republic status.

On some occasions, the Authority drew the Contractor's attention to the need to observe accuracy and impartiality in connection with this series.

Kompozituri U Muzicisti

Imported films about the life and works of famous composers and musicians with statinn originated soundtracks.

Drama

17 plays varying from 40 to 75 minutes were transmitted during this period. A number of short "seasons" of plays by one author featuring works by Maltese playwrights and translations of popular works by foreign authors.

Religious

The weekly programme "Djalogu" continued to be presented in "magazine" and "inquiry" forms on alternate weeks, with a replacement during the summer months. The summer series of 13 programmes "IMPENN" was based on the theme "commitment". Programmes sought to analyse through discussion, situations arising from the theme as related to

socio religious and moral problems with reference to their validity and application to today's way of life. Seasonal programmes were also produced for the Christmas and Easter periods.

Adult Education

A major step forward in the adult educational field was the introduction of two language teaching courses - Maltese and Arabic. Lessons in both courses were broadcast once a week each with a repeat in the same week. Both series were intended to continue on a regular basis up to end of June, 1976.

The Maltese Language course was designed to introduce beginners and illiterates to reading and writing. Elements of direct and indirect teaching together with strong doses of entertainment were blended in sufficient dosages as to render the programme appealing enough and sustain interest. Every effort was made to create various ways of injecting repetition of teaching points while providing ample opportunity for interaction with the viewers. In spite of the divergence of age groups catered for by the series, overall reaction was quite satisfactory. Style of presentation and appearances by well known personalities in the entertainment field contributed a great deal towards the success of the course. Spoken and written Arabic was more academic in its approach, being aimed at the prospective students of the language. Mainly involved in direct teaching, programmes in this series were shorter in duration than their Maltese counterpart. Both series utilised a considerable amount of stills, film and animation to illustrate important points. Arabic language lessons also included short items on film on various aspects of life in the Arab World as a means of furthering the linguistic and cultural heritage of the countries concerned.

Xtieli U Fjuri/Akwariju

A quarter hour programme series aimed at the home gardener and fresh-water aquarium enthusiast. It also sought to encourage newcomers to these pastimes providing information not easily accessible to them. Both series were accompanied by illustrated notes for viewers made available free on request.

Il-Film

These programmes sought to foster a greater interest in the cinema and to awaken a moral conscience of the values of the cinema as a means of entertainment and an art form.

Content of the programmes mainly consisted of feature films shown on Television. These were briefly reviewed with a discussion in depth on a closely related topic. Film censors and critics were regular contributors to this programme.

Public Service Broadcasts

Most public service campaigns were given comprehensive coverage on the medium with the co-operation of "ad hoc" committees, the Department of Information and the various Ministries. The first quarter of 1975 saw the introduction of a series of 15 to 20 minute programmes (continuing) on the various public services with invited experts from the various departments represented in each programme.

The Television Audience 1975/76

According to an independent audience survey carried out during November 1975, 235,400 people or 92% of the population (age 9 years and over) watched Xandir Malta TV every week. The daily average audience amounted to 210,000

or 82% of the population (9 years and over). This represented an increase of 8% over the previous survey.

Local television plays topped the list of popular programmes with a viewership of 158,000. Next in line were "Tuesday Cinema" and "Streets of San Francisco" with a viewership of 152,000 and 144,000 respectively.

The Religious programme "Djalogu" accounted for the largest increase in viewership - 143,000 people, as compared to 98,000 in the previous survey - an increase of nearly 50%

The survey also revealed that a daily average of 136,000 watch the News in Maltese at 7.45 p.m., and 73,000 people follow the late night full News Bulletin in English.

"All in the family" (128,000), "Anthology" (126,000) and "Petrocelli" (108,000) in that order, were the next most popular programmes on television.

Imported Programmes

Topping the list of imported programmes were a performance of Sergei Prokofiev's Romeo & Juliet by the Bolshoi Theatre Ballet, the historical series "Shadow of the Tower" and "Colditz". The ballet was a special performance by the Bolshoi Ballet recorded in Moscow on the occasion of the Bicentennial anniversary of the famous theatre. The spectacular ballet featured the talents of over 300 artists and was shown by television stations in 112 countries. "Shadow of the Tower" and "Colditz" both thirteen one hour series, followed in the tradition of well known dramas recreating momentous episodes in history.

Adventure series accounted for 10.1% of the total transmission output. Programmes varied from 50 to 90 minutes in duration and covered legal, western, detective, medical and science fiction dramas in such series as "Petrocelli", "Cimarron Strip", "Policewoman", "Warship", "Space 1999", "Madigan", "Search" and "Streets of San Francisco" which had the highest viewer-ship from the list of imported programmes. Serious Drama was represented among others, by a "Country Matters" set of dramatised short stories by Copland and Bates, a serialised television version of "Tom Brown's Schooldays" and various single plays.

An average of 2 hours per week were devoted to programmes of a documentary nature. Subjects covered historical events, classical music, sports, the preservation of the environment and wildlife and technological development.

The number of programmes in the variety and shows category increased by over 100 per cent over last year and accounted for 5.8% of the total transmission output. Series included Dave Allen at Large, European Entertainers, The Morecombe and Wise Shows, Carol Burnett Shows, Star Parade, Nana Mouskouri Shows and Show De Cologne besides a large number of single variety specials and half hour comedy series. Children's programming provided the usual combination of information and entertainment. The popular cartoon slots alternated with the educational series, Sesame Street, Big Blue Marble and half hour documentaries. The Little House on the Prairie, Apple's way, Swiss Family Robinson and The Waltons provided the serious adventure element.

The number of feature films shown on television was increased to three per week with the introduction of the Sunday Matinee film at the end of September. (Transmissions

on Sundays had commenced on March 16 with a one hour programme slot. These were stopped on July 6 for the summer months and resumed on September 28 with a 3½ hour programme which included the Sunday Matinee Film).

The Sound Services

Cable Radio, previously known as the Rediffusion Sound Service continued to operate on a two-channel network. In May 1975, Xandir Malta took over from the Authority the direct operation of Radio Malta's three wireless services. To these were added three external services using the powerful Deutsche Welle transmitter located at the south eastern part of the Island. This development was made possible through the Government's initiative and with its cooperation.

"Malta Calling"

This English language programme was launched on August 2, 1975 on a 250-kw shortwave transmitter beamed to Northern Europe. This half-hour transmission every Saturday is repeated in German every Tuesday. Reception reports indicate that both programmes were being received clearly in Finland, Hungary, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Rumania, Australia, Canada and U.S.A. The programme comprises music, News, historic and touristic information on the Maltese Islands. Thousands of would-be visitors to Malta who listen to the broadcasts wrote in for brochures and flight schedules.

"Lehen Malta"

A daily programme in Arabic was launched on August 31, 1975. The transmissions are of 75-minutes duration at 2230 CET on 1570 KHZ in the medium waveband. Record

requests, foreign and local News bulletins, together with historical and touristic information of the Maltese Islands, are on the daily schedule. The powerful 600-KW medium wave transmitter of Deutsche Welle used reaches listeners in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, The Cameroons, Turkey and Ethiopia.

Cable Radio, together with the three Radio Stations put out a total of 82 broadcasting hours daily. Whilst three of the stations have a distinctive output and independent style, the National networks of Cable Radio and Radio Malta have very much in common.

Religious Programmes

The output of religious programmes on Cable Radio continued at its former level and maintained the overall satisfactory standards achieved in previous years.

A regular weekly religious programme was introduced on Radio Malta and this, in some measure, helped to meet public demand which had for some time been complaining about the lack of such programmes on this medium.

The output of religious programmes on all broadcasting media is guided by the Religious Broadcasting Advisory Panel appointed by the Authority after consultation with His Grace the Archbishop.

Children's Programmes

A variety of subjects was covered some of which were specially designed to educate through entertainment. Programme series included civics, science, archaeology, astronomy, music, history, drama, careers, literature, sport and religion, all devised in terms which children understood.

To develop their own powers of observation, individuality of expression, and creative faculties, children were invited to participate in programmes on literature, "Pinna Zghazugha" and "Fejn Nghix Jien" - a series on Maltese Towns and Villages based on information submitted by the young listener. Dramatised stories from the Bible also proved very popular. Another series worthy of mention was "Nixtieq Insir....." giving children an opportunity to pose questions to those directly involved in various trades, crafts and professions which youngsters hoped to follow, on growing up. These ranged from hairdressing and farming to shipbuilding and firefighting.

Magazines and Documentaries

These were allotted an appreciable amount of airtime in response to listeners' requests for this kind of programme material. The combined skills of producers, scriptwriters, researchers and commentators who dealt with the various subjects carefully and in depth helped to make these programmes appealing to the audience.

The National networks of Cable Radio and Radio Malta offered a comprehensive service to their listeners and specialised programmes dealt with the arts, consumer affairs, history, folklore, science, the environment, motoring, gardening, health, medicine, natural history, antiques, social problems, economics, cinema, literature, world events, the occult and culture.

Subjects were reflected in programmes like "Art Twelidi", "Il-Kultura matul iz-Zmienijiet", "Għalfejn Għexu", "Mill-Kamp tax-Xjenza", "L-Istorja Soċjali Maltija", "L-Ekonomija fil-Hajja ta' Kuljum", "Problemi tal-Familja", "Fejn Tmur il-Qalb", "Kien Irrapurtat", "Mis-Saltniet Mobbija", "Grazziet il-Kavallieri F'Malta", "Jew Tahfen jew Nahfnuk", "Ir-Rampil", "Il-Folklore Moda Għida", "Kelma Għib il-Ohra".

Popular and Light Music

The various types and forms of light music have become the backbone of programme schedules and whilst efforts were made to cover all aspects of popular music, prominence was also given to minority interests such as jazz, folk and brass bands.

The wide and immediate choice of light musical programmes featured heavy rock, soul, jazz, country and western, folk, middle-of-the road, easy listening and oldies, compiled and presented by a team of disc-jockeys who specialised in the diverse types of music. Xandir Malta also assisted in the promotion of major festivals including the Malta Song Festival, The International Song Festival for Peace and The Malta Folk Song Contest which were broadcast direct over both media.

Contacts made with several overseas companies ensured a steady inflow of singles and LP albums which kept listeners abreast of the British, American, French, German and Italian hit parades. Operattas and musical shows were also prominently featured. Local record productions were both popular and plentiful. Those which attracted the most requests were Maltese discs featuring traditional and modern folk, recordings of prize winning songs in major festivals and melodies by the Tramps, New Cuorey, Black Train, The Followers and many others.

Local Brass bands and military band music on records in addition to a series on the history of Maltese and Gozitan Band Clubs were an essential contribution to this sector.

Serious Music

Both Cable Radio and Radio Malta's National Programme offered a comprehensive service for all listeners who appreciate serious music of any kind, and whilst efforts were made to cover a variety of musical taste, pride of place was given to the main classical repertoire. High quality gramophone recordings available from various parts of the world were used together with excellent recordings made available to Xandir Malta by other broadcasting organisations. Studio recitals by visiting and local artists were also broadcast.

Talks and Discussions

These are essential elements in the programme schedule and of service to the community. The value of this information service is enriched by the contribution of experts covering various activities. The validity of this exercise can be assessed by the ever increasing number of letters requesting information on health, legal matters, gardening, cooking, care of pets, house decorating, antiques, dressmaking, fashions, folklore and matters relating to National heritage. Other subjects which are included as a unit or slotted in daily programmes for the housewife, cover philately, psychology, literature and the arts.

There were also series of talks on the history of political and social concepts and special programmes coinciding with "Woman's Year", "Holy Year" and "European Architectural Heritage Year". Social and family problems are tackled on both media in discussion type transmissions. "Genituri u Ulied" and "Problemi tal-Familja" being two good examples.

Literary Programmes

Programmes in association with the Għaqda Letterarja Maltija, Moviment Gawnien Letterarju and Għaqda Kittieba Eghazagh were maintained. Lesser known authors of prose and verse were given an opportunity to broadcast their works over Radio Malta in a specially devised series. Other programmes promoted various forms of literature, the techniques of writing and the teaching and studying of the Maltese language. Readings of novels in episodes and short stories continued to be the mainstay in this sector.

Sports

Coverage reflected most of the major sporting interests, however a dispute with the Malta Football Association curtailed commentary and reports on local competitive football at the start of the 1975/76 season. The Authority cannot but view with concern the effects of this lengthy dispute on that section of the audience which normally look to the media for coverage of football matches and wishes to encourage a solution to the problem.

Agreement was however reached with Clubs participating in the U.E.F.A. competitions, and a direct commentary on the Malta vs Bulgaria International was broadcast in December following an arrangement with the M.F.A. independent of the dispute over league matches. Football in Gozo was not affected and reportage was carried in full over both media.

The year's schedule included basketball, volleyball, horse-racing, waterpolo, archery, table-tennis, badminton, tennis, skeet-shooting, bowling, billiards, cycling, sailing, athletics, boxing, wrestling and boat-racing.

All international events in which Malta was represented were given prominence including direct commentary from Algiers on the Mediterranean games, the International Basketball Tournament staged in Libya, the International Tennis, Table-Tennis, Archery and Waterpolo Tournaments, The Middle Sea Race and the FISEC Games. Also worthy of mention was a twelve part series on the National Regatta broadcast over Radio Malta.

The death of popular sports commentator and producer Frank Canilleri occurred during the year under review.

Features and Drama

Radioplays demonstrated a noticeable increase in the vitality of authors, actors and producers and retained its prominence in the field of general entertainment.

Authors continued to be melodramatic in their writing. There was, however, a substantial increase in themes portraying the lighter side of life. In this respect Lino Grech's **twelve-part** serial "Kull Par Ghal Paru" with a local setting, was widely followed and very well received.

The results of the 1974 Radioplay Writing Competition was made known in June 1975 and were as follows:

- 1st Prize of £M100 "Iben it-Tric" by George Buttigieg
- 2nd Prize of £M50 "Fug dal-Bank, F'Dal-Gnien" by Alfred Sant.

There were also four honourable mentions.

Plays broadcast over Cable Radio between April 1975 and March 1976 amounted to 52.

Six serials comprising 52 episodes were also transmitted whilst 13 features were mounted.

These broadcasts provided a total of 865 acting roles for 64 authors and producers.

On Radio Malta 52 plays were broadcast during the year under review, creating a total of almost 600 acting parts.

"Ring Us Up"

Proceeds from the annual Christmas Fund Raising request programme "Ring Us Up" were devoted to the Community Chest Fund and raised a record sum of £M4,258.

International Network Cable Radio

The most significant advance during the year under review was the pronounced increase in locally presented programmes which rose by 19% on the previous year's output and now stands at 61%.

Kandir Malta now has access to transcribed programmes in English from the following foreign stations: Radio France, the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Radio Australia, The Voice of Kenya, Radio Turkey, Belgian Radio, Radio Nederland, Radio Canada, the Voice of America, RAI, NHK Japan, Radio South Africa, New Zealand, Finland Radio, Radio Moscow, United Nations Radio and UNESCO.

Programmes from these stations in addition to local studio productions include Current Affairs, Drama, Talks, Music, Features, Documentaries, Children's Programmes, Sport, Light Entertainment, Religion, Languages and educational programmes.

Broadcast series designed to help students studying set texts for school certificate examinations included "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens and "Books in Focus", whilst the 52 lesson French language course "French at Home" which came to an end in December was followed by a series titled "Spoken Italian by Radio" intended for those who wanted to further their knowledge of the Italian language.

Radio Malta's Second Station

This station continued to provide a twelve hour daily music service to FM listeners. The daily schedules featured pop, light, classical and operatic music.

Radio Malta International

Five hours of programmes were broadcast in the Italian language daily, however on some occasions, to meet the advertisers' demands, Italian transmissions are extended to eight hours. Programmes are varied and include literature and historical information on the Maltese Islands. Request programmes attract a numerous and appreciative audience from the Southern parts of Italy.

The station is augmented by programmes from Radio Malta's Second station before and after transmissions in the Italian language.

During the twelve months ending March 31, 1976 the number of subscribers to the Cable Radio service was 48,417 whilst the total number of sets stood at 58,765.

News and Current Affairs

News and current affairs are sensitive areas of programming and those engaged in providing this service have delicate and responsible duties to perform. Journalists in broadcasting, unlike their colleagues in the printed press are more liable to being criticized and their work more subject to scrutiny due to the nature of the medium involved - because they are working for a monopoly, using public funds and enjoying a privileged position. Because of this, the Broadcasting Ordinance imposes on them the obligation to maintain strict impartiality. In their case, disinterested journalism is a basic requirement.

Political news coverage has on several occasions been the subject of discussion in the past year. The criteria which determine news value are difficult to define and in the absence of any tangible rules on this matter the only guiding factor which emerges above any others is the determination to report accurately and honestly about the most significant and interesting new information available at the time a news bulletin is broadcast. No set rules could incorporate every possible contingency and there has to be substantial reliance on the judgement, experience and sensitivity of the news editors whilst accepting that no one's judgement is infallible.

The detailed reporting of political activities, which throughout most of the year used to take place in an ad hoc programme, was discontinued in this form as from March 7, 1976. From then on only points considered of news value were covered in the news bulletins. This gave rise to complaints by the Nationalist Party who claimed that the system was not working fairly as it was alleged that most of what was said by their party spokesmen was not considered by the news reporters to be of news value.

The Authority accepted the validity of some complaints and rejected others. Whilst recognising the complexity of the problem and the limitations remarked on earlier in this section, the Authority is attempting to formulate guidelines to serve as a basis for political news reporting.

During the year there was an increase of 60% in transmission time of news and current affairs.

The increase was in consequence of more frequent news bulletins and additional programmes on Cable Radio, Radio Malta and Television.

By March 31, 1976, the programme output increased to over 6½ hours per day, made up as follows:-

Cable Radio and Radio Malta

Local News	20	hrs per week
Foreign News.....	9.9	" " "
Current Affairs Programmes.....	5	" " "
Parliamentary Reports.....	2	" " "
(exclusive of airtime used for repetition)		

Television

Local News.....	4.5	hrs per week
Foreign News.....	4	" " "
Current Affairs Programmes	50 mins	per week
Parliamentary Reports.....	1	hr per week

Throughout the year, there was a substantial increase in the Radio and Television programmes, originated by the News Division. In addition to the increase in local output, other programmes in foreign languages were produced for the first time, for transmission over the external services of Xandir Malta.

On the National Network of Cable Radio, the increase, which amounted to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours was due to:-

Direct Parliamentary reports from the Palace;
 "Harsa Lejn", a daily half-hour programme, replacing
 "Panorana Maltija", a 15-minute programme; and
 "Radju Rittratt", a 15-minute programme, including
 biographical information about International
 personalities in the news.

On the International Newtwork of Cable Radio, the increase in current affairs consisted of the fortnightly discussion programme under the name of "It-Tokk".

On the National Network of Radio Malta, the output of news and current affairs programmes remained more or less the same, apart from the inclusion of the daily slot "Harsa Lejn".

The News Division also provides news bulletins for the external services in Italian, English, German and Arabic.

On television the full news bulletins, in Maltese and in English were increased by around 40% in duration and content. An improvement was also noted in the visual element and commentaries given as background to local and international news.

As from May 1975, the Parliamentary Reports were broadcast outside news bulletins and immediately following.

News points emerging from Parliamentary sittings continued to be given prominence, however, in news bulltins.

On the National Network of Cable Radio, direct reports of the sittings of the House of Representatives were broadcast from the Palace. This programme replaced the 30-minute round

up of Parliamentary reports previously broadcast at the end of the week.

During the year, "ad hoc" or occasional programmes, as well as others, serving as curtain-raisers to special events were produced. In this category there were special programmes to mark Republic Day; The Christian-Islamic Conference in Tripoli; World Health Day; Wages Parity; an exclusive interview granted to "Xandir Malta" by Herr Willy Brandt, Chairman of the West German Socialist Democratic Party; a series of 6 short documentaries during Armed Forces Week, and Telecommunications Day.

With the co-operation of foreign broadcasting stations and news agencies, visual coverage was extended to official visits abroad made by the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister.

The visits covered included: Sir Anthony Mamo's State visit to Italy between May 15-16, 1975; the Prime Minister's visit to West Germany between June 29 and July 2, 1975 and the Prime Minister's visit to Greece between April 7-8, 1976.

In some instances, television coverage was given only a matter of hours after the event took place abroad.

During the "Christian-Islamic Seminar", Xandir Malta, through its envoy in Tripoli, received a daily 'live' radio report on the proceedings of the seminar.

Xandir Malta subscribes to three foreign News Agencies, namely the Associated Press; Hsinhua and the Middle East News Agency. These replace the single source previously available.

Schools Broadcasting

Sound and Television broadcasts as approved by the School Broadcasting Advisory Committee were transmitted as follows:

Primary Schools - Sound

Years 1-2	Maltese	-	9 broadcasts
Year 3	Maltese	-	9 "
	English	-	17 "
Year 4	English	-	10 "
	Science	-	10 "
	Social Studies	-	8 "
Year 5	Maltese	-	6 "
	English	-	12 "
	Social Studies	-	6 "
	Science	-	10 "
Year 6	Maltese	-	12 "
	English	-	12 "
	Science	-	12 "
Years 4-5-6	Famous People	-	4 "
	Religion	-	39 "

Television

Year 3	English	-	8 broadcasts
Year 6	General Culture	-	10 "

Secondary Schools - Sound

Forms I-II	Religion	-	14 broadcasts
Forms III-V	Religion	-	15 "

Television

Form I	English	-	14 programmes
	Science	-	15 "
Form II	Science	-	25 "
Form III	Civics	-	16 "
Form V	Science	-	10 "

Dramatised filmed versions of MACBETH and GREAT EXPECTATIONS (GCE 'O' Level Set Books) were also shown.

Primary Schools

Judging by comments and assessments sent regularly by teachers on specially prepared cards, sound and television broadcasts for Primary Schools were well received.

A series worthy of mention is "Infittxu u Nitghallnu" for Year 5. As the title suggests the series was intended to encourage 9 year olds to carry out research on a given topic. The topics assigned were: "Argotti" (Floriana Girls) and "The Mall" (Floriana Boys), "San Anton Gardens" (Attard Mixed) and the "Malta Railway" (Lija/Balzan Boys), "Quarrying" (Naxxar Boys) and "Malta Trade Fair" (Naxxar Girls), "Yacht Marina" (Msida Boys) and "History of Msida" (Msida Girls), "Xewkija Rotunda" (Xewkija Mixed) and "Ta' Pinu" (Gharb Mixed), "Buskett" (Rabat Boys) and "Weaving & Pottery" (Rabat Girls).

It is hoped that by listening to these broadcasts pupils would be encouraged to try and find out for themselves about interesting places in their home town or village.

Another series which was extremely well received was the "Maltese Quiz for Year 6". These broadcasts have been devised to foster the correct use of spoken Maltese.

It would seem Science programmes also made an impact. Three parallel series for three different age groups (Years 4-5-6) were produced - each series dealt with the same topic, the content varying with the age group.

The television series for Year 6 "Ejjew Naraw" elicited many interesting comments while the programmes for Year 3 "Merry Go Round" (a repeat of the previous year's series) succeeded in its aim of complementing some of the more difficult structures tackled by sound broadcasts.

Secondary Schools

Sound broadcasts for Secondary Schools were again limited to Religion. However to meet a recurring request it was decided to repeat the Tuesday broadcast on the Thursday following.

In television, new ground was broken with the production of a series for Forms III. The 16 programmes were designed to stimulate those students who had lost all interest in schooling.

Some of the topics tackled were: Skin Care, Food, Films, Vandalism and Violence, Boy-Girl Relationships, Helping at Home, Nature Conservation, Smoking, Law and Order.

Favourable comments have been received not only from teachers but also from a number of students who suggested that a similar series should be produced for Forms IV.

School Broadcasting Advisory Committee

A committee appointed in terms of Section 10 of the Broadcasting Ordinance and made up of the following members met regularly and gave invaluable advice on school broadcasting matters:-

Dr. F. Chetcuti	-	Chairman
L. Farrugia, Esq.	-	Member
Miss E. Borg Bonnici	-	"
Rev. B. Mangion MSCP	-	"
M. Caltana, Esq.	-	"
C. Farrugia, Esq.	-	"
L. Mizzi, Esq.,	-	"
A. Depares, Esq.	-	"

The cooperation and continued support of the Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee, the subject areas sub-committees, teachers and headteachers is gratefully acknowledged.

Technical Developments

A welcome expansion in technical facilities and studio space has taken place during 1975/76. Office space was converted, in record time, to two new studios to supplement the only studio previously available at television house.

With the assistance and cooperation of the Government of Malta, various European countries were asked to help by providing television equipment at nominal prices. During the period in review some £M400,000 worth of television equipment was obtained under the scheme. The original three-camera set-up in the main studio was replaced by a modern marconi system of the solid-state type with sound and vision mixing facilities hitherto unknown in these Islands. Studio 2 was equipped with a monochrome three-camera system made by Fernseh of Germany obtained by the Government of Malta at a nominal price. The equipment from Studio 1 was then transferred to Studio 3, the smallest of the three studios. The new studios have an area of 800 sq.ft. (Studio 2) and 540 sq.ft. (Studio 3), respectively.

Two 16mm. flying spot telecine chains equipped with fully interlocked separate 16mm. magnetic sound-track facilities were installed. A great improvement in technical quality was immediately evident on filmed programmes as compared with the output of the old vidicon

telecine chains previously available.

An additional RCA-TR22 video tape recorder was also installed. This model incorporates time-element compensation, pixlock and servo-control guide system and is therefore superior to the two video tape recorders on station, in that it gives a fully-synchronous output allowing lap-dissolves and other normal vision mixing functions.

The film processing equipment was extremely amateurish and unreliable. To remedy the situation, a fully professional film processing machine with a capacity of 4,200 ft. per hour was procured. Apart from the vastly increased film processing capacity, the new equipment is fully controlled and automated. In other words, it will provide far greater quality control resulting in more consistent transmission characteristics.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITYA C C O U N T S31st MARCH, 1976I N D E XPage

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | BALANCE SHEET |
| 2. | REPORT OF THE AUDITORS |
| 3. | INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT |
| 4 & 5 | NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS |

Appendix

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES |
| 2. | RADIO MALTA - OPERATION |
| 3. | CHANGES IN THE CASH POSITION |
| 3a | CHANGES IN NET WORKING CAPITAL POSITION |

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
(CONSTITUTED UNDER ORDINANCE XX OF 1961)
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st MARCH, 1976

	NOTE	£M	£M	<u>1975</u> £M
FIXED ASSETS	1		14,830	<u>18,991</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Amount receivable re airtime sales		403		9,314
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments		2,888		6,478
Cash and Bank Balances (Appendix 3)		46,324		<u>(1,092)</u>
		<u>49,615</u>		<u>14,700</u>
Less:				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors and Accruals		<u>16,012</u>		<u>8,839</u>
			<u>33,603</u>	<u>5,861</u>
			48,433	24,852
Financed by:			=====	=====
Grants of Technical Equipment Received from Foreign Organisations			16,960	16,960
Government Contributions from Wireless Licence Fees:-				
Amount applied for capital purposes to date			32,597	31,022
Provision for loss or damage to films on hire			<u>1,463</u>	<u>1,463</u>
			51,020	49,445
Less:				
Debit Balance on Income and Expenditure Account (Page 3)			<u>2,587</u>	<u>24,593</u>
			<u>48,433</u>	<u>24,852</u>
			=====	=====

The notes on pages 4 and 5 form an integral part of these accounts.

(Signed) BRIGADIER G. V. NICALLIEF, C.B.E.

 CHAIRMAN

A. J. ELLUL (Signed)

 SECRETARY

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF
THE BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

We have examined the annexed Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account which are in agreement with the books and records kept by the Authority and have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit. 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 and Income and Expenditure Account, read in conjunction with the notes thereon, present respectively a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Authority at 31st March, 1976 and of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

(Signed)

Diamantino, Manfre' & Co
Certified Public Accountants

Valletta Buildings
South Street
Valletta

6th July, 1976

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976

	NOTES	£M	<u>1975</u> £M
INCOME			
Government contributions from Licence Fees		100,000	100,000
Licence Fees from Contractors		751	751
Ground Rents		51	51
Bank Interest		904	183
Deficit on School Magazine		(52)	(217)
		<u>101,654</u>	<u>100,768</u>
Deduct:			
EXPENDITURE			
Prescribed Programmes			
Incurred on Sound Broadcasts	2	7,183	15,811
Incurred on Television Broadcasts	3	10,982	13,032
Administration and Other Expenses			
General Administration (Appendix 1)		32,267	19,948
Radio Malta Operation (Appendix 2)		11,463	49,501
Tokyo Song Festival		124	123
Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference		-	898
		<u>62,019</u>	<u>99,313</u>
EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR		<u>39,635</u>	<u>1,455</u>
Deduct:			
Cost of Fixed Assets acquired during the year		1,575	2,462
Shortfall in respect of prescribed programmes		16,835	-
Less: Profit realised on sale of Motor Vehicle		(384)	-
		<u>18,026</u>	<u>2,462</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR - (1975 - Deficit)		21,609	(1,007)
Adverse Balance brought forward from previous year		(24,593)	(23,586)
Prior year adjustments		397	-
Balance carried forward (Page 1)		<u>2,587</u> =====	<u>24,593</u> =====

The notes on pages 4 and 5 form an integral part of these accounts

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976

1. <u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Depreciation Rate per annum</u>	<u>Cost £M</u>	<u>Depreciation £M</u>	<u>Net £M</u>	<u>1975 £M</u>
Freehold Land	Nil	655	-	655	655
Office Equipment, Furniture and Fittings	20-10%	7,517	5,453	2,064	2,059
Technical Equipment	25%	10,241	10,222	19	24
Studio Equipment	20%	8,119	8,030	89	1,665
Motor Vehicle	20%	1,624	325	1,299	1
Radio Malta - Furniture and Fittings	25-20-10%	1,438	908	530	816
Radio Malta - Studio and Technical Equipment	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ -20-10%	19,963	9,789	10,174	13,771
		<u>49,557</u>	<u>34,727</u>	<u>14,830</u>	<u>18,991</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====
(1975)		47,982	28,991		
		=====	=====		

Depreciation is charged on a straight line basis at the rates shown.

2. Expenditure on Sound Broadcasts is regulated by Clause 12 of an Agreement dated 28th September, 1961, which stipulates an expenditure of £M10,000 per annum on programmes prescribed by the Authority. The amount incurred during the year was as follows:-

	<u>£M</u>	<u>£M</u>	<u>1975 £M</u>
Salaries and Wages		4,005	10,986
Scriptwriters' and Actors' Fees		137	659
Airtime and Studio Charges		609	1,818
Records, Tapes and Publications		8	35
School Broadcasting Magazine		26	109
School Broadcasting Expenses		80	349
Depreciation on Technical Equipment	38		
Less: Allocated to Television	<u>19</u>		
Broadcasts (Note 3)		19	440
Proportion of Overhead Expenses (5.7%) (Appendix 1)		<u>2,299</u>	<u>1,415</u>
		7,183	15,811
Liability for amount payable towards the improvement of programmes		<u>2,817</u>	<u>15,811</u>
		10,000	15,811
		=====	=====

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976
(continued)

3. Expenditure on Television Broadcasts is regulated by Clause 12 of an agreement dated 28th September, 1961, which stipulates an expenditure of £M25,000 per annum on programmes prescribed by the Authority. The amount incurred during the year was as follows:-

	£M	£M	£M
Hire of Television Films		114	-
Airtime and Studio Charges		4,005	5,217
Educational Television		199	1,691
Script Contributors' Fees		48	35
Sundry Expenses		58	49
Eurovision Song Conteat		357	464
Depreciation:			
Technical Equipment (Note 2)	19		440
Studio Furniture and Equipment	414	433	1,576
Proportion of Overhead Expenses (14.3%) (Appendix 1)		5,768	3,560
		10,982	13,032
Liability for amount payable towards the improvement of programmes.		14,018	-
		£M25,000	13,032
		=====	=====

(Page 3)

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976

	£M	£M	<u>1975</u> £M
Audit Fee		400	310
Depreciation:			
Furniture and Fittings	10%	266	246
Office Equipment	20%	243	144
Motor Vehicle	20%	<u>325</u>	-
Duty Visits Abroad		2,349	286
Entertainment and Hospitality		535	292
Honoraria to Board Members		1,429	1,421
Professional Fees and Expenses		674	250
Maintenance and Repairs		265	609
Membership Fees - International Organisations		3,734	1,792
Messengers' and Drivers' Uniforms		102	43
National Insurance Contributions		733	312
Postages, Telegrams and Telephones		1,419	722
Rent of Offices and Studios		870	690
Rentals Wired Sound and Television Sets		179	315
Stationery		620	444
Staff Superannuation Scheme		2,374	1,655
Subscriptions to Newspapers, etc.		192	69
Sundry Expenses		322	265
Transport		1,200	1,230
Wages and Salaries		21,463	13,196
Water and Electricity		340	255
Religious Broadcasting Expenses		<u>300</u>	<u>377</u>
		40,334	24,923
Deduct:			
Amounts charged against programmes prescribed:			
Sound Broadcasts - 5.7% (Note 2)	2,299		(1,415)
Television Broadcasts - 14.3% (Note 3)	<u>5,768</u>		<u>(3,560)</u>
		8,067	
		<u>32,267</u>	<u>19,948</u>
		=====	=====

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
RADIO MALTA - OPERATION
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976

Note: The Authority's responsibility for the operation of Radio Malta ceased on the following dates:

Music Programme	- 18th May, 1975
News Division	- 21st May, 1975
National Programme	- 26th May, 1975
International Programme	- 3rd June, 1975

	£M	£M	£M	<u>1975</u> £M
INCOME				
Advertising Revenue (See Note)		4,803		31,159
Less:				
Commissions	713			(6,684)
Talent Fees	49	762		(302)
			4,041	<u>24,173</u>
Deduct:				
OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES				
Audit Fee		110		350
Contributors' Fees		4,618		21,845
Duty visits abroad		596		1,705
Depreciation:				
Furniture and Fittings		86		331
Technical and Studio Equipment		914		3,490
Entertainment and Hospitality		77		292
Fuel for Electricity Generation		477		2,702
Legal Fees and Expenses		75		251
Maintenance and Repairs		129		1,753
Membership Fees - International Organisations		-		227
Newspapers and Publications		31		129
New Studios - Adaptation		-		147
Postages, Telegrams and Telephones		129		1,445
Publicity Costs		951		640
Purchase of Records		143		1,343
Rent of Offices and Studios		113		810
Stationery		19		789
Staff Superannuation Scheme		216		827
Sundry Expenses		32		156
Transport		26		157
Wages and Salaries		6,402		32,237
Water and Electricity		69		511
Music Programmes		291		1,537
			15,504	<u>73,674</u>
			11,463	<u>49,501</u>
			=====	=====

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
CHANGES IN THE CASH POSITION
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976

<u>1975</u>				
£M		£M	£M	£M
	Funds became available during the year as follows:			
	From:			
100,000	Government Contributions	100,000		
768	Sundry Income (Licence Fees, Bank Interest, etc.)	1,654		
31,159	Advertising Revenue from Radio Malta	4,803		
<u>131,927</u>				106,457
	These were applied to meet:			
	Administrative and other Expenditure - General (including prescribed programmes)	50,556		
49,812		16,266		
80,660	Radio Malta			
<u>130,472</u>				66,822
	Leaving a Surplus on			
1,455	Income and Expenditure Account (Page 3) of			39,635
	The Surplus was reduced by:-			
2,462	Purchases of Fixed Assets (less amount received on sale of vehicle)		1,933	
-	Provisions for amounts payable in respect of prescribed programmes		16,835	
<u>2,462</u>				18,768
1,007				20,867
	And Increased by:			
(10,655)	Decrease in Debtors		12,501	
4,458	Increase in Creditors		7,173	
6,668	Retained Depreciation		6,478	
-	Prior year's adjustment in respect of film hire		397	
<u>471</u>				26,549
(536)	Leaving a Cash Surplus for the year (1975 - Deficiency), amounting to			47,416

Cash Surplus for the year (1975 - Deficiency) effected the Authority's Liquid Funds as follows:

<u>1975</u>		<u>Cash Balances as at</u>		
£M		<u>31.3.1975</u>	<u>31.3.1976</u>	
		£M	£M	£M
(188)	Increase (1975 - Decrease) in Savings Account	71	40,793	40,722
(357)	Decrease (1975 - Increase) in Bank Overdraft	(1,196)	5,481	6,677
9	Increase of Cash in Hand	33	50	17
	Net balances at 31st March	<u>(1,092)</u>	<u>46,324</u>	
536	Net Increase (1975 - Decrease) in Liquid Funds for the year			47,416

Appendix 3a.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
CHANGES IN NET WORKING CAPITAL POSITION
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976

	£M	£M	<u>1975</u> £M
Cash Surplus (1975 - Deficiency) for the year (Appendix 3)		47,416	(536)
Deduct:			
Decrease (1975 - Increase) in Debtors	12,501		10,655
Increase in Creditors	<u>7,173</u>	<u>19,674</u>	<u>(4,458)</u>
Increase in Net Working Capital for the year		<u>£M27,742</u> =====	<u>£M5,661</u> =====

