

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS**

1976 - 77



MALTA

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Covering the Year ended
31st March, 1977

27th July, 1977

Dear Mr President,

In accordance with Section 13 (4) and (5) of the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961, I have pleasure in enclosing the Broadcasting Authority's Annual Report and Accounts for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1977.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) G. Montanaro Gauci
CHAIRMAN

Dr. A. Buttigieg, B.A., LL.D.,
President of the Republic of Malta,
The Palace,
Valletta.

Encl.

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INTRODUCTORY

During the speech by the President of the Republic on the occasion of the inauguration of the present Parliamentary Session on the 24th November 1976, he referred to the broadcasting sector. He said that "a Socialist Government will gradually reform laws enacted by foreigners to cater for the needs of those times so that, step by step, broadcasting will become similar to that obtaining in democratic countries and contribute towards the strengthening of the morality of the nation". Those responsible for broadcasting in Malta do not know how the future of the services they provide or are responsible for will be affected by the Government's declared intention to reform broadcasting legislation. The Authority can do no more than present and comment on the facts of Maltese broadcasting today and will willingly make recommendations if called upon to do so for its improvement in the future.

Any new legislation in this sector can determine only the broad objects of national policy, together with the distribution of responsibility and the allocation of financial provision necessary for their achievement. In such a complex and sensitive field as broadcasting any legal enactment should be supplemented and supported by a comprehensive statement of policy to be issued at the opportune time, defining precisely the roles of the Authority and of its Programme Contractor - Telemalta - the organisations involved, and the measures they would be expected to take to contribute effectively to the objects of the national broadcasting system. In the Authority's view, there is much to be said for the preparation of such a statement by the Government which could be tabled in Parliament and debated simultaneously with the consequential legislative changes proposed.

Since the 1st August 1975, the Telenalta Corporation through its Broadcasting Division - Xandir Malta - has been the instrument for providing the broadcasting services under the overall supervision and control of the Broadcasting Authority. Several changes have taken place since then mainly on the technical side where facilities have been expanded and improved.

This division of the Corporation offers Cable Radio, Radio and Television Services to listeners and viewers in Malta and overseas. The Telenalta Corporation owns and operates a Cable Radio network with a combined programme output of 34 hours daily on two channels. This service offers the full range of programming within the broad categories of information, education and entertainment.

Radio Malta operates for 18 hours daily and transmits on three different wave lengths. The National Station transmits daily on 998 KHz 301 meters in the medium wave from 0600 to midnight. The Second Station which is an all music service operates on 87.9 VHF/FM from 0600 to midnight daily and the Third Radio Station which is international broadcasts five hours of programmes in Italian daily from 0900 to 1400 hours on 755 KHz 397 meters in the medium wave.

Radio Malta's other external Services consist of a weekly programme - "Malta Calling" - directed mainly to listeners in the United Kingdom and Germany. The programme is also received regularly by listeners in Europe, America and Australia. This is transmitted on 5990 KHz 50 meters in the shortwave band at 2045 G.M.T. every Saturday to English speaking listeners and in the German language every Tuesday. Another programme in the Overseas Service is called "Lehen Malta" and consists of a daily 75 minute broadcast in Arabic directed to Arab countries.

This service which is transmitted at 0030 on 1570 KHz in the medium wave is received by listeners in Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The Television Service has been in operation since September 1962. Television Malta transmits in monochrome for a daily average of 5 hours and a reasonable proportion of its programme output is locally originated. The remaining proportion is made up of programmes imported from America, the United Kingdom and the Continent.

This is a brief summary of the physical structure of the Maltese broadcasting system as it exists today. The Authority hopes that this vital medium of communication will continue to grow as the country develops. The period of basic development is now over. The time has come, and is already overdue, when new emphasis should be given and new priorities established. The Authority believes that the primary emphasis must be placed on programming for the only thing that matters in broadcasting is programme content. The provision of varied well balanced programme services, carried out with a sense of responsibility and discipline is the main task of all broadcasters.

The Authority's main function is set out in the Constitutional provisions on broadcasting. Section 122 defines this task as being that of ensuring, so far as possible, in such sound and television broadcasting services as may be provided in Malta, due impartiality 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. The Authority has other functions and duties conferred upon it by the Broadcasting

Ordinance, 1961. These refer to the powers and financial resources of the Authority and regulate the position and obligations of its Broadcasting Contractor. The Authority's relations with its Contractor are based on the terms of Agreements which were originally entered into between the Colonial Administration and the Rediffusion Company and subsequently inherited by the Authority. In 1975, the Rediffusion Company in Malta assigned its rights and duties which emerged from these Agreements to the Telemalta Corporation which became the Authority's Broadcasting Contractor. The Broadcasting Agreements are mainly of a negative nature and some aspects inoperative particularly those which relate to the prescription and improvement of programmes by the Authority and the financial arrangements connected with them. A review of the position is indicated and the Authority hopes to undertake this task after due consultation with the interested parties.

The organisation of the broadcasting system is not of course the only factor which contributes to the performance of the services of broadcasting, though it is obviously important. A service might be good, though its constitution and organisation might be defective, or bad though its structure might be well conceived. Particular appointments within the staff structure or the accident of temporary circumstances will do much to form the character of a service whatever its constitution and organisation.

As the regulatory body, charged with the duty of supervising and controlling its Programme Contractor, the Authority requires effective sanctions to be applied if and when necessary for the purpose of ensuring that its directions and instructions are observed. This need for control is the Authority's *raison d'être* because it is recognised that the broadcasting media exert a powerful

influence on society, because these media are relatively new and do not have the developed traditions of the older media and because with control and direction they can contribute to the national purpose and make good use of the public assets available to them.

GENERAL REVIEWMembers of the Authority

The Authority's membership as at 31st March, 1977 was as follows:

Dr. Gerald Montanaro Gauci, LL.D. (Chairman)
Mr Renald Dalli
Mr Nicholas Debono
Dr. Albert Manche', LL.D.
Mr Richard A. Matrenza, D.Pol.Econ.(Oxon), F.R.Econ.S.

The year 1976-77 was one in which various changes in the composition of the Authority took place. Professor Carmelo Coleiro and Mr Gontran Borg, former Chairman and Member respectively, completed their terms of appointment on the 3rd June, 1976 and were replaced on the 4th June, 1976 by Brigadier George V. Micallef and Mr Renald Dalli. Brig. Micallef's appointment as Chairman of the Authority ended on 27th September 1976 following his offer of resignation and he was succeeded on 18th October 1976 by Dr. Gerald Montanaro Gauci. A further change in membership took place on the 18th October 1976 when Mr Richard A. Matrenza was appointed Member of the Authority in lieu of Mr Emmanuel C. Tabone who, together with Brig. G.V. Micallef and Mr Renald Dalli, had offered their resignation following the practice adopted by all Government Boards and Committees after the General Election. The Authority places on record its appreciation of the services rendered by retiring Members during their period of appointment.

The present Chairman and Members of the Authority hold office for a period of one year which expires on the 17th October, 1977.

The Members of the Authority are five in number: that is, the Chairman and four other Members. Under the provisions of Section 3(5) of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the number of Members other than the Chairman, shall be not less than four nor more than six. Since 1964, the number of Members appointed to serve on the Authority has been pegged down to the minimum allowed by law. This has given rise to procedural difficulties especially in view of the quorum requirements laid down in the First Schedule to the Broadcasting Ordinance which specify that the quorum of the Authority shall consist of three Members in addition to the Chairman. Experience has shown that the development of the Authority over the years and the nature of the delicate duties involved make it desirable to increase the Membership of the Authority.

During the year under review, the Authority held 38 formal sessions each lasting an average of two and a half hours. The important and diverse functions of the Authority were reflected in the nature of the business carried out but as 1976-77 was Election Year, the Authority's activities were predominantly concentrated on the political aspects of broadcasting. Early in the year the Authority adopted a set of Standing Orders to regulate its own procedure. The Standing Orders are reproduced as an appendix to this report. Subsequent sections of this report provide full details of the Authority's involvement in political broadcasting.

Staff and Organisation

It is essential for the successful operation of the Broadcasting Authority to provide a competent and expert staff to analyse programme material and prepare reports for its consideration; to deal with procedures and routine matters on its behalf and in accordance with its general instructions and to assist the Authority generally in its work.

The total number of staff employed by the Authority is as follows:

Administrative....	...	...	...	2
Programming	...	...	...	5
Clerical and Secretarial	...	...	...	5
Other	...	...	...	<u>4</u>
				<u>16</u>

Reference has been made in last year's report to the resignation of Mr Joseph Grima from the post of the Authority's Chief Executive. This fact was brought to the Prime Minister's attention who in accordance with Section 4(1) of the Broadcasting Ordinance is vested with the authority to appoint a successor "after consultation with the Authority from among persons who have had experience of, and shown capacity in, dealing with problems associated with broadcasting". This post remained vacant during the period covered by this report. Meanwhile, the Authority made administrative arrangements which enabled the Secretary to carry out the day-to-day business of the Authority in accordance with the Authority's directives and in close consultation with the Chairman.

The setting up of Xandir Malta as the Broadcasting division within the Telenalta Corporation and the subsequent centralization of all programme production activities within this division has had repercussions on the Authority's staff which was considerably reduced in number either by direct transfer or by secondment to Xandir Malta. Further changes in the Authority's staff structure to bring it in line with currently known requirements is expected. During the year, the Authority was engaged in negotiations on a reorganisation exercise with the main purpose of reviewing staff salaries and achieving flexibility. This exercise will also take into account the present staff structure in relation to the

Authority's responsibilities in broadcasting. Any effective operating plan must take account of the personalities and skills of the personnel who are actually available and changes in the organisation must be made with some regard for the rights and feelings of those who have given long, efficient and loyal service to the Authority. With regard to the Salaries review, the Authority has been consistent in its representations on this matter. Its policy has always been that in assessing external relativities, comparison must be drawn with a suitable range of different employment to define responsibility and allot the same grading to jobs carrying equivalent responsibility and an equal degree of competence wherever they are found - whether in the civil service if applicable or in broadcasting organisations.

It is hoped that this exercise which is (now overdue) and which will take retrospective effect to the 1st February 1974 will be satisfactorily completed in a reasonable time.

Financing for the Authority

The audited accounts of the Authority for the year ended 31st March, 1977 form part of this report. They show the comparative figures for the previous year.

The cost of fixed assets increased during the year by £M530, from £M49,557 to £M50,087. The assets shown in the accounts include a substantial number of items which have been transferred on a loan basis to Xandir Malta. At 31st March 1977, no deed of transfer was yet effected and an amount has been debited to Xandir Malta equal to the annual depreciation charge on these assets.

The main feature of the Authority's accounts for the financial year 1976-77 was the drastic decrease in income. During the year cash was reduced by £M41,634. In fact, the deduction in cash amounts to £M64,386 after allowing for net provisions required in respect of transactions during the year. This situation was brought about as no Government contributions from Wireless Licence Fees were received and, by the end of the year, the Authority had substantially utilised its opening cash reserves of £M46,324.

The Broadcasting Ordinance of 1961 defines clearly, as it seems to the Authority, the revenue which it expects to receive from year to year and, more important, the method of its financing. Section 12(1) lays down that the revenue of the Authority shall consist of (a) licence fees due by the Broadcasting Contractor; (b) the revenue accruing to Government from wireless licence fees less fifteen thousand pounds in respect of collection expenses and forty-five thousand pounds, whichever is the greater; and (c) such other sums which may be received by the Authority including interest on any monies lent by the Authority.

The revenue of the Authority may be applied and should at least be sufficient to meet (a) its working expenses including salaries, wages, allowances, special contributions, gratuities and pensions, (b) sums due to the Broadcasting Contractor and (c) all other expenses which the Authority may properly incur in connection with the performance of its functions as set out in the Constitution and the Broadcasting Ordinance.

The Government has been made aware of the Authority's financial situation and it is earnestly hoped that steps will be taken to provide it with an adequate and assured income.

Monitoring of Programmes

In order to fulfil its statutory duties, the Authority has to be kept fully informed about the programmes, both radio and television, actually broadcast by Xandir Malta. To carry out this obligation, the Authority employs personnel whose duty is to monitor programmes in relation to programme schedules provided for all the broadcasting media. The monitoring service is divided into two categories: television and Sound (wireless and cable radio services) broadcasting. There is a steady flow of reports both on particular programme occurrences and on general programme quality and trends.

In so far as television transmissions are concerned, the monitoring service extends from Station opening to close down every day. The daily output is assessed on guidelines covering such programming sectors as news, general programming and advertising. When the need arises, monitoring notes are checked against log tapes provided by the Stations concerned. Particular attention is given by the Authority's staff to all aspects of locally originated productions.

Monitoring of Sound programmes creates some difficulties, especially for "off-air" listening due to the vastness of the programme output in this sector. A system has been adopted by which Sound productions are monitored on tapes supplied by Xandir Malta soon after the programmes' transmission date.

The following is a sample week of programmes monitored on the Sound broadcasting media:

Current Affairs:

'Mill-Gurnali tal-Lum'	- Cable Radio 1	- Daily
'Harsa Lejn'	- Cable Radio 1	- Daily
'Mill-Ahbarijiet tal-Gingha'	- Radio Malta	- Weekly

'Lil Hinn mix-Xefaq'	- Radio Malta - Weekly
'It-Tokk'	- Cable Radio 2 - Weekly
'Diskussjoni'	- Cable Radio 2 - Weekly
'Minn Kullinkian/ Wicc-inb-Wicc'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly
'Fid-Dinja llum'	- Cable Radio 1 - Fortnightly
'Stharrig u Fehniet'	- Cable Radio 1 - Fortnightly
'Withaddtuha/Ghawdex Illum'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly
'Radju Rittratt'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly

Magazine Programmes:

'Il-Mara Maltija'	- Cable Radio 1 - Daily
'Ghan-Nisa Maltin u Ghawdxin'	- Cable Radio 1 - Daily
'Mill-Gzira tat-tlett Gholjiet'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly

Religion:

'Tassew, Tassew Nghidilkom'	- Radio Malta - Weekly
'Il-Bxara t-Tajba'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly

Children's Programmes:

'Programmi tat-Tfal'	- Cable Radio 1 - Daily
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Various:

'Bieb Miftuh'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly
'Kwadrant'	- Cable Radio 1 - Weekly

Points arising from these and other monitoring reports are taken up as necessary with senior members of Xandir Malta's staff. Copies of the reports are also sent to Xandir Malta.

General Election Broadcasts

Following discussions with representatives of the Malta Labour Party and the Nationalist Party, the Authority made arrangements for political broadcasting in connection with the General Election which was held in September, 1976. These arrangements were announced in August, 1976 and followed the pattern established during previous General Elections. The Authority, after careful consideration of the various views expressed by the political parties, decided to allocate airtime on the basis of the number of nominations registered by each party with the Electoral Commission. It was also decided that parties with 59 nominations or over (and both parties contesting the Election were within this category) would qualify for four broadcasts. The series consisted of talks which could take the form of an interview and could be illustrated on television, press conferences and a debate. In accordance with established practice, the last broadcast was reserved to the Government of the day (the Malta Labour Party) and the penultimate broadcast was allocated to the party in opposition (the Nationalist Party). The order of the remaining broadcasts was determined by ballot.

The Authority also decided to offer one broadcast on Cable Radio to the parties nominating three or more candidates in the Gozo Electoral Division. These programmes were heard in Gozo only and in fact both parties qualified for this offer.

Two independent candidates also contested the Election and these were offered a 5-minute interview each on all broadcasting media.

All broadcasts in this series were utilised by the parties with the exception of the debate which was cancelled by the Authority. This decision was taken after the Authority

was informed by the Malta Labour Party that the party felt it could not take part in the proposed discussion because its proposal for a direct confrontation between the leaders of the two parties had not been accepted by the Authority. On its part the Authority had decided that the parties were at liberty to select their own representatives for the debate and that the Authority had no right to dictate in this regard.

In addition to the official broadcasts and news reporting, there were some other programmes related to the election. In August 1976, the Authority discussed with Xandir Malta the nature of such programmes with particular reference to the necessity for these to comply with the provisions of the Constitution and of the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961 which require that due impartiality should be preserved in matters of political controversy and that, except in an official party broadcast or in news bulletins or within the framework of properly balanced discussion or debates, nothing should be included in the programmes which is designed to serve the interests of any political party.

The 1976 General Election was given extensive coverage by Xandir Malta's Outside Broadcasting Unit. For this purpose a two-camera studio was set up in one of the larger lecture rooms on the top floor of the MCAST where the votes were being sorted and counted while a third camera was deployed on a special platform and shooting directly into the counting area - this camera was also utilised for the arrival of ballot boxes and their transfer to the strong-room after inspection of the seals. A special roster for directors and crews ensured a continuous coverage which went on without a break through the night and ending late the following morning. Continual on-the-spot progress reports were transmitted 'live' from the MCAST Studio, in which were displayed up to the minute results coming in from the 13 voting districts. Graphics Department staff were also on call to fill in results as these

came through the counting room. Liaison between the Main studio control at TVM, the MCAST studio and the News Division ensured continuity, so that talks and debates by various candidates, discussions and short documentaries were transmitted to bridge the gap between direct transmissions. Nearly 9 hours of transmission time were devoted to broadcasts directly related to election results between the 19th and 20th September.

Party Political and Ministerial Broadcasts

For the purpose of this annual review, party political broadcasting refers to the series of party political broadcasts which occur at intervals between general elections. It is these broadcasts which are expressly designed to serve the interests of the political parties. During the period 1976/77, the Authority had two schemes of party political broadcasts in operation. The previous annual report provides details of the first scheme which consisted of 15 broadcasts scheduled at fortnightly intervals and spread over a period which ended just before the dissolution of Parliament in August 1976.

The second series of party political broadcasts came into operation on the 11th February 1977. This series consists of 24 programmes and covers a period of one year. It includes Press and political conferences and debates as well as a new facet in this kind of broadcasting - short programmes to be produced in their entirety by the political parties. These 10 to 15-minute programmes may take the form best suited to the parties' interests. This scheme as well as the previous one allocated airtime in proportion to the parties' parliamentary strength. The current series is made up as follows:-

Party in Government (Malta Labour Party)

Two Press Conferences of 60 minutes each

Three Political Conferences of 60 minutes each and
one of 40 minutes

Two programmes of 15 minutes each and one of 10
minutes which could be produced entirely by the
Malta Labour Party.

Party in Opposition (Nationalist Party)

Two Press Conferences of 60 minutes each

Three Political Conferences of 60 minutes each

Two programmes of 15 minutes each which could be
produced entirely by the Nationalist Party.

In addition to the above allocations, both parties
have been offered participation in eight political debates
each of 45 minutes duration.

These arrangements were introduced after consultation
and by agreement with the political parties.

Ministerial Broadcasts are not regarded by the Authority
as party political broadcasting. Airtime in this sector
of broadcasting is available to the Government in view of
its executive responsibilities for the care of the nation
and such broadcasts are defined as pronouncements of a factual
kind, explanations of legislation or of policies approved
by Parliament or appeals to the public to cooperate in
national policies which require the public's active
participation. The understanding is that Ministerial
Broadcasts will be impartial but the Authority can grant a
right of reply if the case for such a reply is established
to its satisfaction.

Except by agreement with the Authority, the amount of airtime which the Government may utilise for Ministerial Broadcasts is 240 minutes annually. During the period under review, this entitlement was almost fully exhausted. All Ministerial Broadcasts with the exception of one attracted the right of reply which was granted by the Authority to the Nationalist Party.

The appearance of Ministers and other Members of Parliament in political discussion programmes and news interviews and references to politicians and to politically controversial matters in news bulletins are not regarded as political broadcasting. The purpose of programmes such as these is not to serve the interests of any political party although they may do so incidentally. These programmes, properly balanced and presented are part of the comprehensive duty of broadcasters to inform and educate. They must, like any other programmes dealing with controversial matters, be impartial.

Overseas Contacts

The Authority is affiliated to various international organisations. It is an Active Member of the European Broadcasting Union, the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and Prix Italia.

The 27th Ordinary Session of the EBU General Assembly was held in Helsinki from the 2nd to the 5th July 1976 and during this session the Authority was represented by its Secretary. The Agenda included procedural items such as Malta's formal re-acceptance into the Union after it had withdrawn due to financial reasons. Happily, a satisfactory way out of these difficulties had been found and the financial aspects of Malta's membership were revised to the Authority's

advantage. During the General Assembly, the Television and the Radio Programme Committees presented comprehensive reports on the previous year's activities. These included news exchanges (Malta does not yet benefit from this service as it is not linked to the Eurovision network), sport, education, EBU participation in inter-Governmental meetings and the Eurovision Song Contest. The Legal Committee on which Malta could usefully belong dealt with the intricacies of satellite television transmissions, cable distribution of television programmes, advertising and copyright problems. The General Assembly of the EBU also took note of a report dealing with assistance to broadcasting organisations in developing countries. Malta had applied for technical assistance and the Technical Centre had issued a circular letter to member organisations informing them that the Authority had requested help in obtaining second-hand monochrome television equipment. Replies included offers from the BBC, Belgium, ITN, various U.K. independent television companies and from Sweden. RAI also informed the EBU that certain equipment had already been supplied. The offers that were received were forwarded to Mandir Malta. The EBU General Assembly was attended by about 150 delegates from 35 countries.

The Authority was not represented at the 1976 conference of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association which was held in September in Singapore due to the pressure of work connected with the General Election and its aftermath.

The 7th World Popular Song Festival took place in Tokyo in November, 1976. Maltese singer Joe Cutajar was Malta's representative. Joe Cutajar interpreted an Edmond Earb composition "IT'S TAKE-OFF TIME". The musical arrangement was undertaken by Mrs. Anthony Chircop. At the

Festival, Joe Cutajar was accompanied by Mr Victor Formosa, the Authority's Head of Productions, who was also the producer of the 'Song for Tokyo' television programme broadcast on Television Malta the previous August.

As in former years a special Organising Committee 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 were 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 25 compositions entered by local composers and authors to compete in the 'Song for Tokyo' Television Contest. In line with a standing agreement between the local Organising Committee and the Yamaha Music Foundation, three songs were selected by an International Jury and forwarded to the World Festival Committee for final selection of the song to represent Malta in Tokyo.

At the Budokan Hall in the Japanese capital, a total of 46 songs from 30 countries competed for the Gran Prix and various other prizes. These were selected from 1718 entries from 57 countries. Joe Cutajar sang "IT'S TAKE-OFF TIME" on the first night of the Festival but failed to reach the finals. Present for this performance was Mr Akiro Yoshimura, the Honorary Consul for Malta in Tokyo.

It is with regret that the Authority has to record fresh developments which brought to an end the special relationship built up through the years between the local Organising Committee and the World Festival Committee. In February, 1976, the Secretary General Mr K. Osawa informed

the Authority and Xandir Malta that his Committee had reviewed its linking relationship with festivals overseas and decided that Malta had the background and potential to become an entry to the World Popular Song Festival through individual applications and thus doing away with the existing system of organising a local festival as a preliminary. Although the Authority agrees wholeheartedly with the Japanese appraisal of the local musical potential, it cannot but point out that the World Festival Committee's decision means that Malta will no longer enjoy the preferential treatment it had in the way of an automatic place in the semi-finals in Tokyo for local composers. Unfortunately, further representations by the Authority and Xandir Malta, were not entertained by the Japanese organisers of this festival.

The 28th Session of the Prix Italia International Competition for Radio and Television Programmes was held in Bologna between the 15th and 27th September, 1976. The Authority was represented by Mr Victor Formosa, its Head of Productions who acted as a member of the Jury for Television Documentaries. 49 Broadcasting Organisations were represented. Altogether 67 Radio Programmes and 60 Television Programmes were entered.

Mr Formosa also represented the Authority at the General Assembly of Prix Italia which met on the 25th September. The Assembly discussed a number of proposals for amending the Statute submitted by several delegates who, as jury members, had their own observations to make on some of the Articles governing the Prix Italia Competition. The Assembly also approved the formation of the Juries for 1977. The Authority was chosen to be part of the Juries for Radio Drama Programmes and Television Musicals.

The aim 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 to stimulate the study of creative and cultural questions relating to broadcasting.

Religious Broadcasting

The primary aim of religious broadcasting is that it should reflect the worship, thought and action of the Catholic Church which represents the main stream of the Christian tradition in the country. A secondary and related aim of religious broadcasts is that these should bring before listeners and viewers what is most significant between the Christian faith and the modern world.

In all these matters the Authority and Xandir Malta are guided by the views of the Religious Broadcasting Advisory Panel which during the period under review was made up of the Rev. J. Bernard, S.J. as A/Chairman, the Rev. Fr. Bilocca O.F.M. Cap. as A/Secretary and the Rev. D. Mintoiff O.F.M. as Member. During the year the Panel met regularly and dealt with matters as they arose.

After much discussion and planning, a new religious programme "Tassew, Tassew, Nghidilkom" was introduced on Radio Malta. This programme which is broadcast weekly with a repeat has been quite successful. The religious programme "Eawl il-Gnus" on Cable Radio was re-organised both in content and in personnel, and the name changed to "Il-Bxara t-Tajba". The regular monthly "Religious Forum" about current moral-social problems has been continued and has retained a satisfactory level.

The Panel very frequently provides the names of persons who act as commentators for religious events, contributors for the weekly Gospel explanation "Jun il-Mulej", as well as for the end-of-day-thought on both Cable Radio and television. The television programme "Djalogu" was also re-organised, first in October 1976 and then in April, 1977 to make it more appealing to the public.

Despite various difficulties the Panel has done its best to provide a better service of religious broadcasting. At the close of the year, the Authority in consultation with H.G. the Archbishop was considering an increase in the membership of the Panel to bring it up to its original five members.

The Authority in the Role of Mediator

The Broadcasting Authority has various functions which are directly related to its obligation of providing broadcasting services of good quality and which should be calculated to promote the public interest. It was precisely the public interest which prompted the Authority to intervene during the course of the year in the dispute between Xandir Malta and the Malta Football Association. This lengthy dispute had curtailed coverage by the broadcasting media of local competitive football - a sport keenly followed by a sizeable audience. The disagreement registered by the two organisations concerned the question of fees payable by Xandir Malta for broadcast coverage of football matches.

Following an offer by the Chairman of the Broadcasting Authority to mediate in the dispute, a series of discussions were held during which both sides showed flexibility and understanding of each others position. The negotiations, held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gerald Montanaro-Gauci,

led to a mutually satisfactory settlement and the signing of an Agreement on the 2nd December 1976 by Xandir Malta's General Manager and the President of the Malta Football Association. This Agreement enabled Cable Radio and Radio Malta to broadcast direct from football grounds excerpts covering local matches and extend short filmed coverage of football matches to the television service.

The first football event which benefitted through the Authority's mediation effort was the international match in the World Cup Series played on the 5th December 1976 between Malta and Austria. A direct commentary of this match was broadcast on Cable Radio and Radio Malta.

PROGRAMME REVIEWTelevision

The station originated output including news and current affairs programmes accounted for around 45% of total transmission time during the period under review. This shows an increase of just under 5% over the previous year.

This substantial increase was mainly due to:-

- a) the introduction of a television serial in Maltese;
- b) increase in Sports programmes;
- c) wider coverage of events by the Outside Broadcasting Unit;
- d) a higher percentage of adult education, cultural and public-service programmes.

Drama

"F'Bahar Wiehed" - the major change under this heading was the introduction of the first ever serialised television story in Maltese. The serial commenced in October 1976 with the first set of 12 episodes averaging 40 minutes each shown once weekly.

This major production called for a considerable amount of location work employing television cameras, film cameras, a large number of 'extras' and specially constructed sets in order to overcome the limitations imposed by lack of space in the studio. No effort was spared in utilising every facility to create visual variety in a situation necessarily taking place in the same family situation.

Public reaction to this serial was such that the episodes had to be given a 'repeat'. Audience figures obtained during a survey held in February 1977 revealed that 202,000 watched original episode transmissions, while a figure of 140,000 was registered for repeats, a record audience never before reached by any other programme.

A second set of 18 episodes followed the first series at the end of January. Nine episodes from the second series were broadcast by the end of the period under review.

Eleven single teleplays, varying in duration from 35 minutes to 70 minutes were also transmitted during the year. These included a number of works in a series by one author, and translations of foreign works.

Sports

The usual weekly Sports magazine programme and Sports results continued on a regular basis up to the end of December. In January an additional one hour weekly magazine was introduced on Mondays while the Friday edition was cut down to half an hour. The Monday programme of 'Sports Panorama' sub-headed 'Analizi u Taghrif' provided viewers with comments and analysis of the previous weekend sporting events in Malta and abroad as well as a look ahead at events taking place during the week. The Friday edition sub-headed 'Sports fi Tmien il-Gingha' looked ahead at activities during the weekend. Both editions made extensive use of filmed items and interviews. Special local and international events not covered by either edition were given coverage in additional reports and

features mounted for the occasion. Of particular interest were OB coverages of the FISSEC games, horse-race meetings, motorcycle rallies and scramble, the 8th September Regatta and the International Tennis Tournament rounding up the year under review.

Outside Broadcasting

OB coverages during this period increased substantially. Besides sport activities, major events covered included the Good Friday Procession from Mosta; the counting of votes and election results from the counting hall at MCAST including a non-stop all night transmission with on-the-spot commentaries and reports; the Carnival defile and dancing from Misrah il-Helsien; the Republic Day festivities outside City Gate; the swearing-in of the new President of the Republic at the Palace Valletta; the Midnight Christmas Mass (which had to be abandoned due to a power failure); the consecration ceremony of the new Archbishop at the Mdina Cathedral; the state visit of the President of the Libyan Arab Republic Colonel Gaddafi; opera from the "Aurora Theatre" in Gozo; Budget day from the Palace; the appointment of Labour Party deputy leaders from the Freedom Hall, Marsa; the Prime Minister's address to the Nation also from Marsa; the Manoel Theatre Orchestra Christmas Concert from Valletta; the "Bir Miftuh" orchestral concert from the Assembly Hall at the University, Tal-Groqq and the opening ceremony of the second TV Channel at TVM premises.

Language Courses

During the period under review, four language courses were televised. Lessons in Maltese and Arabic continued on a weekly basis with a short break for summer. During the second half of the year, television courses in French and English were introduced while the format for the Maltese and Arabic lessons was also changed. The Maltese language lessons dealt mainly with literary works and their appreciation. Programmes featured guest authors, short dramatised works and the visualisation of poetry and prose excerpts, through stills and filmed sequences. The Arabic language course added stronger grammatical elements while concentrating on the direct method of teaching the language. Both English and French language series used imported filmed sequences and specially produced visual aids to support teaching points made by the teacher in the studio.

Informative and Cultural

This heading includes programmes ranging from Public-Service programmes which accounted for a substantial increase in programme output of the informative type, to others aimed at teaching a skill, commemorating special days of the calendar and those of a purely cultural nature including serious music.

Public-service programmes varied in duration from ten minute filmlets to 45 minute magazines designed to provide information on the various services offered by Government and parastatal bodies. This category also included a number of 'ad hoc' documentaries on 'personalities' and series on special services and industrial development, including health, fishing methods, agriculture and telecommunications. Being election year, a special series of

programmes was designed to keep electors informed of voting procedures and legislation regulating behaviour at polling booths.

Public Service programmes included the series 'Malta Llum' - produced with the assistance of the Department of Information. The half-hour magazine programmes were broadcast three times a week and covered practically every activity and service offered by every government department.

Single programmes of particular interest were those on Tourism, the 8th September Regatta, the activities of the G.W.U., and M.U.T., and the setting up of the anti-pollution centre.

In the cultural sector there were, among others, the series 'Skola Medika', a three part programme on the history of the Malta Medical School; 'Ahna min Ahna', a thirteen part series, took a light-hearted look at the Maltese people and on a more serious level debated the pros and cons of the various aspects of the Maltese character.

'Kultura ghal Kulhadd' started as a fortnightly half hour in January and dealt in depth with the various sections of the museum of fine arts. This became a weekly programme with a four-part documentary on Caravaggio and his paintings and continuing with a series on Architecture.

'Betina' and 'Il-Karozza' - both in twelve parts made use of imported film with station originated commentary and sound tracks. The first dealt with the biology of the human body and the way man communicates with his kind and his environment. The series on cars covered various

aspects of the automobile, its manufacture, testing, maintenance and problems arising out of accidents. On the lighter side 'Pass Pass' aimed at giving viewers the basics of ballroom dancing with practical examples by guest dancers and step-by-step diagrams.

A number of single documentaries were also produced during the year. Worthy of special mention are a 70 minute programme about the life and works of the artist Ganni Vella and two one-hour documentaries dedicated to two lyrical artists - the tenor Oreste Chircop and dramatic Soprano Antoinette Miggiani.

Programmes of a cultural nature covered by the Outside Broadcasting Unit included the 'Bir-Miftuh' concert and the Opera 'Madame Butterfly' at the Aurora Theatre in Gozo.

Serious Music

Ten recital programmes featuring performances by vocalists and musicians were broadcast during the year.

'Meta Jitla' - 'Separju' and 'Il-Kuncert' together totalling over 20 programmes all dealt with aspects or exponents of classical and operatic music. These included Maltese and foreign personalities, orchestras and choirs. The Manoel Theatre Orchestra and the Johann Strauss School of Music also featured in special programmes.

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Under this heading are included series ranging from light entertainment to pure classical music and single 'ad hoc' programmes. During this period 13 musical series

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and 17 single programmes were transmitted. Series of particular interest were 'Kompozituri' featuring local and foreign personalities in the classical and operatic field like Carlo Diacono and G. Satariano together with composers like Mozart, Debussy and Chopin; 'Personalita' a series of 3 programmes with Mary Spiteri giving a wide selection of moods from evergreen numbers to present day popular tunes; 'Il-Kuncert' and 'Solisti' again offered a mixed bag of classical music featuring local and foreign composers, musicians and orchestras. On the lighter side, series such as 'Applawsi', 'Kuntrasti', 'Mill-Lista tal-Kbar', 'Tiftakruha Din', 'Talent Muzikali' and 'Ghalenija' ensured a varied pot-pourri catering for all tastes in light music and entertainment. Singles of note were editions of a seasonal nature such as 'Mose' a musical mine based on the biblical story with a cast of 80 students from the De La Salle College, Cottonera.

'Il-Grajja tal-Milied' a programme based on the music of Karl Orff and relating the Christmas story through music and song featuring the Johann Strauss School of Music. 'Il-Milied mas-Songsters' with a group of 20 young people giving a rendering of well known Christmas songs and a number of original compositions. Other programmes in this category included a musical concert by the Manoel Theatre Orchestra for the Christmas season; 'Starlite 77' a New Year's Eve musical programme featuring local and foreign singers and dancers; 'Ikun li Trid Int' a work of sacred music based on the 14 stations of the Cross; 'L-Ghid it-Tajjeb' a special variety programme for children featuring song, dance and magic routines; two programmes with the Ballerup and Startaiter Blasemusik bands from Germany; others featured a visiting Italian Choir, the popular group 'Tea', Italian singer Gilda Giuliani and Britain's Diana Kirkwood. The final special edition of

'Maltija Kienet l-Ewwel Kelma' was built around Anton Buttigieg's symphonic poem 'Il-Kappella tal-Paci' and featured the Manoel Theatre Orchestra and the Y.T.C. Choir.

The series 'Is-Sieheb u s-Siehba' although not purely musical, contained strong doses of music and entertainment arising from the reminiscences of the invited couples in each programme, while the two programmes 'Xrar' used music and mime to illustrate themes arising out of Fr. David Azzopardi's compositions.

Children's and Young People's Programmes

Children's series including 'l-Ballun Insahhar', 'Rupert Bear', 'Treasures' and 'Darba Wahda' all used imported filmed material with station originated sound and dialogue tracks. Special programmes included a special show for 'World Children's Day', the Christmas play 'L-Anglu Okejken' by the Ingarr mixed School and a special Christmas show while the older audiences were re-introduced to the 50 minutes weekly 'Werqa Gdida' which followed in the style of the original series 'Werqa' and included items on the horoscope, the story of the Olympics, guest singers, a cinema quiz and, on the educational side, items on the general elections, Shakespearean plays and 'casework' discussions.

Religion

The programme Djalogu continued on a weekly basis with some changes in its format and content.

Dawra Madwarna

For the first time since its inception this family magazine programme continued through the year without the

usual break during the summer months. In October a number of changes were made in its content in order to widen its scope and increase the cultural and informative elements.

New items included information on the highway code and driving aids, the workings of the postal service and the banking system.

Imported Programmes = 176/177

Imported programmes accounted for around 55% of the total output of the station. Programme material was made up of documentaries, musical and variety shows, comedies, serialised drama, educational programmes, adventure series, cinema films, cartoons and TV Movies.

In the documentary category Xandir Malta succeeded in acquiring some of the most renowned series produced during recent years. Perhaps two of the costliest and most widely researched series were 'The Ascent of Man' a thirteen part personal view of man's progress and achievements written and presented by the late eminent scientist Jacob Bronowski and 'The Mighty Continent' - a thirteen hour television history of Europe presented by Peter Ustinov. Following closely in importance came 'A Diary of Civilization' a series tracing the beginnings of the principal civilizations of the world, 'The Traditional World of Islam' a detailed study of Islamic heritage and its influence over the rest of the world; 'The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau' and 'World Leaders'. The documentary category occupied an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ programme hours per week.

Serious drama was represented by noteworthy series like 'Upstairs Downstairs', 'The Fall of Eagles', 'The Pallisers' and 'Edward VII'. These series represented

television drama at its best. Expensive period settings, a cast of prominent actors, meticulous research and direction characterised these high quality productions.

Adventure series still attract large audiences. Averaging 10.4% of the total output, programmes in this category covered 'western', legal, social, detective, suspense, police and science fiction themes in such series as Thriller, Zoo Gang, Kojak, Lucas Tanner, Onedin Line, Wild Wild West, and Space 1999. The most popular series in this category were The New Avengers, Petrocelli and Streets of San Francisco with audiences varying between 120 and 135 thousand.

Children's hour featured popular cartoon and animated series together with dramatised stories and educational programmes. The series 'The Little House on the Prairie' was the most popular adventure series closely followed by 'The Lost Islands', Secrets of Isis and 'U.F.O.'.

The informative category was represented by programme series like Big Blue Marble, Vision On and Wonders of the Wild. Programmes on Wild Life continued to enjoy wide appeal among the 9 to 13 year age group.

Programme hours allocated to Comedy Variety and music averaged 2.8 per week amounting to 6.7% of the total output. Half hour series included 'Are You Being Served', 'My Wife Next Door', 'Laverne and Shirley', 'My Brother's Keeper' and 'The Spinners'. The hour shows were represented among others by Morecambe & Wise, James Last and the International Pop Frons.

Cinema films on television accounted for 10.4% of the output. According to the latest audience survey, Tuesday Cinema averaged an audience of 160,000 which was the second highest audience figure for any type of programme shown on TVM.

The Sound Services

Cable_Radio_One/Radio_Malta_National

During the twelve months ending March 31, 1977 the number of subscribers to the Cable Radio Services was 47,787 whilst the total number of sets stood at 59,037.

Children's Programmes

During the year under review it was evident that the time was ripe for Children's programmes to be reviewed. It was felt that the system of having a coordinator and sole organiser was rendering this sector repetitive and monotonous in pattern and a hinderance to further progress.

In December 1976 a panel of organisers of Children's programmes was appointed to put into effect themes aimed at widening their horizons, stimulating their imaginative and creative faculties, encouraging their interest in the world they live in, and in their native land's heritage, arts and cultures, its past and present and sciences and technology.

The panel is made up of Mr V. Aquilina (Chairman), Mr C. Arrigo, Mr L. Mizzi and Mr G. Peresso.

Productions introduced during the first term 1976 projected the following:

- Mondays - Literature (local and foreign)
- Tuesdays - 'From the Library' alternating with 'Isma u Imrah' information on World towns and cities about which books were written.
- Wednesdays - Maltese towns and villages/Pinna Eghazugha.
- Thursdays - From the World Around Us.
- Fridays - Tomorrow's Citizens (civics)
- Saturdays - Drama for children

Other features included ten weekly quiz programmes on the literary works of Guze' Muscat Azzopardi to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death and special programmes on the great German composer Ludwig Von Beethoven who died 150 years ago.

Magazines and Documentaries

This sector indeed merits the appreciable amount of airtime Xandir Malta allocates to it on Cable Radio One and Radio Malta National. In the main, series are designed to further the education of the peoples of these Islands which is one of the cardinal responsibilities of the media.

They aim to provide a general service to the public in as much as each series is arranged to give the listener a progressive outlook in the fields of learning and cover a wide range of interests including literature, the arts, history, folklore, science, medicine, natural history, social problems and economics - to mention a few of the subjects projected during the year under review.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Social Welfare and Culture, a thirteen part dramatised series was broadcast on both Cable Radio and Radio Malta to create public awareness on the social services available and the rules and regulations they are governed by.

A wide range of subjects were dealt with in programme series whose titles were synonymous with the themes and which included 'Il-Maltin u l-Inkwizizzjoni', 'Drawwiet', 'Mappelli u Bini Storiku tal-Gzejjer Maltin', 'Nghiduha Kif Inhi', 'Il-Mixja Kostituzzjonali u Strategika ta' Malta', 'Mill-Gzira tat-Flett Gheljiet' (Gozo Magazine), 'Dinja Gdida, Nazjon Gdid' (200th Anniversary American Independence),

'Magazine tal-Emigranti' which celebrated the 10th year since its inception. (Cable Radio One); 'Kultura Matul iz-Zmienijiet', 'Blex Inti Tkun Tista' Tghix' (medicine), 'Baqghu Jissennew', 'Minn Fuq il-Kampnar' which trailed the history of towns and villages of the Maltese Islands, 'Grajjiel u Hvenzjonijiet', 'Art Twelidi' '200 Sena mill-Indipendenza Amerikana' (Radio Malta).

Worthy of mention is the current series of lessons on economy which has attracted the attention of an appreciable amount of Radio Malta listeners. Notes relevant to each broadcast lesson are made available to students every week.

Popular and Light Music

Pop and Light music programmes continued to attract the largest audiences on both Cable Radio and Radio Malta and the popularity of disc-jockeys like Norman Hamilton, Noel Mallia, Mario Laus, Patrick Vella, John Muscat, Ray Bajada and Mario Saliba remained high. Whilst these programmes direct themselves towards the preference of the majority, constant efforts have been made to safeguard the interests of the minority who follow Jazz, folk music, the Brass Bands and of course the 'evergreens'.

Listeners were entertained to records on the International hit parades and specialised programmes featured the diverse musical forms and included the latest trends in Rock, Country and Western, Folk, Soul, Jazz and Middle-of-the-road type of song.

In addition to records from the French Hit Parade and songs from Latin America, 'Schallplatten' a weekly programme of German successes was introduced to Cable Radio whilst music from the shows, operettas, the Big Band sound and

Light Classics were not neglected and received a fair amount of air play on all media.

Every effort was made for the Record Library to be stocked with the latest product, and in view of the continuous inflow of discs, space has become limited and steps are being taken to expand the premises.

There were signs of an improvement in the standard of local record productions and discs by the Black Train, The Tramps, New Cuorey, Joe Cutajar and other Maltese singers and groups, continued to be the main attraction in request programmes. P.O. Box 10 on Radio Malta was extended to cope with the ever increasing amount of record requests. Maltese Folk music (Ghana) on disc and recorded at Xandir Malta studios was also popular with listeners. However, a number of these programmes had to be withheld in view of objectionable content.

Band clubs in Malta and Gozo were once again prominently featured during the year under review. 'Il-Baned f'Malta u Ghawdex', tracing the history of the clubs, was concluded and the latter part of the series carried features on the Police and Armed Forces of Malta Bands. Funeral Marches by various Band clubs broadcast over both Cable Radio and Radio Malta during Holy Week were very well received by followers of this type of music as were the weekly programmes broadcast every Sunday morning on Cable Radio.

Serious Music

The continuous but steady move towards music of a serious nature was maintained and old recordings of the main classical repertoire were replaced by new editions. Music by contemporary composers was also given prominence and programmes on both Radio and Cable Radio were using

fully the great wealth of high quality gramophone recordings together with excellent music recordings made available to Xandir Malta by other broadcasting organisations.

In the operatic sphere, recordings by new voices were acquired, whilst additional operas not previously available were purchased by Xandir Malta. Thirteen operas were broadcast on Cable Radio whilst twenty full operas were transmitted on Radio Malta. Operatic requests were introduced for the first time on Radio Malta together with a thirteen part series titled 'Il-Mara fl-Opra Puciniana'.

Other series were 'L-Opra u l-Operistici', 'L-Istorja Socjali tal-Muzika' and 'Forum Klassiku' (Cable Radio) and 'Kuncert Klassiku' and 'F'Dinja Muzikali Gdida' (Radio) to mention a few.

Classical Concerts commemorating the centenary since the birth of Carlo Diacono and the 150th anniversary of Beethoven's death were broadcast on both Cable Radio One and Radio Malta National.

Studio recitals by local and foreign virtuosos were also prominently featured. Artists included pianist Cynthia Turner, violinist Inez Vella and organist Paul Parsons.

Talks and Discussions

Experts in various fields have imparted information on health, gardening, motoring, house decorating, legal matters, cooking antiques, dressmaking, agriculture, fashions, history, philately, psychology, literature, the arts, farming, the environment and other themes dealing with everyday life.

A demanding series worthy of mention was Cable Radio's 'Bieb Miftuh' in which a panel made up of a Psychiatrist, Doctor, Theologian and a legal representative, discussed listeners' questions, even the more controversial ones like abortion, homosexuality and enthanasia - subjects never before exposed to listeners in Malta. These delicate subjects were appropriately handled.

A series on the arts, theatre and music 'Il-Platea' were introduced to the Radio Malta schedules whilst 'Il-Psikologista' and 'Il-Bidwi u s-Sajjied' retained substantial audiences.

The two producers/presenters of Women's programmes, Mrs. Pauline Miceli (Cable Radio) and Mrs. Susan Mulvaney (Radio) soon became established in their own right and have been well received by listeners.

Special programmes to mark the 28th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and World Health Day were broadcast on both media.

Literary Programmes

Maltese literature was, as in previous years, prominently featured on both Cable Radio and Radio Malta during the past twelve months.

Readings of novels in thirty minute episodes continued to make the strongest impact. To attract the greatest number of listeners possible and, at the request of the majority, the times of broadcasts over Radio Malta were revised so that audiences to both networks were able to follow with ample ease.

Programmes on Cable Radio produced in association with literary Societies were retained and steps are being taken to include the 'Ghaqda tal-Malti Universita'' together with the 'Ghaqda Letterarja Maltija', 'Moviment Qawnien Letterarju' and 'Grupp Awturi'.

Over Radio Malta, established and lesser known authors were given the opportunity to broadcast their works in the weekly series 'Ghall-Kenn tal-Fuklar', 'Int u n-Novella', 'Mill-Benna tal-Pinna', 'Hannieqa' and 'Mill-Ghajta tal-Gawwi'. Works by World Famous writers were also included.

To encourage up and coming writers, original short stories are once again being accepted for broadcast over Cable Radio.

Sport

Programming in this sector was revised to cut down on duplication and coverage which reflected all the major sporting interests were broadcast concurrently on both Radio Malta and Cable Radio. Schedules, especially weekend programmes, were adjusted to provide a smooth operation without undue listener irritation.

Football, Basketball, Waterpolo, Horse Racing, Volleyball, Hockey, Archery, Table Tennis, Billiards, Cycling, Sailing, Sheet-shooting, Bowling, Athletics, Boxing, Wrestling and boat-racing were all given ample coverage.

Prominence was given to all Internatinnal Events in which Malta participated abroad and contact was made with individuals or officials to provide listeners with the latest news. The Billiard Championships in which the Maltese participant reached the finals, was an example.

Interviews, reports and commentaries were provided for the Government and Parastatal football and netball competitions.

Worthy of special mention were the direct commentaries over Cable and Radio of the following international football matches: Italy vs. England in Rome, Malta vs. Austria and Malta vs. East Germany.

The Middle Sea Race, International Junior Waterpolo Championships and the Olympic Games in Montreal were also given extensive coverage.

Features, Drama Light Comedy

Audience response to this sector of programming is one of the highest, and Radio Drama is still rated as the most popular.

There is no significant change in the style and balance of themes and no author could be considered superior to others who contributed to the output during the year under review. The melodramatic was again abundant however, the social comedy was able to counterbalance through translations of scripts acquired from sources overseas.

The policy of commissioning authors to write seasonal plays for Christmas and Holy Week was adhered to.

As previously stated, Drama which was broadcast weekly on Radio Malta National was transferred to Cable Radio Two in January 1977.

Producers mounted 104 radioplays, which were broadcast over Radio Malta and Cable Radio One and Two, six serials, which totalled 52 weekly episodes and eight features. These

broadcasts provided a total of 1,560 acting roles. Features commemorated anniversaries and events included a documentary on Republic Day, Beethoven, Our Lady of Graces and St. Francis of Assisi.

Light Comedy was provided on both media through "Martin Bondin", 'Cajtiet fil-Familja' and 'L-Unoristi' which was also transferred from Radio to Cable Radio Two in January 1977.

Miscellaneous Broadcasts

Broadcasts worthy of mention were the Republic Day Celebrations, Carnival Commentaries, and the Visit to Malta by His Excellency Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, President of the Libyan Arab Popular and Socialist Genahirija.

Proceeds from the annual Christmas Fund-raising request programme 'Ring Us Up' raised yet another record-breaking sum of £M5,700 on behalf of the Community Chest Fund.

Cable Radio Two

In January 1977, Cable Radio International was renamed Cable Radio Two in view of the introduction of programmes in the Maltese language to this network for the first time. Drama, discussions, historical and informative programmes in Maltese which totalled 18% of the network's output were transferred from Radio Malta National, however this move did not affect the complimentary role this service plays to Cable Radio One.

Transcribed programmes from foreign stations continued to dominate the network scene and productions covered a variety of subjects including current affairs, drama, music, documentaries, series for children, Sport, light entertainment,

education, culture and series for those listeners who wanted to further their knowledge of foreign languages.

Foreign transcriptions were provided by Radio France, Deutsche Welle, Radio Australia, U.N. Radio, W.H.O., the Voice of Kenya, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Belgian Radio, Radio Nederland, Radio Moscow, the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Canada, the Voice of America, R.A.I., N.E.K. Japan, Finland Radio, Radio Switzerland and Swedish Radio.

Language courses in Italian and German were well followed, and a series of World Theatre broadcast on Thursday Nights included classics by Ibsen, Karel and Josef Capek and Strindberg.

An international D.J. contest with fourteen contestants from Stations all over the world came to an end on June 2, 1976. The final result was most encouraging as Xandir Malta's D.J. Norman Hamilton was placed third - only five points behind the winner Don Topping of Radio Jamaica.

With the introduction of programmes in Maltese and the ever increasing amount of transcribed and locally produced programmes, relays from the BBC World Service are diminishing rapidly. The remaining services broadcast are News Bulletins, Sport, Drama, Variety, Quizzes, readings and Light music.

The daily comparative output in hours based on the first term 1977 schedules is as follows:

	<u>BBC Relays</u>	<u>Locally Presented</u>
Saturday	7 hrs	10 hrs 10 mins
Sunday	4 hrs	13 hrs 10 mins
Monday	5 hrs 32 mins	11 hrs 38 mins
Tuesday	6 hrs 51 mins	10 hrs 19 mins
Wednesday	5 hrs 40 mins	11 hrs 30 mins
Thursday	5 hrs 41 mins	11 hrs 30 mins
Friday	4 hrs 22 mins	12 hrs 48 mins

Total per week 39 hrs 40 mins 81 hrs 4 mins
 which is equivalent to 33% BBC relays and 67% locally
 presented.

Radio Malta's Second Station provided a twelve hour
 daily continuous music service to F.M. listeners on the
 87.9 frequency in the VHF Band. The daily schedules
 featured pop, rock, light, classical, Jazz and Operatic
 music.

Radio Malta International broadcasts five hours of
 programmes in the Italian language daily. Transmissions
 vary in category from literature, historical and touristic
 information on the Maltese islands to record requests.
 Transmissions in Italian are preceded and followed by
 musical programmes from Radio Malta 2.

News and Current Affairs

The Broadcasting Services in Malta, like their
 counterparts elsewhere, have many tasks to perform. They
 should, as one of their central purposes, bring news and
 information to as wide an audience as they can physically
 reach and the news they provide should be immediate,
 accurate and dispassionate. Important news from both local
 and foreign sources should be seen through Maltese eyes to
 reflect Maltese values and judgements; other news from
 foreign sources should reflect events and attitudes in other
 countries. The overriding requirement in this highly
 sensitive sector of programming is that all news given in
 the programmes (in whatever form) should be presented with
 due accuracy and impartiality and that due impartiality
 should be preserved by those responsible for news and current
 affairs as respects matters of political or industrial
 controversy or relating to current public policy. It is

this policy of maintaining due impartiality which singles out the broadcasting media from the information services provided by the Press and in accordance with this obligation the Authority issued guidelines for news coverage for all broadcasting media. The main element which emerges from these guidelines which were agreed with Xandir Malta is the Authority's firm belief that the news and current affairs services should allow the widest possible range of views and opinions to be expressed. These guidelines are reproduced as an Appendix to this report.

During the year under review programmes and News Bulletins produced by the News Division accounted for about 20% of viewing time on Television; 16% of total airtime on both networks of Cable Radio; and 14% of airtime on Radio Malta. This represents an average of 13% of the combined airtime on the two Maltese language Radio stations and Television.

The most important single assignment handled by the News Division during the year was the coverage of the results of the General Elections between Saturday, 18th and Monday 20th September.

During this 3-day period, transmissions by Television Malta ran for a full thirty-four hours. Transmissions between eleven in the morning on Sunday and two in the afternoon the follow day - - a total of 27 hours - - went on uninterruptedly.

Radio transmissions were also broadcast non-stop between early Sunday morning and early afternoon of the following Tuesday.

With the cooperation of other departments, the News Division was in a position to announce the latest election results as they came in at Xandir Malta's specially set up studios at the M.C.A.S.T. In between fresh electoral results the News Division broadcast the outcome of past elections since 1921 and produced discussion programmes, in which candidates of both contesting parties, participated.

Other major events covered by the News Division were the state visit to Malta by the Libyan President, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in May; the First Session of the New Parliament in November; the conferment of the "Gieh ir-Repubblika" awards, in December; the swearing in of the new President of the Republic, Anton Buttigieg, also in December; and the presentation of the General Estimates in January.

Top personalities interviewed by the News Division, included Lord Louis Mountbatten; the former Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Herr Willy Brandt; the Secretary of the Italian socialist Party, Dottor Bettino Craxi; the Filippino Minister of Trade, Troadio Quiazon; the Director General of the World Health Organisation, Halfdan Mahler; the Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, Monsignor Clancey; renowned pianist Tanas Vasary; and Italian film Director Alberto Lattuada.

To ensure that viewers and listeners kept abreast of events of topical interest, the News Division undertook to interview various local personalities, including Cabinet Ministers; high Government Officials; Church Dignitaries; Industrialists and others.

School Broadcasting

During 1976/77 Sound and Television broadcasts to Schools were as follows:

<u>Sound</u>	-	<u>Primary</u>					
			<u>Years 1-2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Maltese			9	9	-	6	9
Religion			-	-	39*	39*	39*
English			-	17	10	12	12
Science			-	-	10	10	12
Social Studies			-	-	11	5	-

*Weekly explanation of the Gospel

<u>Sound</u>	-	<u>Secondary</u>		
			<u>Forms I-II</u>	<u>Forms III-V</u>
			23	25

<u>Television</u>	-	<u>Primary</u>				
			<u>Years 1-2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4-5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
Maltese			10	-	-	-
English			-	8	-	-
Social Studies			-	-	10	10

		<u>Secondary</u>					
			<u>Form I</u>	<u>Form II</u>	<u>Form III</u>	<u>Form IV</u>	<u>Form V</u>
English			14	-	-	-	-
Science			18	-	-	-	10
Towns & Villages			-	9	-	-	-
Social Studies			-	-	16	12	-

Television

Following an addition to the SBU staff it was possible to carry out a limited expansion in the television output to schools. Indeed, for the first time Xandir Malta produced

television programmes for all pupils in Primary and Secondary Schools.

A series which met with a great deal of success was DAWRA TOND for Primary 1-2. This series included fables, fairy tales, local and foreign folklore, nature and a programme on creativity.

Programmes for Year 4 - about people who are of service to the community were well received.

Three new series were produced for Secondary Schools - SCIENCE for Forms I, TOWNS AND VILLAGES for Forms II and CIVICS for Forms IV. By far, the most successful was the series on TOWNS AND VILLAGES which aroused considerable interest among students and Civics teachers.

QED NIKBRU for Forms IV was a continuation and an extension of the series which was so successfully produced for Forms III last year. It appears from teachers' comments as well as from the spot assessments that students have not only enjoyed the programmes but also found them useful and stimulating.

Sound

In the Primary Schools sound broadcasts continued to enjoy popularity though naturally some programmes were more appealing than others. Several teachers have asked that SCIENCE broadcasts for Year 5 and Year 6 be presented in dramatised form rather than as straight talks as they are at present. This request is being considered for next year.

In the RELIGION broadcasts for Secondary Schools a number of interviews and discussions replaced the straight talk - a change which has also been well received. Broadcasts for juniors (Forms I-II were relayed on Thursdays while those for Seniors (Forms III-V were relayed on Tuesdays.

It is earnestly hoped that in future Sound and Television programmes will also be made available to Technical and Trade Schools.

The assistance of the School Broadcasting Advisory Committee and of the various subject areas sub-committees throughout the year is gratefully acknowledged.

The School Broadcasting Advisory Committee for 1977/78 was composed as follows:

Dr. F. Chetcuti, Director of Education, Chairman
Mr L. Farrugia, Asst. Director of Education
Mr C. Cuschieri, Asst. Director of Education
Mr P.P. Grech, Asst. Director of Education
Miss H. Borg Bonnici, Headmistress, Girls' Secondary
School
Rev. B. Mangion, Rector, Private School
Mr C. Farrugia, College of Education
Mr M. Sultana, Headteacher, Boys' Primary School
Mr L. Mizzi, School Broadcasting Organiser,
Xandir Malta.

APPENDIX I,BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
STANDING ORDERS1. QUORUM

Unless otherwise decided, all meetings shall be held on days and at times as agreed from time to time by the Authority. Extraordinary meetings may also be called by the Chairman, as dictated by circumstances. The quorum of the Authority shall consist, in addition to the Chairman, of three Members. If within half-an-hour of the time appointed for the meeting to commence a quorum is not present, the meeting shall be dissolved.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

- (a) An Agenda shall be prepared by the Chairman in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Secretary and shall be circulated to the Members reasonably in advance of each meeting. In the case of extraordinary meetings referred to in Standing Order No.1, it may not always be possible to circulate the Agenda; in this event, it shall be read by the Chairman at the opening of the meeting. All items on the Agenda shall take precedence over all other business.
- (b) The Authority's Agenda shall normally include the following items:-
 - (1) Confirmation of the Minutes of the previous meeting
 - (2) Matters arising out of the Minutes
 - (3) Correspondence
 - (4) Any items decided upon for inclusion on the Agenda
 - (5) Any other business

3. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

In the event of any matter of urgency, however, the Chairman may move or may accept a motion from any Member for the suspension of the Standing Orders to introduce an item not previously included on the Agenda for the day's business. Such a motion must clearly state the nature and urgency of the business concerned. In the event of disagreement the matter will be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

4. MINUTES

- (a) The confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting shall be the first item on the Agenda. Draft minutes will be drawn up by the Secretary and will be circulated to all Members of the Authority within a reasonable time after the date of the previous meeting. Amongst other things the minutes shall contain a record of those present at the meeting; all motions moved by the Chairman and Members; the names of the movers of such motions; the names and numbers of those voting if the matter is decided by vote and the Chairman's decision on matters of order.
- (b) Any amendments to the minutes shall be forwarded to the Secretary in writing before the date of the next meeting however, verbal amendments shall be considered. These amendments will be discussed, in turn and, in the case of unanimous agreement, incorporated in the minutes and initialled by the Chairman and the Secretary. In the event of disagreement, the matter will be decided by a majority vote of the members present.

- (c) No motion or discussion shall be allowed on the minutes except in regard to their accuracy. After the confirmation of the minutes, they shall be signed by the Chairman and the members shall then be at liberty to ask any questions in regard to matters arising out of them. Such questions shall be allowed for purposes of information only and no debate on the policy outlined in the minutes shall take place.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

After the matters arising from the minutes have been disposed of, the Chairman shall ask the Secretary to read any letters which require the Authority's attention. Important letters will normally be included as separate items on the Agenda but this section is principally reserved for correspondence received or sent after the Agenda has been circulated and for minor matters.

6. SELECTION OF SPEAKERS

Any member wishing to address the meeting shall do so with the Chairman's permission and shall address the Chair. The Chairman will give adequate opportunity to all Members to express their views. If any member interrupts another while addressing the Chair, the Chairman shall rule him out of order. The ruling of the Chairman on any question under the Standing Orders or on points of order or explanation, shall be final, unless challenged by the majority of the members present. No Member shall leave the meeting before its conclusion without the permission of the Chairman.

7. SPEECHES

It is desirable that no member speaks more than once upon any subject, unless on a point of order or in explanation, except the mover of the Original Motion. Members wishing to raise points of order or explanation must first obtain the permission of the Chairman and must do so immediately the alleged breach has occurred. When all the members have been given an opportunity to speak the Chairman may allow a further brief discussion to ensure that the subject has been adequately covered. If the matter is decided by common consent the Chairman shall move to the next item on the Agenda. In the case of disagreement, the Chairman shall call for motions to put the matter to the vote. A motion which is lost shall not be brought forward again at the same meeting, nor shall one that is approved.

8. MOTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

The first proposition on any particular subject shall be known as the Original Motion, and all succeeding propositions on that subject shall be called amendments. When an amendment is moved to an Original Motion no further amendment shall be discussed until the first amendment is disposed of. The mover of the Original Motion shall have the right to reply in accordance with Standing Order No.7, but such right shall not be extended to the mover of the amendment. Notice of any further amendments must be given before the first amendment is put to the vote. The Secretary shall read the amended motion after which the Members will register their vote. If the amendment is negatived and no other amendments are put forward, the Secretary shall read the Original Motion which, in its turn, will be put to the vote.

9. VOTING

The voting shall be by show of hands and any question proposed for decision shall be determined by a majority of the votes of all the Members present. If on any such question the votes are equally divided the Chairman shall have and exercise a casting vote in addition to his original vote. There is no compulsion on a Member to vote but a Member who wishes to abstain from voting should clearly indicate his intention to the Chairman, otherwise he is held to be in favour of the decision of the majority.

10. CONFLICTING INTERESTS

- (a) A member of the Authority who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the Authority shall, as soon as possible after the relevant circumstances have come to his knowledge, disclose the nature of his interest at a meeting of the Authority.
- (b) Any disclosure made as above shall be recorded in the minutes of the Authority and the member -
 - (1) shall not take part after the disclosure in any deliberation or decision of the Authority with respect to that contract; and
 - (2) shall be disregarded for the purpose of constituting a quorum of the Authority for any such deliberation or decision.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

After the conclusion of the main business on the Agenda and provided time allows the Chairman shall ask if there is any other business to be discussed. Items under this section must not deal with important policy matters. If this is the case Members shall give notice to the Chairman of the matter they wish to be discussed and the matter concerned will be put on the Agenda for a subsequent meeting.

APPENDIX II.

Guide lines on News Coverage for all
Broadcasting Media

1. In order to comply with the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Malta Section 122(1) and of the Broadcasting Ordinance 1961 Section 7, the Broadcasting Authority has laid down the following guide lines, which are to be observed in the production of News Bulletins, to ensure that due impartiality is preserved in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy.

2. The criterion for the inclusion of any item in a News Bulletin is to be based on its news value and it is the responsibility of the Head of News or of the person acting in that capacity to decide what constitutes it, by sifting material presented to him by his reporters and the various information agencies at his disposal. As the words themselves imply, items of news value must first of all consist of "tidings", "new information" or "fresh events reported" and, secondly, they should consist of significant and interesting new information available, at the time of broadcast, which an average person, who wishes to be kept informed of what is happening locally or world-wide, should be told about.

3. While observing the above guide lines in deciding what is to be included in News Bulletins, the following further guide lines regarding items of a political, industrial or current public policy nature, are to be followed to ensure impartiality.

- a) The pronouncements, in whatever form, of one party and the replies of the other parties should normally be included.
- b) The pronouncements of Government, employers and trade unions involved in any industrial dispute should likewise be featured.
- c) Reporting of Court Cases and of arbitration tribunal proceedings with particular reference to those cases of a political or industrial nature, should be accurate and objective.
- d) In assessing the news value of a political pronouncement, it is the contents of the statement, viz. whether the material is "news", and not necessarily who makes it, that dictates whether it should be reported, saving instructions already given by the Authority regarding the reporting of Mass Meetings (see letter dated 12th March, 1976).
- e) Political and industrial items, as well as those dealing with current public policy are to be presented in such a way as to ensure due accuracy and impartiality viz. the main items of the news are to be clearly presented and their running order is to be determined by their relative importance. Impartial presentation also implies judicious use of the different broadcasting media, i.e. an item should not be included in radio bulletins only, if it refers to a previous item which was featured either on television only or on both media.

- 2) News reporting facilities are to be distributed as fairly as possible, to cover activities of all political parties and of those bodies which may be involved in an industrial dispute.
-

ANALYSIS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMESTable 1. Breakdown of all Television Programmes

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77
News and News Magazines	8.20	7.16	20.0	17.4
Magazine Programmes	1.68	2.00	4.1	4.9
Talks and Discussions	.35	.55	.8	1.3
Political Broadcasts	.51	.21	1.4	.5
*Ministerials and ** Right of Reply	.15	.12	.4	.3
Documentaries	1.95	2.38	4.8	5.8
Feature Films	4.30	4.28	10.5	10.4
Religion	.53	.67	1.3	1.6
Schools	1.20	1.60	2.9	3.9
Adult Education	1.50	1.00	3.6	2.4
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	2.02	.62	4.9	1.5
Entertainment	3.58	4.56	8.7	11.0
Series Adventure	4.13	4.34	10.1	10.5
Family Comedy	1.63	1.01	4.0	2.4
Variety & Shows	2.38	1.79	5.8	4.3
Serials Classic	.03	.17	.1	.4
Drama	1.47	2.18	3.6	5.3
Arts & Literature	.20	.24	.5	.6
Serious Music & Ballet	.01	.32	-	0.8
Sports	2.08	2.23	5.1	5.4
Advertising Spots	1.92	1.30	4.7	3.1
Advertising Magazines	.10	.05	.2	.1
Miscellaneous	1.03	1.18	2.5	2.9
Parliamentary Reports	-	.41	-	1.0
Election Coverage	-	.22	-	.5
Teleplays -- Entertainment	-	.56	-	1.4
Folk Music	-	.12	-	.3
	40.95	41.27	100.0	100.0

1975/76 1976/77
 * (0.13) (0.7)
 ** (.02) (0.5)

Table 2. Breakdown of Locally Originated Television
Programmes

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77
News and News Magazines	8.20	7.16	40.6	37.0
Magazine Programmes	.80	1.36	4.7	7.0
Talks and Discussions	.30	.55	1.8	2.9
Political Broadcasts	.57	.21	3.4	1.1
* Ministerials &				
** Right of Reply	.15	.12	.9	.6
Documentaries	.65	.99	3.8	5.1
Feature Films	--	--	--	--
Religion	.53	.67	3.1	3.5
Schools	1.03	1.57	6.1	8.1
Adult Education	.92	.90	5.5	4.7
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	.52	.50	3.1	2.6
Entertainment	.30	.24	1.8	1.3
Series Adventure	--	--	--	--
Family Comedy	--	.02	--	.1
Variety & Shows	.62	.82	3.7	4.2
Serials Classic	--	.02	--	.1
Drama	.23	.09	1.4	.5
Arts & Literature	.20	.24	1.2	1.3
Serious Music & Ballet	.03	.22	.2	1.1
Sports	.92	1.14	5.4	5.9
Advertising Spots	--	--	--	--
Advertising Magazines	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous	.90	1.26	5.3	6.5
Parliamentary Reports	--	.41	--	2.1
Election Coverage	--	.22	--	1.1
Teleplays - Entertainment	--	.56	--	2.9
Folk Music	--	.06	--	.3
	16.87	19.33	100.0	100.0

	1975/76	1976/77
*	(.13)	(.07)
**	(.02)	(.05)

ANALYSIS OF CABLE RADIO PROGRAMMESTable 1. Breakdown of Cable Radio One

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76
News and Magazines	21.88	21.09	18.2	17.1
Discussions and Talks	4.97	5.22	4.1	4.2
Ministerials & Right of Reply	.08 .04	.08 .01	.1 --	.1 --
Religious Broadcasts	6.05	4.63	5.0	3.7
Schools	1.22	1.17	1.0	.9
Adult Education	4.13	4.32	3.4	3.5
Children's Programmes: Informative	1.66	1.91	1.4	1.5
Entertainment	.49	.50	.4	.4
Plays, Serials and Maltese Readings	6.11	7.78	5.1	6.3
Variety	1.49	1.88	1.2	1.5
Quizzes & Panel Games	.33	.95	.3	.8
Sports	2.44	2.66	2.0	2.2
Serious Music	4.94	5.22	4.1	4.2
Light/Popular Music	54.19	57.73	45.0	46.6
Women's Programmes	3.68	5.01	3.1	4.1
Others	6.53	3.65	5.4	2.9
Political Broadcasts	0.11	--	.1	--
General Election	.08	--	.1	--
	120.42	123.81	100.0	100.0

Table 2. Breakdown of Cable Radio One
Locally Originated Programmes

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76
News and Magazines	21.32	20.51	17.7	16.6
Discussions and Talks	4.97	5.22	4.1	4.2
Ministerials & Right of Reply	.08 .04	.08 .01	.1 --	.1 --
Religious Broadcasts	6.05	4.63	5.0	3.7
Schools	1.22	1.17	1.0	.9
Adult Education	4.13	4.32	3.4	3.5
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	1.66	1.91	1.4	1.5
Entertainment	.49	.50	.4	.4
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	6.11	7.78	5.1	6.3
Variety	1.49	1.88	1.2	1.5
Quizzes & Panel Games	.33	.95	.3	.8
Sports	2.44	2.66	2.0	2.2
Serious Music	4.94	5.22	4.1	4.2
Light/Popular Music	54.19	57.73	45.0	46.6
Women's Programmes	3.68	5.01	3.1	4.1
Others	6.53	3.65	5.4	2.9
Political Broadcasts	.11	--	.1	--
General Election	.08	--	.1	--
	119.86	123.23	99.5	99.5
	.56	.58	.5	.5
	120.42	123.81	100.0	100.0

Table 3. Breakdown of Cable Radio Two

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76
News and Magazines	33.80	36.45	28.1	29.8
Discussions and Talks	6.19	7.81	5.2	6.4
Ministerials & Right of Reply	--	--	--	--
Religious Broadcasts	.87	1.39	.7	1.1
Schools	--	--	--	--
Adult Education	2.25	.93	1.9	.8
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	--	--	--	--
Entertainment	.42	.34	.3	.3
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	8.39	8.58	6.9	7.0
Variety	1.82	2.05	1.5	1.7
Quizzes & Panel Games	1.84	1.22	1.5	1.0
Sports	9.21	8.75	7.8	7.1
Serious Music	5.65	6.43	4.7	5.2
Light/Popular Music	46.69	46.35	38.9	37.8
Women's Programmes	.38	.25	.3	.2
Others	2.65	1.98	2.2	1.6
	120.16	122.53	100.0	100.0

Table 4. Breakdown of Cable Radio Two
Substitutions including locally produced
Programmes

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1976/77	1975/76	1976/77	1975/76
News and Magazines	9.34	6.32	7.8	5.2
Discussions and Talks	3.97	3.18	3.3	2.6
Ministerials and Right of Reply	--	--	--	--
Religious Broadcasts	.33	1.19	.3	.9
Schools	--	--	--	--
Adult Education	2.25	.76	1.9	.6
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	--	--	--	--
Entertainment	.25	.34	.2	.3
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	4.91	2.55	4.1	2.1
Variety	.99	.86	.8	.7
Quizzes & Panel Games	.16	--	.1	--
Sports	.04	.31	--	.3
Serious Music	4.37	3.61	3.6	2.9
Light/Popular Music	40.01	30.29	33.4	24.7
Women's Programmes	.38	.25	.3	.2
Others	2.65	1.98	2.2	1.6
	69.65	51.63	58.0	42.1
	50.51	70.90	42.0	57.9
	120.16	122.53	100.0	100.0

ANALYSIS OF RADIO MALTA PROGRAMMES - 1976/1977RADIO MALTA ONE

	Weekly Average Hours	<u>7</u>
News and Magazines	20.62	16.4
Discussions & Talks	3.17	2.5
Political Broadcasts	.08	.1
Election Broadcasts	.08	.1
Religious Broadcasts	1.70	1.3
Schools	--	--
Adult Education	4.19	3.3
Children's Programmes:		
Informative	.06	--
Entertainment	.19	.2
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	4.56	3.6
Variety	.35	.3
Quizzes & Panel Games	.44	.3
Sports	3.30	2.6
Serious Music	4.42	3.5
Light/Popular Music	78.92	62.7
Women's Programmes	3.00	2.4
Others	<u>.92</u>	<u>.7</u>
	<u>126.00</u>	<u>100.0</u>

RADIO MALTA TWO

	Weekly Average Hours	%
Music and Magazines	1.17	0.9
Serious Music	13.15	10.5
Light/Popular Music	111.68	88.6
	<u>126.00</u>	<u>100.0</u>

RADIO MALTA THREE

	Weekly Average Hours	%
News and Magazines	1.17	1.7
Discussions and Talks	.06	.1
Adult Education	1.06	1.5
Serious Music	.61	.9
Light/Popular Music	66.60	95.1
Others	.50	.7
	<u>70.00</u>	<u>100.0</u>

RADIO MALTA THREE (Locally Produced)

	Weekly Average Hours	%
News and Magazines	1.17	1.7
Discussions & Talks	.06	.1
Adult Education	1.06	1.5
Serious Music	.61	.9
Light/Popular Music	65.51	93.6
	68.41	97.8
	1.59	2.2
	<u>70.00</u>	<u>100.0</u>

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

A C C O U N T S

31st MARCH, 1977

I N D E X

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68.	Balance Sheet
69.	Report of the Auditors
70.	Income and Expenditure Account
71 & 72	Notes to the Accounts

Appendix

1.	General Administration Expenses
2.	Changes in the Cash Position
2a	Changes in Net Working Capital Position

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
(CONSTITUTED UNDER ORDINANCE XX OF 1961)

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31st MARCH, 1977

	Note	£M	£M	<u>1976</u> £M
FIXED ASSETS	1		<u>10,454</u>	<u>14,830</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Amount receivable re airtime sales		403		403
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments		3,072		2,888
Cash and Bank Balances (Appendix 2)		<u>4,690</u>		<u>46,324</u>
			8,165	<u>49,615</u>
<u>Less:</u>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors and Accruals			34,529	16,012
			<u>(26,364)</u>	<u>33,603</u>
			15,910	48,433
			=====	=====
<u>Financed by:</u>				
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			33,127	32,597
Provision for loss or damage to films on hire			<u>1,463</u>	<u>1,463</u>
			51,550	51,020
<u>Less:</u>				
Debit Balance on Income and Expenditure Account (Page 70)			<u>67,460</u>	<u>2,587</u>
			15,910	48,433
			=====	=====

The notes on pages 71 and 72 form an integral part of these accounts.

..... G. MONTANARO GAUCI
CHAIRMAN

..... A.J. ELLUL
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, 1977 and of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

(Signed)

Diamantino, Manfre' & Co
Certified Public Accountants

Valletta Buildings
South Street
Valletta

Date: _____

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1977

	Notes	£M	<u>1976</u> £M
INCOME			
Government contributions from Licence Fees		-	100,000
Licence Fees from contractors		751	751
Ground Rents		51	51
Bank Interest		1,000	904
Deficit on School Magazine		-	(52)
		<u>1,802</u>	<u>101,654</u>
<u>Deduct:</u>			
EXPENDITURE			
Prescribed Programmes			
Incurred on Sound Broadcasts	2	2,494	7,183
Incurred on Television Broadcasts	3	7,837	10,982
Administration and Other Expenses			
General Administration (Appendix 1)		30,294	32,267
Radio Malta Operation		-	11,463
Tokyo Song Festival		364	124
		<u>40,989</u>	<u>62,019</u>
		<u>39,187</u>	<u>(39,635)</u>
<u>Add:</u>			
Cost of Fixed Assets acquired during the year		530	1,575
Shortfall in respect of prescribed programmes		24,669	16,835
Less: Profit realised on sale of Motor Vehicle		-	(384)
		<u>25,199</u>	<u>18,026</u>
DEFICIT (1976 - SURPLUS) FOR THE YEAR		<u>64,386</u>	<u>(21,609)</u>
Adverse Balance brought forward from previous year		2,587	24,593
Prior year adjustments		487	(397)
Balance carried forward (Page 68)		<u>67,460</u> =====	<u>2,587</u> =====

The notes on pages 71 and 72 form an integral part of these accounts.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1977

1. <u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Depreciation Rate per annum</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>1976</u>
		£M	£M	£M	£M
Freehold Land	Nil	655	-	655	655
Office Equipment Furniture and Fittings	20 - 10%	7,631	5,973	1,658	2,064
Technical Equipment	25%	10,657	10,345	312	19
Studio Equipment	20%	8,119	8,119	-	89
Motor Vehicle	20%	1,624	649	975	1,299
Radio Malta - Furniture and Fittings	25 - 20 - 10%	1,438	1,100	338	530
Radio Malta - Studio and Technical Equipment	33 $\frac{1}{3}$ - 20 - 10%	19,963	13,447	6,516	10,174
		<u>50,087</u>	<u>39,633</u>	<u>10,454</u>	<u>14,830</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====
(1976)		<u>49,557</u>	<u>34,727</u>		
		=====	=====		

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>1976</u>
	£M	£M	£M
Salaries and Wages		-	4,005
Scriptwriters' and Actors' Fees		-	137
Airtime and Studio Charges		274	609
Records, Tapes and Publications		-	8
School Broadcasting Magazine		-	26
School Broadcasting Expenses		-	80
Depreciation on Technical Equipment	123		
Less: Allocated to Television Broadcasts (Note 3)	(61)	62	19
Proportion of Overhead Expenses (5.7%) (Appendix 1)		2,158	2,299
		<u>2,494</u>	<u>7,183</u>
Liability for amount payable towards the improvement of programmes		<u>7,506</u>	<u>2,817</u>
		<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>

BROADCASTING AUTHORITYNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

(CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1977

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
Hire of Television Films	-	114
Airtime and Studio Charges	2,324	4,005
Educational Television	-	199
Script		
Contributors' Fees	-	48
Sundry Expenses	-	58
Eurovision Song Contest	(52)	357
Depreciation:		
Technical Equipment (Note 2)	61	19
Studio Furniture and Equipment	89	414
Proportion of Overhead Expenses (14.3%) (Appendix 1)	5,415	5,768
	<u>7,837</u>	<u>10,982</u>
Liability for amount payable towards the improvement of programmes	17,163	14,018
	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
	=====	=====

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Appendix 1.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1977

	£M	£M	<u>1976</u> £M
Audit Fee		350	400
Depreciation			
Furniture and Fittings 10%	277		266
Office Equipment 20%	244		243
Motor Vehicle 20%	325	846	325
Duty Visits Abroad		671	2,349
Entertainment and Hospitality		277	535
Honoraria to Board Members		1,707	1,429
Professional Fees and Expenses		550	674
Maintenance and Repairs		535	265
Membership Fees - International Organisations		4,695	3,734
Messengers' and Drivers' Uniforms		-	102
National Insurance Contributions		817	733
Postages, Telegrams and Telephones		991	1,419
Rent of Offices and Studios		900	870
Rentals Wired Sound and Television Sets		223	179
Stationery		418	620
Staff Superannuation Scheme		1,276	2,374
Subscriptions to Newspapers, etc.		193	192
Sundry Expenses		178	322
Transport		444	1,200
Wages and Salaries		22,246	21,463
Water and Electricity		250	340
Religious Broadcasting Honoraria		300	300
		<u>37,867</u>	<u>40,334</u>
<u>Deduct:</u>			
Amounts charged against programmes prescribed:			
Sound Broadcasts - 5.7% (Note 2)		(2,158)	(2,299)
Television Broadcasts - 14.3% (Note 5)		(5,415)	(5,768)
		<u>30,294</u>	<u>32,267</u>
		=====	=====

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
CHANGES IN THE CASH POSITION
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1977

<u>1976</u> £M		£M	£M	£M
	Funds became available during the year as follows:			
100,000	From: Government Contributions		-	
1,654	Sundry Income (Licence fees, Bank Interest)		1,802	
4,803	Advertising Revenue from Radio Malta		-	
<u>106,457</u>			<u>1,802</u>	
	These were applied to meet:			
	Administrative and other Expenditure - General (including prescribed programmes)	40,989		
50,556	Radio Malta	-		
16,266				
<u>66,822</u>			<u>40,989</u>	
39,635	Leaving a deficit (1976 - Surplus) on Income and Expenditure Account (Page 70) of			39,187
	The Deficit (1976 - Surplus) was increased by			
1,933	Purchases of Fixed Assets		530	
16,835	Provisions for amounts payable in respect of prescribed programmes		<u>24,669</u>	
<u>18,768</u>				<u>25,199</u>
<u>20,867</u>				<u>64,386</u>
	And decreased by:			
12,501	Increase in Debtors	(184)		
7,173	Increase in Creditors	18,517		
6,478	Retained Depreciation	4,906		
397	Prior Year's adjustments	<u>(487)</u>		<u>22,752</u>
<u>26,549</u>				
47,416	Leaving a cash deficit for the year (1976 - Surplus) amounting to			£M41,634

Cash Deficit for the year (1976 - Surplus) effected the Authority's Liquid Funds as follows:

<u>1976</u> £M		<u>Cash Balances as at</u> <u>31.3.76</u> £M	<u>31.3.77</u> £M	£M
40,722	Decrease (Increase - 1975) in Savings Account	40,793	2,794	37,999
6,677	Decrease (Increase - 1975) in Bank balance	5,481	1,851	3,630
17	Decrease (Increase - 1975) of Cash in hand	<u>50</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>47,416</u>		<u>46,324</u>	<u>4,690</u>	<u>41,634</u>

Appendix 2a.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY
CHANGES IN NET WORKING CAPITAL POSITION
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1977

	£M	£M	<u>1976</u> £M
Cash deficiency (1976 - Surplus) for the year (Appendix 2)		41,634	<u>47,416</u>
<u>Add:</u>			
Increase in debtors	(184)		12,501
Increase in creditors	<u>18,517</u>		<u>7,173</u>
		<u>18,333</u>	<u>(19,674)</u>
Decrease (1976 - Increase) in Net Working Capital for the year		59,967	27,742
		=====	=====