

# BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

1977 - 78



MALTA

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Covering the year ended  
31st March, 1978

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28th July, 1978

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, 1978.

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

Radio and television broadcasting services in Malta are under the supervision and control of the Broadcasting Authority which is now in its seventeenth year of operation. Established in September 1961, the Broadcasting Authority is a statutory body having a distinct legal personality. In terms of current legislation, the Authority consists of a Chairman and not less than four other members appointed by the President of the Republic acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister given after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition. This method of appointment and the fact that Constitutional provisions relating to broadcasting are entrenched in Malta's Constitution are unique but broadcasting itself is unique and different from other forms of communication. At the heart of broadcasting is the mass audience.

Radio and television possess the unique quality of addressing simultaneously the greater part of the population in their thousands of homes. Other methods of communication like the press, the postal and telephone services, which people receive in their homes, cannot do so. Broadcasting can bring an event to a large audience not only simultaneously but immediately it happens. Everybody can watch the official opening of Parliament, listen to an important parliamentary debate or follow the proceedings connected with the visit of a foreign Head of State. There are other forms of communication such as the theatre, films or public meetings which address a considerable number of people at the same time but they do not reach their audience in their homes and compared with broadcasting the numbers they address are very small.

The Authority's responsibilities vis-a-vis the broadcasting media impose onerous obligations and some form of public regulation is therefore necessary in this area of social activity where scarce and valuable national assets are

involved. The Authority's main function in this process of regulation is defined in Section 122(1) of the Constitution which imposes upon the Authority the duty of ensuring the preservation of due impartiality in respect of matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy. It is also incumbent on the Authority to fairly apportion broadcasting facilities and time between persons belonging to different political parties. To underline the serious nature of these duties, the Constitution further provides that in the exercise of its main function, the Authority "is not subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority". The Authority, in its turn is answerable for the services it seeks to provide through Contractors in two ways. First, Government receives an annual report on its activities and it has been the custom in recent years to lay a copy of this report before Parliament. Second, the Authority is in effect appointed by Government in the manner described earlier in this chapter and the Government is, of course, itself answerable to Parliament.

There is a good deal of misconception in the public's mind about the Authority's role. Reduced to its simplest terms this role is the safeguarding of the public interest in broadcasting. It must also be clearly understood that the Authority does not itself provide the broadcasting services. This right and duty is entrusted to Xandir Malta, the broadcasting division within the Telemalta Corporation. There is, therefore, a constant need for dialogue between the Authority and the broadcasters and cooperation between the two organisations is essential. Ultimately, someone has to have the responsibility for deciding which aspect of the public interest should prevail and what can be broadcast in particular circumstances at any given time. In terms of the law, this responsibility rests with

the Authority. It is for this reason that the Authority involves itself in programming and discusses the essential details of scheduling, programme balance, violence, political bias or any of the other charges brought against the broadcasters by organised institutions or by members of the public. The broadcasters should respect and respond to the views and requirements of the Authority which in carrying out its legal functions seeks to explain why it wishes things to be done in one way rather than in another way. If they do not, their credibility in certain aspects of broadcasting will be challenged and eventually undermined. This does not mean that broadcasters must trim and shape their programmes to suit those who express resentment or concern but they must accept that in the final analysis the Authority bears the responsibility for deciding the basis on which the broadcasting services are to be conducted.

These services are quite extensive in relation to the size of the Maltese Islands. They consist of a television service, two Cable Radio networks and three wireless Radio services. The total number of broadcasting hours on all services during the year ended 31st March, 1978 was as follows:-

Television:	2129	hours
Cable Radio One:	6240	"
Cable Radio Two:	4260	" (up to 31.12.77)
Radio Malta National:	6552	"
Radio Malta Musical:	6552	"
Radio Malta International:	3640	"
Overseas Service ("Malta Calling" and "Lehen Malta"):	518	"

The Overseas radio service has established itself especially with neighbouring countries to the north and south of Malta and may contribute towards the enhancement of friendly

relations between Malta's neighbouring countries since broadcasting in its unique way is able to report, represent and make comprehensible, in words and (possibly later) in pictures, the host of things demanding consideration for communication between peoples. At a time when people worry that society is fragmenting, broadcasting should be exploited for its capacity to weld people together. It should be used to link people, give the mass audience common topics of conversation, make them realise that, in experiencing similar emotions, they all belong to the same nation.



PROFILE OF THE YEARThe Authority

The Authority is a non-profit making organisation whose income derives from wireless licence fees through an annual grant allocated by the Government for the services of the Authority. The Chairman and Members of the Board are not required to offer their services on a full-time basis. They hold office for a period of up to five years and are ineligible for appointment to any public office within a three-year period subsequent to the day on which they last held office as a member of the Authority. On the 31st March 1978 the Authority was composed 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.

On the 18th October, 1977 the present Chairman and Members of the Authority were confirmed in their appointment for a further period of one year which is due to expire in October, 1978. It has often been suggested in these Reports that the Government would be well advised to consider enlarging the membership of the Authority in order to ease or do away altogether with quorum difficulties which may occur from time to time. It will be recalled that in terms of the Broadcasting Ordinance the quorum of the Authority shall consist of three members in addition to the Chairman. The Ordinance also provides for a maximum of six members in addition to the Chairman. The staggering of appointments is also to be recommended in the interest preserving continuity.

During the year 1977-78 the Authority met in formal sessions on 16 occasions each session lasting approximately 2½ hours.

The number of staff in post at the end of March 1978 was eleven, five less than at the end of the previous year. Two members of the staff resigned in order to take up employment elsewhere and three female staff members had their service terminated as a result of a new policy adopted by the Authority in connection with the non-retention in employment of female married employees. This was in accordance with the practice followed by the Civil Service and by para-statal organisations. Adequate arrangements, based on modern lines, were made by the Authority for the payment of gratuities to its former female staff.

The post of Chief Executive which is provided for in the Broadcasting Ordinance remained vacant. Meanwhile, the Authority continued with its former arrangement through which the Secretary to the Authority carries out the day-to-day business of the Authority acting in accordance with directives given to him by the Board and consistently in close consultation with the Chairman. The Prime Minister is vested with the authority to appoint a Chief Executive and an indication of Government's thinking on this question was given in reply to a parliamentary question on the subject. In January 1978, the Prime Minister stated that former Administrations did not feel any great necessity to retain this post so much so that under the Nationalist Administration the post of Chief Executive had remained vacant for about three years from November 1968 to November 1971 although, at the time, the broadcasting sector was in the hands of a foreign company - Rediffusion - and the Authority was supposed to look after the financial interests of its listeners and viewers. The Prime Minister added that also on this occasion it is not clear whether the Authority with greatly reduced responsibilities apart from the setting up of Zandir Malta, requires a Chief Executive.

The Authority hopes and will continue to insist on a permanent settlement of its staff structure which is closely related to the exercise of staff reorganisation both in terms of personnel and remuneration. This exercise, when completed,

is due to take effect retrospectively from the beginning of February 1974. Discussions with the Establishments Division of the Prime Minister's Office and the Unions concerned had started some years ago but these were held up and are still pending due to Government's policy not to negotiate with unions still involved in industrial action. It was recently announced that Government intended to carry on with the few remaining cases, including the Authority's where the reorganisation exercise has not been completed.

### The Authority's Finances

The approved Government Estimates for the financial year 1977-78 show an allocation of £M50,000 for the services of the Authority. In fact, during the year Government contributions received by the Authority amounted to £M38,000. These funds were not enough to cover expenditure and an overall deficit of £M27,187 resulted. In accordance with the Authority's contractual obligations arising out of the Broadcasting Agreements which are still in force, provision has been made to cover the maximum liability in respect of prescribed programmes. As at 31st March 1978, this shortfall amounted to £M23,126 as shown in Notes 2 and 3 to the Accounts which are reproduced as an appendix to this Report. The Actual cash position of the Authority shows a net decrease of £M5,877 in the funds available.

The difficulties experienced last year in the availability of funds were repeated in 1977-78 and it was only after a substantial amount had been incurred by way of overdraft that funds were made available in October 1977. This position was a source of considerable embarrassment to the Authority and could have been avoided by the timely release of funds allocated for the expenses of the Authority. This aspect of the Authority's financing was actively pursued in high level discussions with the Government and later, towards the close of the financial year, it was also pointed out that in terms of Section 12 of

the Broadcasting Ordinance the minimum annual allocation to the Authority should be £M45,000. The Authority is not a commercial organisation and any excess revenue over expenditure which may result will be declared surplus and returned to the Consolidated Fund,

The Authority retains that adequate and guaranteed financing for the broadcasting sector is a form of investment which is ultimately reflected in programme quality. The Authority will persist in its efforts to help raise the level of programming and favourable consideration of its reasonable requests for an assured income is one of the factors which will contribute towards the success of this task.

#### Fairness and Impartiality in Programming

The principle of fair dealing applies to all types of programmes. There is in addition a specific requirement in the Constitution and in the Broadcasting Ordinance which is binding on both the Authority and Xandir Malta that due impartiality is preserved on the part of the persons providing the programmes as respects matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy. The term 'due' is significant. The Authority and the broadcasters are not required to secure impartiality on matters on which society is virtually unanimous such as drug-trafficking, racial intolerance or cruelty but impartiality is required where there is diversity of opinion. This view was held by the Court of Appeal in its judgements relating to specific legal proceedings taken against the Authority by the Opposition Nationalist Party. Current affairs or documentary programmes dealing with matters of political or industrial controversy or relating to current public policy must attempt to be impartial. This does not mean that a crude form of balance is required in the sense of an equal number of lines in a script being devoted to each view but rather that the programme should avoid giving biased treatment to any one point of view. Impartiality requires, for example

that in a discussion on any matter of controversy on public policy as wide a range of opinions as possible are represented. Programmes should not be slanted one way or another or by misleading emphasis.

The Authority systematically monitors selected areas of the programme output in relation to programme schedules for radio and television. Television programmes are monitored daily from Station Opening to Station Close-down. Output is assessed against specific guidelines in programming, advertising and other matters. Monitoring staff give particular attention to locally originated programmes. Their assessment is based on various aspects amongst which are the appeal of the subject matter of a programme to the audience for whom it is intended, balance, treatment of subject, performance and interpretation, presentation, visual element, direction and technique.

Current affairs programmes and News Bulletins are given particular attention in order to ensure observance of statutory requirements. The same applies to reports of sittings of the House of Representatives. These are thoroughly checked against reports published in newspapers and where necessary with unedited versions of the Debates of the House of Representatives.

A wide selection of programmes on Sound is monitored 'Off Air' during working hours and through tapes supplied by Xandir Malta after transmission of programmes. This selection invariably includes all new programmes scheduled during the specific quarter. Monitoring of Sound broadcasting includes daily programmes such as "Mill-Gurnali tal-Lum" and "Harsa Lejn....." as well as all News Bulletins. Other programmes of a current affairs nature which are regularly monitored are "Lil Hinn mix-Kefaq" and "Mill-Ahbarijiet tal-Gimgha", "Minn Kullimkien" and "Wicc Imb Wicc", "Stharrig u Fehmiet", "Fid-Dinja Llum", "Radju Ritratt" and the weekly discussion programme "Nithaddtuha".

The programme staff also monitor programmes falling under other categories such as those of the magazine type, religious, informative or the adult education type. Amongst these are the daily women's programmes "Il-Mara Maltija" and "Ghan-Nisa Maltin u Ghawdxin", "Bieb Miftuh" and "Ahna Trabbejna Sew?", "Zmienna" and the daily children's programme.

Throughout the year under review programmes on both Sound and Television monitored by the programme staff reached the six thousand mark. Of these about 4000 programmes belonged to the News and Current Affairs category.

As a result of this process of examination and enquiry there have been occasions during the year when the Authority has had to intervene with Xandir Malta. Unfortunately the Authority's views were not always given the weight they deserved and in two instances the lack of timely rectification led to lengthy legal proceedings being taken by the Nationalist Party. This Party had felt aggrieved at the manner in which a speech delivered by the Leader of the Nationalist Party on the occasion of a rally held to commemorate the First of May 1977 was reported in the news bulletins. Another occasion concerned a parliamentary report of a speech by the Leader of the Opposition delivered in the House of Representatives on the 18th July, 1977. In both instances, the Court held that the speeches were not fairly reported and sufficient accuracy was not maintained. In separate judgements, the Court had ordered the broadcast of revised versions of both speeches. The two cases came before the Court of Appeal and, subsequently, the Authority issued directives ordering the broadcast of the speeches in a revised and corrected version.

Consultation is held in two directions, sometimes set in motion by the Authority and sometimes by Xandir Malta. It is a matter of routine to require Xandir Malta to supply information about their programmes. This may be done on the

Authority's initiative when clarification seems necessary about certain programme aspects or as a result of complaints received by the Authority. All complaints are investigated and there have been instances when these were found to be of a frivolous nature and unfounded. Others were followed up consistently in correspondence and discussion. The Authority believes that through mutual understanding and cooperation, much can be done (and in some instances substantial progress has already been registered) to further the interests of good broadcasting.

### Broadcasting Parliament

Broadcasting history was made in Malta on the 13th October 1977 with the direct radio transmission of a parliamentary session in which the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition took part. If Parliament's decision to broadcast its proceedings on that occasion were to be followed by a decision to allow similar facilities on, at least, special events, the quality of political coverage could improve and would help make Parliament more real to the public in general. Continuous live broadcasting of all Parliamentary Debates might not be in the public interest since this would not give a real reflection of how Parliament works but the transmission of special debates of general public interest could be a step in the right direction. It is recognised, however, that this is a matter for Parliament to decide.

### Party Political Broadcasts

The arrangements for party political broadcasting are reviewed every year between the Authority and the political parties represented in Parliament. The total amount of time for these broadcasts is discussed on the basis of proposals put forward by the Authority and the number of broadcasts allocated to a political party is determined by the electoral support it received as reflected by the number of its Parliamentary seats.

On the 30th January 1978, a meeting was held with representatives from the two political parties during which varying views were expressed. In the absence of unanimity, the Authority decided to implement the system adopted the previous year. This consisted of a scheme of 24 programmes spread over a period of 12 months and included Press and Political Conferences, Political Debates and programmes produced in their entirety by the parties themselves. This last category of broadcasts - the only one transmitted solely on television, the rest are transmitted simultaneously on both radio and television - has been quite successful and has contributed towards a gradual improvement in the system of party political broadcasting.

The scheme in operation throughout the period under review allocated airtime and programmes as follows:-

<u>Programme</u>	<u>Malta</u> <u>Labour Party</u>	<u>Nationalist</u> <u>Party</u>
i) Press Conferences	2 x 60 mins.	2 x 60 mins.
ii) Political Conferences	3 x 60 "	3 x 60 "
	1 x 40 "	
iii) Political Debates	4 x 45 "	4 x 45" "
iv) Party Productions	2 x 15 "	2 x 15 "
	1 x 10 "	

In making these arrangements, the Authority was conscious that the system could be further improved to reflect better both the public and party interests. The Authority offered to consider other arrangements if fresh proposals were to be made after further study and with the parties' agreement. It is fashionable to criticise party political broadcasts and, no doubt, much could be done to improve their quality but in the main this depends on the participants themselves. There is no doubt, however, that the major political parties should have direct access to radio and television airtime because they are at the heart of democracy and it is they who formulate the policies



on which everyone depends. The media provides them with an opportunity to address the public in the terms and manner they see fit.

### Ministerial Broadcasts

Distinct arrangements are renewed automatically every year between the Government and the Authority for Ministerial Broadcasts. The scope of these broadcasts is to afford airtime to the Government, in view of its special responsibilities for the care of the nation, to address the public on matters which, for example, are purely factual, or explanatory of approved legislative or administrative policies or in the nature of appeals to the nation to cooperate in national policies which require the public's active participation.

The detailed procedure governing Ministerial Broadcasts and the possible authorization of rights of reply is reproduced in the appendices section of this Report.

The following Ministerial Broadcasts were delivered during the period April 1977 to March 1978:-

1. Minister of Welfare, Labour and Culture (21/10/77)
2. Minister of Welfare, Labour and Culture (8/11/77)
3. Minister of Justice, Lands, Housing and Parliamentary Affairs (15/11/77)
4. Minister of Finance, Customs and People's Financial Investments (29/11/77)
5. Minister of Tourism (14/12/77)
6. Minister of Parastatal and People's Industries (25/1/78)
7. Minister of Trade (15/2/78)
8. Minister of Industry, Fisheries and Agriculture (14/3/78)
9. Minister of Health and Environment (30/3/78)
10. Minister of Works and Sport (31/3/78)

The total annual allocation of time for Ministerial Broadcasts is 240 minutes of which 236 minutes were utilised for this purpose during the year.

Addresses to the nation by the Prime Minister come into a separate category. Such broadcasts took place on three occasions: On the 25th April, 28th September and on the 31st December 1977.

The right of reply was claimed in respect of six broadcasts (five relating to broadcasts by Ministers and one by the Prime Minister). Requests for the right to reply were made on five occasions by the Nationalist Party and one request was received from the Association of Self-Employed. The Authority considered all the requests in detail and granted the Nationalist Party the right to reply to one broadcast which was delivered by the Minister of Health and Environment. A claim put forward by the Nationalist Party to reply to the Prime Minister's end-of-year broadcast was the subject of legal proceedings on which Court judgement is still pending.

#### Advisory Committees

In terms of Section 10 of the Broadcasting Ordinance, the Authority may appoint, or arrange for the assistance of advisory committees to give advice to the Authority and broadcasting contractors on educational and religious matters, on standards of conduct in the advertising of goods or services and on such other matters as the Authority may determine. Two advisory committees were functioning during the year.

The Religious Broadcasting Advisory Committee was reconstituted in August 1977. The Broadcasting Authority accepted the nominees put forward by His Grace the Archbishop and appointed the following gentlemen to advise the Authority and generally to look after the religious content in Radio and television programmes:

Rev. J. Bernard, S.J. (Chairman)  
Rev. N. Aquilina  
Rev. F. Bilocca, O.F.M., Cap.  
Rev. D. Mintoiff, O.F.M..  
Mr J. Flask (Secretary)

The members of this Committee met regularly. In November, the recitation of the Rosary on Cable Radio 1 was given a fresh approach and this change was well received.

In January, another change in presentation was introduced on Cable Radio 1, i.e. in the programme dedicated to the Bible which, at the request of Xandir Malta was given a fresh outlook.

Similar changes in presentation were made to the religious programme "Tassew, Tassew Nghidilkom" on Cable Radio 2 and Radio Malta. The other programmes that fall under the Committee's competence were continued with their former pattern.

The religious television programme "Djalogu" included commentaries on topical matters, documentaries, discussions, question-box (always popular), and features on the Church in general and the Church in Malta, including one on Fons, Maria Galea, another on Raoul Folleraau, and a third on Giorgio Lapira. There were Special programmes for Christmas and for Holy Week.

On Cable Radio 1, besides special programmes for Christmas and Holy Week, the subjects included tourism, woman today, Sunday observance, the care of children, Fathers of the Church, the Synod of Bishops, social justice, the Bible, respect for life, ecumenism, blasphemy, Lent, Catholic Schools, GenVerde, Thomas Moore, sex, the Church in Poland.

The Committee would like to see the programme "Djalogu" rescheduled to a more appropriate time and a review of the position on this and other related matters is being undertaken by the Authority which hopes that the level of presentation and items of interest in religious programmes will be improved.

The Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee has been in operation for many years. This sector of the programme output was formerly the direct responsibility of the Authority which had built up over the years a specialised Unit with trained producers to look after school broadcasts on radio and television. With the reorganisation of Broadcasting in 1975 and the setting up of Xandir Malta, this Unit was taken over by the latter organisation. Programmes retained their former level and the Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee continued to function on former lines. A detailed account of the activities of this Committee and of the Xandir Malta Unit entrusted with this work is to be found in the next chapter of this Report. The Authority acknowledges the help and cooperation of the members of the Schools Broadcasting Advisory Committee which, during the year was made up of:

Dr. F. Chetcuti - Director of Education - Chairman  
Mr C. Cuschieri  
Mr L. Farrugia  
Mr P. Grech  
Miss E. Borg Bonnici  
Rev. B. Mangion MSSP  
Mr C. Farrugia  
Mr M. Sultana  
Mr L. Mizzi

## The Control of Advertising

Advertising under the system operative in Malta is permitted provided advertisements are inserted at the beginning or at the end of a programme or in natural breaks within the programme. No sponsorship is allowed but advertising association with programmes approved by the Authority is permitted.

'Spot' advertising on Television accounts for an average of 2.75 hours per week and the combined weekly average of advertising on radio and Cable Radio is 4.1 hours. These figures are well within the legal entitlement which is eight-minutes per hour averaged over each week. All advertisements are required to be clearly separated from programmes. Special attention must be paid to the possible effects of advertisements on children and also to the way children are depicted in advertisements. There are no restrictions regarding the appearance of broadcasting staff in advertisements. The set of principles which are to be followed in the broadcast of advertisements on radio and television is included in an appendix to this Report.

Acting on a suggestion by the Department of Health following a recommendation of the World Health Organisation, the Authority took steps during the year to prohibit broadcast advertising of food for nursing infants and young children. The WHO in a report on the role of nutrition in public health had recommended this measure since it was discovered that a significant percentage of obese persons in adulthood were already overweight at the age of six months and that excessive weight is more infrequent among breast-fed infants.

It was also agreed with Xandir Malta that the advertising of certain medicinal products should be accompanied by a statement to the effect that users of these medicines should, upon purchase, read and carefully follow the accompanying instructions.

The Authority was also concerned about the inclusion of excessive violence in certain advertisements for cinema films. The Authority deplored this type of advertising in which violence and irresponsible behaviour are shown and decided that such harmful advertisements which may be seen indiscriminately by viewers in their homes should be withheld from transmission on the broadcasting media.

### International Relations

The Broadcasting Authority is an Active Member of the European Broadcasting Union, of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association and the Italia Prize.

An organisational change took place during the year in Malta's membership of the EBU which is a system of international broadcasting cooperation and includes Eurovision. The EBU's headquarters is in Geneva with the Technical Centre in Brussels. During the preceding year, the Authority and Tivumalta Ltd. were joint Active Members of the Union. When Tivumalta Ltd. ceased broadcasting operations in January 1978, the Authority made arrangements with the Telemalta Corporation to have its broadcasting division, Xandir Malta, as joint representative (with the Authority) of the European Broadcasting Union. This arrangement apart from being a sensible one in view of Xandir Malta's complete involvement in broadcasting, led to the sharing of expenses connected with Malta's affiliation to the EBU.

Malta's potential interest in direct satellite broadcasting was discussed together with the interests of other nations at a Seminar held in Geneva in February 1978. The European Space Agency had informed the EBU about the possibility of putting a satellite into orbit which would permit a direct broadcasting experiment to be made in Europe. The launching of this satellite is planned towards the beginning of 1982. Following consultations

with the Prime Minister's Office, the Geneva Seminar was attended by Mr Joseph Bartolo, the Chief Inspector of Wireless Telegraphy, who on this occasion acted as the Authority's Technical Adviser. The primary aim of the seminar was to enable member countries to have full clarification regarding certain proposals which had been made and to assist them in determining their position in relation to preliminary enquiries concerning the project.

A great deal of further study still has to be undertaken by the international organisations concerned before the experimental project gets under way. Technical, financial and legal aspects present difficulties which still have to be solved. In Malta's case, where broadcast coverage by conventional means presents no undue problems, it is difficult to justify participation in the experimental project in terms of the heavy financial investment which may be required. Whilst putting forward this view, Malta has reserved its position should it, eventually, become possible for a joint approach with neighbouring states to be made in connection with the project.

The Authority has been a member of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (formerly known as the Commonwealth Broadcasting Conference) since 1963. Its delegates have attended various conferences including the Association's Conference in 1974 which was held in Malta. The principal objects of the Association are:

- i) To improve, through collective study and mutual assistance, all aspects of broadcasting in member countries.
- ii) To further the concept that public service broadcasting is vital to member countries as an instrument to promote their social, cultural and economic aspirations.

- iii) To provide members with a basic information service on broadcasting matters of common interest and concern.
- iv) To represent and promote internationally the collective interests of Commonwealth public service broadcasting organisations.

A project which is currently under study by the CBA concerns a proposal put forward by Malta to establish a Radio/Television Programme Bank. When this proposal was made in 1974, Malta had offered to set up a centre to deal with the storage, cataloguing and distribution of films and tapes. The project had been recommended to the Commonwealth Secretariat which appointed a committee of experts to deal with any problems which might arise in its implementation. A feasibility study was commissioned by the Commonwealth Secretariat during the year and this is due to be considered by the CBA when it meets for its biennial conference in 1978.



## PROGRAMME REVIEW

The Broadcasting Authority does not actually provide the broadcasting services itself although according to current broadcasting legislation it can do so and for a period of time (between 1973 and 1975) it did provide and operate a radio service.

The broadcasting services are provided for and on behalf of the Authority by Xandir Malta, the broadcasting division of the Telemalta Corporation. On the 31st March 1978, there were 75,500 licensed television sets whilst the number of subscribers to the Cable Radio service was 48,000. These services offered the normal range of programming within the broad categories of information, education and entertainment.

## TELEVISION

Locally originated programmes including news and current affairs accounted for 45% of the Station's total programme output during 1977-78. In this respect there has been no improvement on last year. However, this proportion would seem to be correct considering the facilities and talent available. It is now Xandir Malta's aim to raise the standard of all its productions rather than to increase its output at the expense of quality.

### Drama

Viewership surveys proved beyond doubt the popularity of locally produced television serials. As a sequel to the pioneer F'BAHAR WIEHED, a three-part serial of THE LATE EDWINA BLACK was aired during the last three weeks of quarter April/June 1977. This production spared no pains to strike a detailed period setting and to enhance an intriguing visual interpretation. Seven episodes based on the short stories by Gorg Zammit, WENZU

U ROZI received wide acclaim. This led to a second effort to present five more television episodes in this series during the beginning of 1978. ID-DAR TAS-SORU was an exercise in how to stretch the station's limits to breaking-point. The result was a telefilmed version of a prolonged Ebejer semi-thriller. Innumerable locations and thousands of feet of film provided the producer-director with a marathon exercise in editing and mounting. Televiewers received the serial with mixed feelings.

TVM's first ever OB recording of a theatre play, Eduardo de Filippo's masterpiece FILUMENA MARTURANO, was very well received. The Maltese translation of this three-act comedy was televised from the Manoel Theatre and broadcast on three consecutive Mondays with repeats on Sundays. The medium complemented the stage presentation in an astounding manner and the experiment promises a happy future for televised stage drama.

A number of single plays were transmitted during the period under review but were not submitted to the repeat treatment enjoyed by the teleserials.

The repeat treatment was kept up as direct result of positive public reaction to this popular local slot.

### Sports

The one hour Monday edition of Sports Panorama subtitled ANALIZI U TAGHRIF, the Friday 30-minute edition subtitled SPORT FI TMIEM IL-GIMGHA and the Sports Results features, continued on a regular basis.

The Monday edition retained its usual format and presented analytical views of the previous week's sports events in Malta and abroad. This same format included also a preview of any events taking place during mid-week.

The Friday edition sub-headed SPORT FI TMIEM IL-GINGHA dedicated, as usual, its allocated airtime to comments about sports activities scheduled for the following week-end.

Both Sports Panorama editions made extensive use of film footage covering the year's main sports events.

Furthermore sports events had extensive O.B. coverage all through the year under review. Badminton, Football, Horse Racing, Basket Ball, Motorcycle racing, the "Loghob ghal Kulhadd" competition, the Water Festival, Chinese Acrobatics, Waterpolo and the International Judo Tournament were among the highlight events that received Outside Broadcast coverage

#### Outside Broadcasts

A substantial increase of O.B. coverage was registered during this year. Besides the sport activities referred to, major events covered included:

1. The National Song Contest
2. Conference of Progressive Socialist Parties of the Mediterranean
3. The Prime Minister's Press Conference (aftermath of above)
4. The Carnival Festivities
5. The Oktoberfest
6. The Midnight Christmas Mass
7. The Luqa Runway Official Opening
8. The MILL-MALTIN GHAL-MALTIN, Republic Day Show

9. FILUMENA MARTURANO - a three-act play  
presented at the Manoel Theatre

### Language Courses

The Television courses in French and Arabic retained their previous format. The French course came to an end in December 1977. The course in Arabic was still being broadcast by the end of the year. Each lesson in this series has been given a repeat, a week after its original transmission.

### Informative and Cultural

It may be useful to separate this wide field of programmes in two categories. The first to include programmes of a strictly public service nature; the second covering a much wider scope, including programmes of

- (a) purely cultural nature
- (b) socio-political structure
- (c) scientific, folkloristic and others.

Public-service programmes varied in duration from ten minute filmlets or talks to 30 minute magazines intended to provide information on various services offered by Government and parastatal bodies. The "Malta Llum" series produced in conjunction with the Department of Information continued into this year and came to an end during the quarter July/September 1977.

"Sistema Metrika" was a short programme conceived to use the medium as a means of information regarding the Maltese change-over to the metric system.

Programmes of a purely cultural nature included the series entitled "Kultura ghal Kulhadd" which dealt extensively with the history of Architecture and the evolution of ideas in the Architectural sphere, the National Gallery of Art, and a choice of distinguished personalities in the Maltese musical field. "Prizma", a cultural magazine, previews and reviews most of the main cultural activities. The programme made extensive use of audio-visuals and assumed the role of popularising the theme selected for treatment.

Programmes of the socio-political structure included: Ahna min Ahna, Il-Bahar Taghna, Fejn Toqghod and Il-Helsien.

"Ahna min Ahna" (series 2) retained its tongue-in-cheek style and enhanced National characteristics by means of the vox-pop technique followed by discussions about the various topics.

"Il-Bahar Taghna" was a series of documented programmes that interested itself in the geological, cultural, ecological and the political geography of the Mediterranean with particular reference to the Maltese Islands. The main theme of the series was a visual interpretation of the customs and industries connected with a marine environment.

"Fejn Toqghod" visited a chosen number of Maltese towns and villages and reflected the visited location's essential characteristics by means of rich mute film sequences backed by poetic texts. The series made ample use of the vox-pop technique to present to the televiewers a selection of the location's inhabitants.

"Il-Helsien" was a serialised documentary, with the Malta Drydocks as its point of departure. It traced the evolvement of the working class up to present day practice of workers' participation in industry.

The programmes belonging to the scientific and folkloristic type included: Wirt Artna, It-Tarbija, and Progett '80.

### Serious Music

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

"Solisti" featuring imported classical material and introduced by a Maltese commentary dealt with aspects of classical music played by renowned musicians. The Manoel Theatre Orchestra also featured in special programmes.

### Light Music and Entertainment

This heading included series ranging from light entertainment to light music, jazz sessions and single "ad hoc" programmes. During the period under review 6 musical series, 12 single programmes and 3 series of light entertainment programmes were transmitted.

The 6 musical series included the following:

- a) Mill-lista tal-kbar
- b) Kuntrasti
- c) Teledisco
- d) Sinfonija Jazz
- e) Kantina Folk
- f) Ghalenija

"Mill-Lista tal-Kbar" was the predecessor of the series "Teledisco". This series made use of foreign film clips of contemporary international singers that were presented to the televiewers with the aim of providing an up-to-date vision of what was happening in the world of pop music. "Teledisco" was a progression of "Mill-Lista tal-Kbar" and included a live

dancing audience to enhance the visual and environmental "punch" of the music presented.

"Kontrasti" featured folk groups interpreting Latin-American and "Country and Western" music. The contrasting musical genre was provided by members of the student body from "The Johann Strauss" school of music that interpreted semi-classical pieces.

"Ghalenija" was another series concentrating on folk singing with resident group "The Greenfields".

"Kantina Folk" was the third series that featured various local folk groups interpreting original and international folk hits.

"Sinfonija Jazz" was a series of jazz sessions featuring a resident band that based its work on improvised themes in elegant style. Six editions in this series were filmed on location in the surrounding grounds of the Verdala Palace.

The "ad hoc" single programmes included a set of 6 outside broadcast shows and 6 studio productions.

"Merhba Johnny Catania" was a programme that focused on the past theatrical, radio and television experiences of comedian Johnny Catania who was at the time visiting Malta.

"The Joe Grech Special" featured singer Joe Grech as its guest star.

"Renato" was another special musical show featuring singer Renato and his guests.

"Il-Festival tal-Paci" was a musical programme that selected a number of Maltese and international stars participating in "The Festival of Peace". Taking part in

in this special musical were singers from Spain, Italy, England and Gibraltar.

"L-Ghid it-Tajjeb, Nann" was an original idea that involved old people from St. Vincent de Paule's as a live studio audience entertained to a selection of music and songs from the 30's.

"Ciao Carmen" was another ad hoc musical featuring singer Carmen Xerri who at that time, was holidaying in Malta.

In the field of light entertainment programmes Nancy Calamatta compered the quiz series "Tridha jew Le" with a live audience participating. The majority of the contestants were well known stage and TV personalities who competed for gifts donated by the series' sponsors.

This series' sequel was "Il-Mizien", another quiz programme compered by Charles Clews. "Il-Mizien" like its predecessor, involved a live audience and competitors contesting for prizes. "Passju" was another version of the "Mizien" retaining the essential mechanics of the game with Josie Coppini as presenter.

#### Children's and young people's programmes

Children's series included "F'Dak iz-Zmien", "Mini Studio" and the quiz programme "Pass ta' Ggant".

"F'Dak iz-Zmien" was a series of 15 to 20 minute programmes which included 8-minute imported animated episodes from the Old Testament starting from the creation of the World through to Abraham and finishing with Jonah and the Whale. The programme was presented by Fr. D. Azzopardi who interpreted his own relevant musical compositions.



"Mini Studio" (still running) is a series that through its presentation brings out the children's personalities. Besides this regular slot, Mini Studio includes imported animated film material married to Maltese sound tracks, presentation of children's drama and musical talents and Fr. David Azzopardi's interpretations of his own songs.

"Pass ta' Ggant" (still running) is a children's quiz programme that bases its quiz elements on the publication "Heritage" issued by Klabb Kotba Maltin. Contestants compete for prizes donated by various sponsors including Klabb Kotba Maltin.

Various seasonal specials for children were produced during the year under review.

### Religious

The weekly programme "Djalogu" continued on a weekly basis assuming a totally different presentation concept during the summer months.

Once daily, during Holy Week, spiritual thoughts for the occasion were transmitted.

An O.B. live transmission from Zebbug registered the week's traditional procession in all its pagentary.

### Dawra Madwarna

During this year, "Dawra Madwarna" established a dual routine.

One type presented by John Suda, assumed the role of catering for family information and its content included items on succulent cacti literature, history and a filmatic tour around Malta.

Another type presented by Gloria Mizzi, aimed mainly at the practical and intellectual needs of the Maltese housewife. Its content included items on fashion, furniture, sewing, collections and period house decor and Auction Sales. A special feature worth mentioning was a cooking competition organised by "Dawra Madwarna". 55 competitors applied to take part and 10 finalists contested for the first three places.

### Imported Programmes 1977/78

Imported programmes accounted for around 55% of the total station output. Programme material included documentaries, musical variety and comedy shows, serialised drama, adventure series, cinema films, cartoons and TV movies.

In the documentary category Xandir Malta retained its previous year's success in acquiring some of the most renowned series produced during recent years. The prestige series transmitted during the year under review was "The Christians" - a sharp-edged series with a strong controversial element that studied the Christian denomination in all its aspects since its inception.

A series of other documentaries included

- 1) the excellently visualised story of Benito Mussolini making ample use of rare archive film,
- 2) Andre' Segovia - a portrait of the universally acclaimed Spanish guitarist.
- 3) Elements of the Unknown - a set of documentaries that treated "the unknown" with a solid scientific flare.

"In Search of....." though lacking the scientific approach, appeals to the popular myth and the presentation was in the style of the semi-documentary semi-horror genre.

Serious Drama was represented by noteworthy series like Edward VII, the Strauss Family, The Money-changers, Washington Behind Closed Doors and The Laurence Olivier Theatre.

All these series were good examples of very high standard Television Drama. One cannot fail to emphasise the Laurence Olivier Theatre series that included masterpieces like Daphne Laurela, Saturday Sunday Monday, Little Sheba and Pinter's The Collection.

Adventure series retained their normal high percentage of viewership and a high average of the total airtime. Programmes in this category covered legal, social, detective, suspense, police and medical themes in such series as Thriller, Space 1999, Petrocelli, The New Avengers, The Magician, Mission Impossible, Man from Shyloh, Barbary Coast, Assignment Vienna, Andros Targets, Spencers Pilots, Medical Story, Starsky and Hutch, The Guest, Crimes of Passion, Mulligan's Stew. The series which were most popular were Mission Impossible, Starsky and Hutch and Crimes of Passion.

Children's programmes featured popular cartoons and animated series together with dramatised stories and educational programmes. The series "The Little House on the Prairie" remained quite rightly the most popular closely followed by "TARZAN".

The informative category was represented by series like Animal World, Untamed World, Vision On and Music for the Eyes.

The Wild Life series proved attractive to young viewers. "The Muppets Show", "Courages Cat", "The Wombles", "Scooby Doo", "Fantastic Four", "Lidville", and "Noddy" were

the main attractions among the children's programmes transmitted during the year.

Cinema Features and TV Movies occupied an average of four hours airtime per week and retained their high placing in the popularity charts. The Sunday Matinee feature films came to an end with the station's termination of Sunday afternoon transmissions during the summer months.

### THE SOUND SERVICES

During the year under review Xandir Malta's National Radio networks continued to provide a varied selection of programmes. The three external services broadcast news, music, historic and touristic information on Malta which reached audiences in many parts of the world.

The year was marked by a major development when on January 1, 1978, the English service on Cable Radio Two was withdrawn and replaced by the National Programme of Radio Malta.

Listenership to the English Service had never reached great heights, and notwithstanding constant changes in the schedules, in an endeavour to increase audiences, results were always insignificant. This was borne out by surveys conducted by an independent organisation: Market Research (Malta) Ltd.

The findings of the most recent one carried out in February, 1977 showed overwhelming support for the two National Networks whilst figures pertaining to the English service were at their lowest ebb.

When the Authority gave its conditional approval for the withdrawal of the English Service, schedules were devised to offer a choice of programmes to listeners of Cable Radio One and Two. Pattern and timings were altered to provide subscribers with alternative programmes over the two Cable networks and for the introduction of news on the hour every hour on both switches and consequently at two hourly intervals on Radio Malta National.

This exercise also prompted a logic and rationalistic sequence inasmuch as identical series hitherto common to Radio Malta National and Cable Radio One were withdrawn from the latter service and replaced by broadcasts of a different nature for listeners of diverse interests and tastes. Typical examples were the hit parades, sport and Parliamentary Reports which could then be heard only on Cable Radio Two via Radio Malta National.

These deletions and substitutions also provided new outlets for the projection of science programmes, classical and operatic music and other series considered to be of value to the community.

Listeners' reaction to this change was very favourable.

This did not mean that there was no room for an English service on another medium. Xandir Malta proposed and the Authority approved the start of a daily four hour transmission over the International Service of Radio Malta, to cater for non-Maltese speaking members of the community.

#### National Radio (Cable and Radio Malta)

##### Children's Programmes

It was a busy year for the panel responsible for children's programmes as a very large part of the output continued with its prime objective to encourage children of various ages to make full use of their powers of observation, develop the techniques of both written and spoken communication; create awareness of a changing world, and develop other interests which included literature, Maltese History, Music, Civics, new trends in Education and careers.

A specialised schedule was devised for the summer months which included a series entitled "X'se Taghmel fis-Sajf", discussions and interviews with children on how to spend their holidays and at the same time do something worthwhile, and "L-Ghasafar li Jbejtu f'Malta" compiled in association with the Socjeta Ornitologika Maltija .

The normal weekly line-up read as follows:-

Mondays -	Literature
Tuesdays -	Mill-Librerija tat-Tfal Mall-Mewga tal-Muzika
Wednesdays -	L-Irgiel u in-Nisa t'Ghada
Thursdays -	Mid-Dinja Madwarna
Fridays -	Il-Gurnal tat-Tfal
Saturdays -	Drama (including a serialisation of Guze Galea's "Ragel bil-Ghaqal").
Sundays -	Magazine for Children (Cable 2/ Radio Malta)

#### Magazines and Documentaries

Once again audiences showed their loyalty to this sector of programming which covered a wide range of interests devised to offer listeners a steady flow of information and a serious treatment of a variety of subjects.

A total of fifty-six series were projected during the year under review, 36 of which were broadcast on Cable Radio One and 20 over Radio Malta National/Cable Radio Two. These were over and above other established programmes and dealt with social problems, the Arts, major events in History, the growth of local industry, economics, culture, Radio portraits of famous Maltese, developments in the fields of science and technology and world famous personalities.

The programme titles, carefully selected, were indicative of the theme conveyed. Thus Xandir Malta broadcast "L-Industrija il-Polz gan-Ilazzjon", "Meta il-Kotra Dbikkmet", "Il-Mistoqsija Oht il-Gherf", "Grajjet Ghawdex", "Malta Kburija Bihom", "Twieldu din il-Gimgha", "Mixlijin b'Ghemilhom", "Kif Jinqabad il-Hati", "Radju-magazine", "Grajjet mill-Istorja tad-Dinja", "Renjanti", and many others.

Features devised and broadcast for special occasions were "Raoul Follereau" for World Leprosy Day, "Il-Glorja ta' Art Twelidna" commemorating the two Great Sieges of 1565 and 1943 and a documentary on Republic Day, December 13th.

### Popular and Light Music

D.J. and request shows continue to attract mass audiences and the two National Networks' team headed by Norman Hamilton and including Noel Mallia, John Muscat, Mario Laus, Patrick Vella, Ray Bajada and Charles Saliba sustained their status of household names. Their team was augmented by Vincent Xerri who returned to Xandir Malta and was entrusted with the Radio Malta National/Cable Radio Two early morning show "Ferroviya Muzikali".

The amalgamation of Radio Malta National and Cable Radio Two offered the programme planners ways and means to diversify the different types of interests in this field, and hit parades, common to both media prior to the reorganisation, became the exclusive property of Radio Malta National/Cable Radio Two. The void created by their departure was fully exploited and replaced by the more traditional nostalgic kind of music with programmes like "Romantica", "Ta Hmistax il-sena ilu", "Antologija tal-Kanzunetta Taljana", and "Napolitana" which together with series like "Snin tad-Deheb" projected Cable Radio One's image as a medium catering for the interests of those above and beyond the teens and twenties sphere. Thus the younger generation were lured to Radio Malta National/Cable



Radio Two with a marked increase in heavy rock and other forms of pop music. Worthy of special mention was a series by Top International performers "Abba" who starred in four weekly 30 minute programmes.

The interests of the minority were also safe-guarded and those who were ardent followers of Jazz, folk, traditional Maltese "Ghana" and Brass Bands were not left wanting.

The popularity of Maltese Records continued to rise in uniformity with production standards, and top favourites were "The Black Train", "Life", Joe Cutajar, Enzo Guzman, "The New Cuorey", "The Tramps" and Father David Azzopardi.

In collaboration with the Malta Band Clubs Association, Brass Bands from Malta and Gozo were again allotted a weekly hour for concerts on Sundays.

### Serious Music

In accordance with the policy decided upon within the terms referred to, emanating from the re-organisation of the National Radio Services, serious music was increased considerably on Cable Radio One. Pop music on Saturday afternoon was replaced by a series covering "Ballet", a form of music never before exploited on our services, whilst another hour dedicated to scenes from the Opera was introduced on Sunday evenings.

Listeners supported the operatic request programmes to such an extent that an additional sixty minute broadcast was introduced on Cable Radio Two/Radio Malta National.

The repertoire in the Monday and Friday Concerts (Cable Radio One) and Sunday transmission (National Radio and Cable Radio Two) ranged from the traditional to the contemporary and included high technical and artistic quality renditions transcribed

by foreign stations. Special preference was attributed to Beethoven to commemorate the 150th anniversary since his death.

Full operas broadcast over Cable Radio One included the ever popular 'Don Pasquale' by Donizetti, 'Madame Butterfly' by Puccini, "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagni, and Verdi's "Aida", "Otello" and "Macbeth". "Macbeth" featured Maria Callas and was broadcast as a tribute to this great soprano when her death was announced. Lesser established works like "Louise" by Charpentier and Massenet's "La Navarraise" were also featured. A special programme to mark the 20th anniversary of the death of Gigli was broadcast on November 30th, 1977.

It is also a "Night at the Opera" on Thursdays over Radio Malta National/Cable Radio Two which in addition to music by the masters also featured a recording of Antonio Nani's "Requiem" to coincide with the Holy Week.

### Talks and Discussions

The pattern followed throughout the years which has proved valid was not changed, and discussion programme series were adequately produced and presented. However, the introduction of "Phone-Ins" to some of the series rendered the content more authentic.

Experts in various fields were featured in unit or discussion form or included in daily transmissions devised for the housewife and broadcast over the two national media. Topics featured, covered health and hygiene, legal matters, psychology, affairs of the heart and social problems, philately, dressmaking, fashions, the importance of the Malta Blood Bank, decimalisation and the metric system, literature, the arts, farming, house pets,

science and technology, the environment, the theatre and many other subjects.

The Cable Radio One programme "Bieb Miftuh" was followed by an equally successful series aptly titled "Ahna Trabbejna Sew?" which was meant to throw new light on methods, ideas, customs and controversies which were part of past family environment in these Islands. A panel of experts discussed listeners' questions in depth. "Fejn Tmur il-Qalb" and "Art Twelidi" two long established series also held their own during the year under review and continued to attract wide popular support.

Listeners flocked to the studios to attend recordings of quiz series which is an ever popular slot on Cable Radio One.

#### Literary Programmes

These were once again abundant during the year under review and reflected the talents of local authors in all the literary forms. In addition to weekly programmes produced in association with the foremost literary societies namely "Ghaqda Letterarja Maltija", "Moviment Qawmien Letterarju", "Grupp Awturi" and "Ghaqda tal-Malti Universita" (Cable Radio One), "Ghaqda Poeti Maltin" were accorded a fifteen minute slot and an opportunity to broadcast their poetry in a weekly series titled "L-Ilwien tal-Kelma".

Individual writers and contributors were not neglected and were catered for in the thirty minute weekly series "Ilhna u Msiebah", "Ma Gmiel il-Ghanja", (Radio Malta National/Cable Radio Two) and "Bakkont" (Cable Radio One) which was reserved for the broadcast of original short stories submitted by listeners. "Kotba u Kittieba tas-Seklu Ghoxxrin" (RM1/CR2) featured a selection of works by World renowned authors.

Readings of novels in thirty minute episodes unfolded in style by the inimitable Charles Arrigo and Twanny Scalpello

captured massive audiences on the National media.

### Sport

The exercise of cutting down on media duplication was simplified when reorganisation of the networks was effected, and all sport with the exclusion of the morning slot on Cable Radio One's "L-Ghodwa t-Tajba" was cancelled through Radio Malta National/Cable Radio One from January 1978. The ample coverage in report and/or direct link-up form was accorded to all Sporting interests and an up-to-the-minute service was provided on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Football, basketball, waterpolo, volleyball, hockey, motor cycle and automobile meetings, horse-races, athletics, sailing, bowling, archery, table-tennis, netball, screen-shooting, boxing, wrestling, billiards, swimming and cycling were all featured in the daily sports outlets, and events organised by the Ministry of Sport were given Xandir Malta's full support in interviews, commentary and reports.

Worthy of special mention were the direct commentaries of the following major events of the year:-

Football ghall-Kulhadd Finals	May 1977
International Waterpolo Tournament	August 1977
Water sports Festival and Regatta	September 1977
Panathinaikos vs Floriana	Champions Cup Competition direct from Greece; September 1977
England vs. Italy	World Cup qualifying Match direct from London November 1977
Ministry of Works & Sport XI vs. Coventry City	November 1977

Radio Drama is the proven mainstay of the programme schedule and continues to attract mass audiences.

During the year a high percentage of plays broadcast, were the works of local authors. Themes varied from social comedy to thrillers, however the latter is more prevalent. Translations of foreign scripts were also featured, whose themes were more varied. They included Terrence Rattigan's "The Winslow Boy"; "Iphigenia in Aulis" representing Greek tragedy; "Stanislaus and the Witch", a modern fairy tale of Christmas by Lee Torrence "The Book of Job" translated from the original and "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime" by Oscar Wilde.

91 plays were broadcast during the year over the two Cable Radio networks. When the re-organisation of the services came into effect in January, the broadcast of plays on Cable Radio Two was dropped.

Thus between January and March, 1978, 13 radio plays were broadcast over Cable Radio One.

Seven serials totalling 52 episodes were broadcast over Cable Radio One during the past twelve months.

Drama broadcasts provided a total of 1244 acting roles.

### Cable Radio Two

As stated earlier in this report the English Service was withdrawn and the station amalgamated with Radio Malta National on January 1, 1978.

From April to December 1977 till the change over came into effect, the network featured a variety of transcribed programmes from Foreign Stations, relays from the World Service of the BBC and an appreciable amount of locally produced light

and serious music programmes, drama, talks and discussions.

### Radio Malta Two - Musical

Radio Malta Two (Musical) broadcast eighteen hours daily of continuous music to F.M. listeners on the 87.9 MHz in the VHF band. Schedules are devised to offer a wide ranging balance of musical programmes to cater for all tastes and age groups. The basic ingredients being pop, rock, middle of the road, country and western, light classic, jazz, opera and a daily concert of serious music.

### Radio Malta Three (International)

Transmissions in the Italian Language commence at 0900 hrs. and continue for five and a quarter hours to 1400 hrs. The station is linked to Radio Malta Two between 0800 - 0900 hrs. and from 1415 hrs. to 1800.

Featurettes on Maltese history, Malta as a tourist resort, literature, record requests and other musical forms were the basis of the programme schedule.

### External Services

Malta Calling: a thirty minute weekly transmission in English and German on the short wave continued to attract appreciable attention and a heavy mailcount from countries as close as Italy and as far-off as Australia, encouraged the programme planners to maintain the formula of news, interviews, the weather, touristic information, the history and customs of these Islands, its' people and its' music.

"Malta Calling" is broadcast at 2045 GMT on Saturdays (English) and Tuesdays (German) on 5990 kHz over Radio Mediterran's short wave transmitter.

Lehen Malta: A daily 75 minute service in Arabic broadcast between 0115 hrs and 0230 hrs CET on 1570 kHz in the medium-wave band is followed by thousands of listeners in the Arab World. Over 500 letters reach Xandir Malta Studios every week from Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab speaking countries.

A Press review, local and foreign news, music, drama, historical and touristic information on these Islands and record requests form the main programme content.

During the year, Xandir Malta studios were made available to foreign correspondents who came to Malta to report on the Rhodesia Conference.

Proceeds from the Annual Christmas fund-raising request programme "Ring Us Up" again broke every record and raised the sum of £M6310 on behalf of the Community Chest Fund.

### THE NEWS SERVICE

As in previous years, news and current affairs formed an important part of the overall output on sound and television. The output on Cable Radio rose to 19.3 per cent while that on Radio Malta and Cable Radio 2 accounted for 17.2 per cent of the output.

The news department continued to give comprehensive coverage of developments in Malta and abroad. Special attention was given to improving the overall presentation of news and news magazines.

A major development during the year under review was the introduction of news every hour, on the hour on the sound networks.

There are now eighteen outlets of local and foreign news; including six full news bulletins. The daily output on sound runs to three hours and thirty minutes. The following is the daily pattern of the summaries and bulletins:-

#### Cable Radio 1:

6.05 a.m.	News Summaries (Local and Foreign)
8.00 a.m.	News Summaries (Local and Foreign)
10.00 a.m.	News Summaries (Local and Foreign)
12.03 p.m.	Full News Bulletin (Local and Foreign)
2.00 p.m.	News Summaries (Local and Foreign)
4.00 p.m.	News Summaries (Local and Foreign)
6.00 p.m.	Full News Bulletin (Local and Foreign)
8.00 p.m.	News Summaries (Local and Foreign)
10.00 p.m.	Full News Bulletin (Local and Foreign)



Radio Malta 1:

7.00 a.m. News Summaries (Local and Foreign)  
 9.00 a.m. News Summaries (Local and Foreign)  
 11.00 a.m. News Summaries (Local and Foreign)  
 1.00 p.m. Full News Bulletin (Local and Foreign)  
 3.00 p.m. News Summaries (Local and Foreign)  
 5.00 p.m. News Summaries (Local and Foreign)  
 7.00 p.m. Full News Bulletin (Local and Foreign)  
 9.00 p.m. Full News Bulletin (Local and Foreign)  
 11.00 p.m. News Summaries (Local and Foreign).

With the introduction of this scheme in January, the news in English was dropped, but plans were in hand to re-introduce the news in English on the International Network.

Local and Foreign News:

Malta's growing contacts with the outside world and her participation in important international conferences, such as the European Security and Cooperation Conference, continued to stimulate the people's interest in foreign affairs.

The News Department continued with its efforts to encourage this interest by putting greater emphasis on news and analysis on what is happening around the world.

The 8.00 p.m. news bulletin on television, as from January 1978, included commentaries and background stories on the day's main foreign news items.

The News staff base their reports and commentaries on reports filed by an international news agency, Associated Press, and on monitored material relayed by foreign radio stations. Steps have been taken to diversify and to increase the sources of foreign news.

The London-based news film organization VISNEWS, remained the main supplier of visual material for news and current-affairs programmes.

Six hours of news and news magazines are presented every week. Undoubtedly the most followed programme is the daily news at 8.00 p.m. on television. According to the television viewership survey carried out in February 1977, the news bulletin attracts an audience of about one hundred and forty thousand people every night.

The face-lift included the insertion of off-the screen readers to break the unavoidable monotony caused by the monologue of a newscaster in a half-hour bulletin.

Another innovation was the introduction of commentaries and background stories on the main local and foreign events of the day as well as on dignitaries in the news. International sports activities are also being given due attention.

Unofficial estimates indicate that the public's following of the bulletin increased considerably as a result of the changes introduced in the bulletin in January. The favourable reaction of the public to the changes was reflected in the press columns.

The most outstanding coverage of the year was that given to the Rhodesia Peace Conference held in Malta between January 29 and February 2. About sixty minutes of air-time, half of which were accompanied by mute and sound film, were dedicated to the conference and its key participants. Two of the protagonists - Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe of the Patriotic Front - were interviewed exclusively for the news.

The Moro kidnapping and the killing was extensively covered in the News. On the day of the kidnapping, March the 16th, besides the latest developments of the event, the news bulletin featured

a profile on Aldo Moro; his close links with Malta and a back-grounder of the Red Brigades.

Other noteworthy coverages during the year included:-

- (a) The launching by the Prime Minister of a bulk-carrier built by the Drydocks for the Chinese Government;
- (b) The funeral of the letter-bomb victim, Karen Grech;
- (c) The sinking of the ship, "Queen of Peace" and the search for her survivors;
- (d) The Conference of the Socialist and Progressive parties of the Mediterranean;
- (e) The visits to Malta by the Presidents of Algeria and Zambia and by the Prime Minister of Spain.

Many visiting and local dignitaries were interviewed for television during 1977/78. These included the German Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher; the Italian ex-Minister of Defence, Vito Lattanzio; the Director General of the World Health Organization, Dr. Halfdan Mahler; The Vice President of the European Commission, Lorenzo Natale; the ex-President of the Council of Europe, Karl Czerntz; the Secretary General of the same organization, Gorg-Kahn Ackermann; the Minister for Foreign Trade of Czechoslovakia; the Ministers of Trade of Malaysia and the Philippines; the Minister of Education of Kuwait; the Secretary of the Italian Socialist Party, Bettino Craxi; and the Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Italian Parliament, Giancarlo Paietta.

The President of the Republic, Anton Buttigieg, accorded a special ten minute interview to the News Division on the occasion of his 65th birthday.

### Special Programmes

In the course of the year, the News Division produced a number of special programmes on television.

The programmes included exclusive, in-depth interviews with the Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Mountbatten, and with British Economist, Lord Balogh; a documentary about the events of June 7, 1919; a documentary about Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism in Africa; another one which analysed the situation in Rhodesia since the unilateral declaration of independence by the Smith Government; and a feature on the new airport runway.

Other special programmes were broadcast in "Malta u Lil Hinn Minnha". They spotlighted the first year of the Carter Administration; the French General Elections and Air Malta.

### Parliament

Xandir Malta has always looked to Parliament as a major source of news, and as such news points which come to light in statements and debates are reported in the news bulletins.

Parliamentary replies which shed new light on Government thinking, give fresh information on the running of Government departments or on new developments in Malta are also reported in bulletins in the form of news items.

Since May of 1975, the news reports have been supplemented with a fuller account of the proceedings in the House in the television programme, "Il-lejla fil-Parlament". The programme is broadcast every night when Parliament is in session.

Similar reports are broadcast direct from the Palace on Cable Radio 2 and Radio Malta. They are repeated on the same networks on the following day.

The reports are compiled by a pool of correspondents. In the first months of 1978 the team was strengthened and is now made up of seven persons, including three part-timers. Steps were also taken to re-organise the reporting arrangements.

As a result, a marked improvement has been noted in the Parliamentary reports.

An important feature of the year's Parliamentary business is the Budget. Xandir Malta again made special arrangements to broadcast full details of the Budget Speech while it was being read by the Minister of Finance.

The Minister of Finance was interviewed during the late night news bulletin. A similar interview was held with the Leader of the Opposition on the day of the opening of the Budget debates.

### Current Affairs

The following is a breakdown of the regular Current Affairs programmes on sound and television broadcast during the period under review.

### Television:

<u>Day of Broadcast</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Frequency and duration</u>
Wednesday	"Malta u lil Einn Minnha".	35 minutes/ weekly.
Tuesday	"Nithaddtuha" - discussion prog.	40 minutes/ fortnightly

SOUND

<u>Day of Broadcast</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Frequency and duration</u>
Monday to Friday	"Harsa Lejn	25 minutes
Monday to Sunday	"Mill-Gurnali"	10 minutes/ daily
Monday	"Minn Kullimkien	30 minutes/ fortnightly
"	"Wicc Imb' Wicc"	30 minutes/ fortnightly
Wednesday	"Fid-Dinja Illum	15 minutes/ fortnightly
Thursday	"Stharrig u Fehmiet"	20 minutes/ fortnightly
Saturday	"Radjurittratt"	15 minutes/ weekly
"	"Discussion Prog- rammes"	30 minutes/ weekly
Sunday	"People in the News"	15 minutes/ weekly
"	"Mill-Ahbarijiet tal-Gingha"	30 minutes/ weekly
"	"Lil Hinn Mix-Xefaq"	30 minutes/ weekly

In January, Mr Joe Cachia succeeded Mr Charles Abela Mizzi as Head of News. Mr Charles Abela Mizzi was appointed Head of Programmes (T.V.) in place of Mr Mannie Spiteri who resigned from Xandir Malta to take up an alternative appointment.

SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Sound and Television broadcasts to schools during  
Scholastic Year 1977/78 were as follows:

	Years 1-2	Years 3	Years 4	Years 5	Years 6	Years 4-6
Religion	-	-	-	-	-	40
Maltese	9	9	7	7	8	-
English	-	9	9	9	9	-
Science	-	-	10	11	10	-
Social Studies	-	-	7	7	6	-
Music	8	-	-	-	-	-

SECONDARY

Forms I - II

Forms III - V

Religion

27

26

TELEVISION - PRIMARY

Year 1	-	Maltese	10 programmes
Year 2	-	Maltese	10 programmes
Year 3	-	English	10 programmes
Year 4	-	Civics	10 programmes
Year 5	-	Magazine	10 programmes
Year 6	-	Science	8 programmes

SECONDARY

Form II	-	Bliet u Rhula	10 programmes
Form III	-	Civics	15 programmes
Form IV	-	Civics	12 programmes
Form V	-	Science	10 programmes

Trade Schools

Forms I &amp; II

10 programmes

## PRIMARY SCHOOLS

As usual sound broadcasts for Primary Schools provided a mixture of direct or quasi direct teaching type of broadcasts and those which were designed to enrich without losing any of their educational value. The former category included most of the English broadcasts which were built round specific language structures while the latter type - the enrichment type, included Maltese, Science, Social Studies and Music.

As in former years, the most appealing were the Quiz programmes on spoken Maltese for Year 6 and the Environmental Studies for Year 5. A new experience in mixed media was provided with the transmission of a television series for Year 6 "Kont Taf". In these TV programmes pupils from various schools were seen performing some of the experiments about which they had heard in the sound broadcast which was relayed earlier in the month.

Another new television series called PARATA was produced for Year 5. The programmes, in magazine form were designed to widen the pupils' limited horizons by providing them with information on prominent people - local and foreign - important events and well known historical landmarks.

One new series which did not meet with the expected success was "Hello" - English for Year 3 which replaced "Merry Go Round". Its lack of success was due to various factors including production and presentation difficulties encountered at a time when staff was involved in lengthy industrial action.

## Secondary Schools

One new series was produced for Secondary Schools; "Xjenza Klabb" practical science for Forms 1.



These programmes replaced the former series "Discovery" which was meant for a different audience.

Programmes for Forms II, Forms III, and Forms IV were repeats of those transmitted during the previous year.

#### Technical and Trade Schools

For the first time ever a series designed for Forms I and II of Trade and Technical Schools, was transmitted during the year. The series was made up of two parts viz: vocational and general. Some of the subjects treated were: workers' contribution to the national economy, design, industrial hazards, related subjects, materials, standards etc.

It is to be hoped that Trade and Technical Schools will in future make more use of the resources placed at their disposal by Radio and Television.

APPENDIX IPROCEDURE GOVERNING MINISTERIAL BROADCASTS

1. In view of their responsibilities for the care of the nation the Government should be able to broadcast from time to time, Ministerial Broadcasts, which, for example, are purely factual, or explanatory of approved legislative or administrative policies or in the nature of appeals to the nation to cooperate in national policies which require the active participation of the public.
2. Such broadcasts must comply with the provisions of the Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961.
3. It will be incumbent on Ministers making such broadcasts to be as impartial as possible, and in the ordinary way there will be no question of a reply.
4. If however a reply is established to the satisfaction of the Authority, the total broadcasting time devoted to such reply or replies will not exceed the duration of the original Ministerial Broadcast. Requests for a reply should be submitted in writing to the Authority within forty-eight hours of a Ministerial Broadcast being made. This time limit will be extended automatically in the case of an intervening Saturday, Sunday or a Public Holiday.
5. Except by agreement with the Broadcasting Authority the amount of airtime which may be utilized in any one year (April 1st of one year to March 31st of the next) will not exceed 240 minutes. Ministerial Broadcasts may be on Sound only or on both Sound and Television.
6. On Television, Ministerial Broadcasts may be illustrated with graphics, photographs and/or films. It should be noted that when this facility is made use of, and, if a right of reply is established, the same facility will be extended to the reply.

7. All requests for Ministerial Broadcasts are to be made direct to the Authority and reasonable notice given.
8. A script of a Ministerial Broadcast should be sent to the Authority.
9. Except by agreement with the Broadcasting Authority Ministerial Broadcasts will not take place during periods when General Election or Referendum Broadcasts are being held.
10. Ministerial Broadcasts do not and are not intended to exhaust the possibilities of Ministers appearing on Sound or Television. Broadcasts by the Prime Minister which take the form of an "address to the nation", and are indicated as such, do not come within the category of Ministerial Broadcasts. Ministers also broadcast, by invitation, in news interviews, balanced discussions, Radio and Television Press Conferences, outside broadcasts etc. Ministerial Broadcasts come into a separate category because they constitute special time placed at the disposal of Ministers which is availed of at the choice and on the initiative of the Ministers and not either of the Contractors or of the Broadcasting Authority.
11. When any dispute arises over Ministerial Broadcasts the final responsibility remains with the Authority.

APPENDIX IIPRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED IN BROADCASTING  
ADVERTISEMENTS ON SOUND AND TELEVISIONPREAMBLE

1. The general principle governing all advertising broadcast in Malta is that it should be legal, clean, honest and truthful.
2. The Broadcasting Authority and/or its contractors reserve the right to reject any material which does not conform with the spirit of these principles, even though it may not offend any of the specific grounds set out hereunder.

DEFINITION

3. The word "advertisement" implies any item of publicity inserted in the programmes broadcast in conformity with the Malta Broadcasting Ordinance, 1961, in consideration of payments to the Authority's contractors.

GENERAL

4. Advertisement shall be subject to the provision of the Malta Broadcasting Ordinance (Ordinance No. XX of 1961).
5. All advertisements shall be clearly distinguishable as such and be separate from the rest of the programme.
6. Advertisements shall not be inserted otherwise than at the beginning and end of a programme or in natural breaks which occur in a programme.
7. No advertisements shall be included which contain any reference to industrial, political or religious controversy.
8. The Authority and/or its Contractors may reject any advertisement which it considers unsuitable for broadcasting.

9. No advertisements shall be included in or associated with programmes of a religious nature and there shall be an interval of at least two minutes before and two minutes after such programmes during which no advertisements shall be carried.
10. Nothing shall be included in any programmes broadcast by the Authority and/or its Contractors, whether in an advertisement or otherwise, which states, suggests or implies, or could reasonably be taken to state, suggest or imply, that any part of any programme broadcast by the Authority and/or its Contractors, which is not an advertisement has been supplied or suggested by any advertiser. Provided that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the inclusion in the programmes broadcast by the Authority and/or its Contractors, of programmes which have been accepted and approved by the Authority and with which an advertiser, in consideration of payment, may be allowed to associate himself without exercising control over the contents of such programmes, such association taking the form of announcements immediately before the commencement or immediately after the end of any such programmes or in natural breaks therein, of the name or goods and services of the sponsor.

#### FALSE OR MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS

11. No advertisement, taken as a whole or in part, shall contain any spoken or visual presentation of the product or service advertised, or statement of its price, which directly or by implication misleads.

In Particular

- a) SPECIAL CLAIMS -- No advertisement shall contain any reference which is likely to lead the public to assume that the product advertised, or an ingredient, has some special quality or property which is in fact unknown,

unrecognised or incapable of being established.

- b) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS - Statistics, scientific terms, quotations from technical literature and the like must be used with a proper sense of responsibility to the ordinary listener. The irrelevant use of data and jargon must never be resorted to in order to make claims appear more scientific than they really are. Statistics of limited validity should not be presented in such a way as to make it appear that they are universally true.
- c) IMITATION - Any imitation likely to mislead listeners or viewers even though it is not of such a kind as to give rise to a legal action for infringement of copyright or for "passing off" must be avoided.

#### DISPARAGING REFERENCES

- 12. No advertisement shall contain any statement intended to promote sales by unfair comparison with or reference to competitive products or services.

#### TESTIMONIALS

- 13. Documentary evidence of testimonials may be required as a condition of the acceptance of advertisements. The irresponsible use of testimonials must be avoided.

#### GUARANTEE

- 14. The word "guarantee" should be used with caution and sparingly and only in relation to some specific description or quality and the detailed terms of any such guarantee must be available for inspection. Where the guarantee is associated with an offer to return the purchase price, it must be made quite clear to what it applies and in what way it protects the purchaser.

ADVERTISING IN CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

15. No product or service may be advertised and no method of advertising may be used, in association with a programme intended for children or which large numbers of children are likely to hear or see which might result in harm to them physically, mentally or morally, and no method of advertising may be employed which takes advantage of the natural credulity and sense of loyalty of children.

In Particular

- a) No advertisement which encourages children to enter strange places or to converse with strangers in an effort to collect coupons, wrappers, labels, etc., is allowed.
- b) No advertisement for a commercial product or service is allowed if it contains an appeal to children which suggests in any way that unless the children themselves buy or encourage other people to buy the product or service they will be failing in some duty or lacking in loyalty towards some person or organisation whether that person or organization is the one making the appeal or not.
- c) No advertisement is allowed which leads children to believe that if they do not own the product advertised, they will be inferior in some way to other children or that they are liable to be held in contempt or ridicule for not owning it.
- d) No advertisement for tobacco or alcoholic liquors may appear in the advertising intervals immediately before, during or immediately after programmes designed for children.

Rules about Specific Classes of Advertisements  
and Methods of Advertising

1. UNACCEPTABLE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

Advertisements for products or services coming within the recognised character of, or specifically concerned with, the following, will not be accepted:

- a) money lenders,
- b) fortune tellers and the like,
- c) matrimonial agencies and correspondence clubs
- d) undertakers or others associated with death or burial,
- e) organizations/companies/persons seeking to advertise for the purpose of giving betting tips,
- f) employment services, registers or bureaux,
- g) products or treatments for bust development or, except as permitted by the British Code of Standards, for slimming, weight reduction or limitation of figure control,
- h) contraceptives,
- i) smoking cures,
- j) products for treatment of alcoholism,
- k) contact or corneal lenses,
- l) clinics for the treatment of the hair and scalp,
- m) haemorrhoids,
- n) products associated with intimate personal hygiene or medication
- o) cigarettes, cigars, pipe or cigarette tobacco, cigar or cigarette holders, or any other thing directly or indirectly connected with tobacco or tobacco smoking (applicable only for television),
- p) Baby foods.

2. ADVERTISEMENTS OF MEDICINES AND TREATMENTS

- a) THE BRITISH CODE OF STANDARDS - The advertising of medicines and treatment may be accepted provided it complies with the basic standard of "The British Code of Standards in relation to the Advertising of Medicines and Treatments."



- b) In advertisements for medicines, treatments and products which are claimed to promote health or to be beneficial in illness, the following are not allowable:
  - i) presentations which give the impression of professional advice or recommendation, and
  - ii) statements giving the impression of professional advice or recommendation made by persons who appear in the advertisements and who are presented either directly or by implication as being qualified to give such advice or recommendation.

### 3. FINANCIAL ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertising is limited to recognised Banks and Insurance Companies, Building Societies, Government Departments, and persons, bodies companies and corporations carrying on a trade or an undertaking provided they have been granted a permit or licence when one is required by law.

### 4. GENERAL

The Advertisement referring to the holding of any assembly, meeting or activity whatsoever shall not be allowed if a permit or licence therefore is required according to law, unless the permit or licence has been granted prior to the broadcast of the advertisement.

APPENDIX IIIANALYSIS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMESTable 1. Breakdown of all Television Programmes

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78
1. News and News Magazines	7.16	6.60	17.4	16.1
2. Magazine Programmes	2.00	-	4.9	-
3. Talks and Discussions	.55	.27	1.3	.6
4. Political Broadcasts	.21	.50	.5	1.2
5. Ministerial and Right of Reply	.12	.08	.3	.2
6. Documentaries	2.38	.50	5.8	1.2
7. Feature Films	4.28	4.00	10.4	9.8
8. Religion	.67	.50	1.6	1.2
9. Schools	1.60	1.57	3.9	3.9
10. Adult Education	1.00	1.00	2.4	2.4
11. Children's Informative	.62	6.00	1.5	14.7
12. Children's Entertainment	4.56		11.0	
13. Series Adventure/Classics	4.51	6.00	10.9	14.7
14. Family Comedy	1.01	4.00	2.4	9.8
15. Variety & Shows	1.79	1.50	4.3	3.7
17. Drama	2.18	.50	5.3	1.2
18. Arts & Literature	.24	.25	.6	.6
19. Serious Music & Ballet	.32	.50	.8	1.2
20. Sports	2.23	3.00	5.4	7.3
21. Advertising Spots	1.30	2.75	3.1	6.7
22. Advertising Magazines	.05		.1	
23. Miscellaneous	1.18	-	2.9	-
24. Parliamentary Reports	.41	.42	1.0	1.0
25. Election Coverage	.22	-	.5	-
26. Teleplays - Entertainment	.56	1.00	1.4	2.4
27. Folk music	.12	-	.3	-
	41.27	40.94	100.0	100.0
Station originated programmes	19.33	16.73	46.84	40.86

ANALYSIS OF CABLE RADIO PROGRAMMES

Table 1, Breakdown of Cable Radio One

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	23.81	21.8	19.8	18.2
Discussions and Talks	5.17	4.97	4.3	4.1
Ministerials & Right of Reply	.10 .02	.08 .04	.1 -	0.1 -
Religious Broadcasts	6.12	6.05	5.1	5.0
Schools	1.17	1.22	.9	1.0
Adult Education	4.79	4.13	4.0	3.4
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	1.67	1.66	1.4	1.4
Entertainment	.50	.49	.4	.4
Plays, Serials and Maltese Readings	7.28	6.11	6.0	5.1
Variety	1.02	1.49	.8	1.2
Quizzes & Panel Games	.35	.33	.3	.3
Sports	2.23	2.44	1.9	2.0
Serious Music	5.69	4.94	4.7	4.1
Light/Popular Music	52.03	54.19	43.2	45.0
Women's Programmes	3.75	3.68	3.1	3.1
Others	4.48	6.53	3.7	5.4
Political Broadcasts	.31	0.11	.3	0.1
General Elections	-	0.08	-	0.1
	120.49	120.42	100.0	100.0

Table 2. Breakdown of Cable Radio One

Locally Originated Programmes

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	23.25	21.32	19.3	17.7
Discussions and Talks	5.17	4.97	4.3	4.1
Ministerials & Right of Reply	.10 .02	.08 .04	.1 -	.1 -
Religious Broadcasts	6.12	6.05	5.1	5.0
Schools	1.17	1.22	.9	1.0
Adult Education	4.79	4.13	4.0	3.4
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	1.67	1.66	1.4	1.4
Entertainment	.50	.49	.4	.4
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	7.28	6.11	6.0	5.1
Variety	1.02	1.49	.8	1.2
Quizzes & Panel Games	.35	.33	.3	.3
Sports	2.23	2.44	1.9	2.0
Serious Music	5.69	4.94	4.7	4.1
Light/Popular Music	52.03	54.19	43.2	45.0
Women's Programmes	3.75	3.68	3.1	3.1
Others	4.48	6.53	3.7	5.4
Political Broadcasts	.31	.11	.3	.1
General Election	-	.08	-	.1
	119.93	119.86	99.5	99.5
	.56	.56	.5	.5
	120.49	120.42	100.0	100.0

Table 3. Breakdown of Cable Radio Two

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	28.55	33.80	23.4	28.1
Discussions and Talks	5.12	6.19	4.2	5.2
Ministerial & Right of Reply	-	-	-	-
Religious Broadcasts	1.45	.87	1.2	.7
Schools	-	-	-	-
Adult Education	1.83	2.25	1.5	1.9
Children's Programmes				
Informative	-	-	-	-
Entertainment	.28	.42	.2	.3
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	7.73	8.39	6.3	6.9
Variety	1.17	1.82	1.0	1.5
Quizzes & Panel Games	.86	1.84	.7	1.5
Sports	7.60	9.21	6.2	7.8
Serious Music	5.15	5.65	4.2	4.7
Light/Popular Music	59.21	46.69	48.5	38.9
Women's Programmes	1.32	.38	1.1	.3
Others	1.70	2.65	1.4	2.2
Political Broadcasts	.11	-	.1	-
	122.08	120.16	100.0	100.0

Note: As from January 1978 all programmes transmitted on this network were locally produced.

ANALYSIS OF RADIO MALTA PROGRAMMES - 1977/1978Radio Malta One

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/78	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	21.86	20.62	17.4	16.4
Discussions and Talks	2.73	3.17	2.2	2.5
Political Broadcasts	.31	.08	.2	.1
Election Broadcasts	-	.08	-	.1
Religious Broadcasts	1.73	1.70	1.3	1.3
Schools	-	-	-	-
Adult Education	1.84	4.19	1.5	3.3
Children's Programmes:				
Informative	-	.06	-	-
Entertainment	.34	.19	.3	.2
Plays, Serials & Maltese Readings	4.67	4.56	3.7	3.6
Variety	-	.35	-	.3
Quizzes and Panel Games	-	.44	-	.3
Sports	3.00	3.30	2.4	2.6
Serious Music	4.55	4.42	3.6	3.5
Light/Popular Music	80.34	78.92	63.7	62.7
Women's Programmes	3.00	3.00	2.4	2.4
Others	1.63	.92	1.3	.7
	126.00	126.00	100.0	100.0

Radio Malta Two

67.

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	1.17	1.17	.9	.9
Serious Music	13.16	13.15	10.5	10.5
Light/Popular Music	111.67	111.68	88.6	88.6
	126.00	126.00	100.0	100.0

Radio Malta Three

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	1.17	1.17	1.7	1.7
Discussions and Talks	-	.06	-	.1
Adult Education	.50	1.06	.7	1.5
Serious Music	.85	.61	1.2	.9
Light/Popular Music	67.15	66.60	95.9	95.1
Others:	.33	.50	.5	.7
	70.00	70.00	100.0	100.0

Radio Malta Three (Locally Produced)

	Weekly Average Hours		%	
	1977/78	1976/77	1977/78	1976/77
News and Magazines	1.17	1.17	1.7	1.7
Discussions and Talks	-	.06	-	.1
Adult Education	.50	1.06	.7	1.5
Serious Music	.85	.61	1.2	.9
Light/Popular Music	65.87	65.51	94.1	93.6
		.41	97.7	97.8
	1.61	1.59	2.3	2.2
	70.00	70.00	100.0	100.0

BROADCASTING AUTHORITYA C C O U N T S31st MARCH, 1978I N D E X

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70.	Report of the Auditors
71.	Income and Expenditure Account
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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, 1978

	<u>Note</u>	£M	£M	<u>1977</u> £M
FIXED ASSETS	1		<u>7,567</u>	<u>10,454</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
Sundry Debtors and Prepayments	4	3,522		3,475
Cash and Bank Balances (Appendix 2a)		<u>210</u>		<u>4,690</u>
			3,732	<u>8,165</u>
<u>Less:</u>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Sundry Creditors and Accruals		53,612		34,529
Bank Overdraft		<u>1,397</u>		<u>-</u>
			55,009	<u>34,529</u>
			<u>51,277</u>	<u>26,364</u>
			<u>43,710</u>	<u>15,910</u>
			=====	=====
<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			33,140	33,127
Provision for loss or damage to films on hire			<u>1,463</u>	<u>1,463</u>
			51,563	51,550
<u>Less:</u>				
Debit Balance on Income and Expenditure Account (Page 71)			<u>95,273</u>	<u>67,460</u>
			<u>43,710</u>	<u>15,910</u>
			=====	=====

The notes on pages 72 and 73 form an integral part of these accounts.

(Sgd.) G. MONTANARO GAUCI  
.....  
CHAIRMAN

(Sgd.) A.J. ELLUL  
.....

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, 1978 and of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

(Signed)

Diamantino, Manfre' & Co  
Certified Public Accountants

Valletta Buildings  
South Street  
Valletta

Date: 9th June, 1978

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1978

	Notes	£M	<u>1977</u> £M
INCOME			
Government contributions from Licence Fees		38,000	-
Licence Fees from contractors		751	751
Ground Rents		51	51
Bank Interest (Net)		(191)	1,000
		<u>38,611</u>	<u>1,802</u>
<u>Deduct:</u>			
EXPENDITURE			
Prescribed Programmes			
Incurred on Sound Broadcasts	2	3,406	2,494
Incurred on Television Broadcasts	3	8,468	7,837
Administration and Other Expenses			
General Administration (Appendix 1)		30,785	30,294
Tokyo Song Festival		-	364
		<u>42,659</u>	<u>40,989</u>
		<u>4,048</u>	<u>39,187</u>
<u>Add:</u>			
Cost of Fixed Assets acquired during the year		13	530
Shortfall in respect of prescribed programmes		23,126	24,669
		<u>23,139</u>	<u>25,199</u>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		<u>27,187</u>	<u>64,386</u>
Adverse Balance brought forward from previous year		67,460	2,587
Prior year adjustments		626	487
Balance carried forward (Page 69)		<u>95,273</u> =====	<u>67,460</u> =====

The notes on pages 72 and 73 form an integral part of these accounts.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITYNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTSYEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1978

1. <u>Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Depreciation Rate per annum</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Depreciation</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>1977</u>
		£M	£M	£M	£M
Freehold Land	Nil	655	-	655	655
Office Equipment Furniture and Fittings	20 - 10%	7,644	6,434	1,210	1,658
Technical Equipment	25%	10,657	10,449	208	312
Studio Equipment	20%	8,119	8,119	-	-
Motor Vehicle	20%	1,624	974	650	975
Radio Malta - Furniture and Fittings	33 - 20 - 10%	1,438	1,226	212	338
Radio Malta - Studio and Technical Equipment	25 - 20 - 10%	19,963	15,331	4,632	6,516
		<u>50,100</u>	<u>42,533</u>	<u>7,567</u>	<u>10,454</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====
	(1977)	50,087	39,633		
		=====	=====		

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:

	£M	£M	<u>1977</u> £M
Airtime and Studio Charges		1,161	274
Depreciation on Technical Equipment	104		
Less: Allocated to Television Broadcasts (Note 3)	(52)	52	62
Proportion of Overhead Expenses (5.7%) (Appendix 1)		2,193	2,158
		<u>3,406</u>	<u>2,494</u>
Liability for amount payable towards the improvement of programmes		6,594	7,506
		<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
		=====	=====

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
(CONTINUED)  
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1978

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	<u>1977</u> £M
Airtime and Studio Charges	2,913	2,324
Eurovision Song Contest	-	(52)
Depreciation:		
Technical Equipment (Note 2)	52	61
Studio Furniture and Equipment	-	89
Proportion of Overhead Expenses (14.3%) (Appendix 1)	5,503	5,415
	<u>8,468</u>	<u>7,837</u>
Liability for amount payable towards the improvement of programmes	16,532	17,163
	<u>25,000</u> =====	<u>25,000</u> =====

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4. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Debtors and Prepayments are stated after providing an amount of £M1,567 for Bad and Doubtful Debts.

## Appendix 1.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1978

	£M	£M	<u>1977</u> £M
Audit Fee		350	350
Depreciation			
Furniture and Fittings      10%	260		277
Office Equipment            20%	201		244
Motor Vehicle               20%	<u>325</u>	786	325
Duty Visits Abroad		-	671
Entertainment and Hospitality		70	277
Gratuities		2,765	
Honoraria to Board Members		1,750	1,707
Professional Fees and Expenses		914	550
Maintenance and Repairs		125	535
Membership Fees - International			
Organisations		3,074	4,695
National Insurance Contributions		865	817
Postages, Telegrams and Telephones		892	991
Provision for Bad and Doubtful Debts		1,567	-
Rent of Offices and Studios		800	900
Rentals Wired Sound and Television Sets		175	223
Stationery		249	418
Staff Superannuation Scheme		1,601	1,276
Subscriptions to Newspapers, etc.		176	193
Sundry Expenses		210	178
Transport		297	444
Wages and Salaries		21,265	22,246
Water and Electricity		250	250
Religious Broadcasting Honoraria		<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>
		38,481	37,867
<u>Deduct:</u>			
Amounts charged against programmes prescribed:			
Sound Broadcasts - 5.7% (Note 2)		(2,193)	(2,158)
Television Broadcasts - 14.3% (Note 3)		<u>(5,503)</u>	<u>(5,415)</u>
		<u>30,785</u>	<u>30,294</u>
		=====	=====

## Appendix 2.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
CHANGES IN THE CASH POSITION  
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1978

<u>1977</u>		£M	£M	£M
£M	Funds became available during the year as follows:			
-	From: Government Contributions		38,000	
	Sundry Income (Licence fees, Bank Interest)		611	
<u>1,802</u>			<u>38,611</u>	
<u>1,802</u>				
	These were applied to meet:			
	Administrative and other Expenditure - General (including prescribed programmes)		42,659	
<u>40,989</u>			<u>42,659</u>	
	Leaving a deficit on Income and Expenditure Account (Page ) of			4,048
<u>39,187</u>				
	The Deficit was increased by			
530	Purchases of Fixed Assets		13	
	Provisions for amounts payable in respect of prescribed programmes		23,126	
<u>24,669</u>			<u>23,126</u>	
<u>25,199</u>				<u>23,139</u>
<u>64,386</u>				<u>27,187</u>
	And decreased by:			
(184)	Increase in Debtors	(47)		
18,517	Increase in Creditors	19,083		
4,906	Retained Depreciation	2,900		
(487)	Prior Year's adjustments	(626)		
<u>22,752</u>				<u>21,310</u>
	Leaving a cash deficit for the year amounting to			5,877
<u>41,634</u>				<u>5,877</u>
=====				=====
	Cash Deficit for the year effected the Authority's Liquid Funds as follows:			
		<u>Cash Balances as at</u>		
<u>1976</u>		<u>31.3.77</u>	<u>31.3.78</u>	
£M		£M	£M	
	Decrease in Savings Account	2,794	184	2,610
37,999				
	Decrease in Bank balance	1,851	(1,397)	3,248
3,630				
	Decrease of Cash in hand	45	26	19
<u>5</u>		<u>4,690</u>	<u>(1,187)</u>	<u>5,877</u>
<u>41,634</u>		<u>4,690</u>	<u>(1,187)</u>	<u>5,877</u>
=====		=====	=====	=====

## Appendix 2a.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY  
CHANGES IN NET WORKING CAPITAL POSITION  
YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1978

	£M	£M	<u>1977</u> £M
Cash deficiency for the year (Appendix 2)		5,877	<u>41,634</u>
<u>Add:</u>			
Increase in debtors	(47)		(184)
Increase in creditors	<u>19,083</u>		<u>18,517</u>
		<u>19,036</u>	<u>18,333</u>
Decrease in Net Working Capital for the year		<u>24,913</u> =====	<u>59,967</u> =====