

the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs, allowed for detailed discussions of the various aspects of Canadian-Maltese relations. In addition, social functions connected with the visit, notably a dinner offered by His Excellency the Governor General and the Prime Minister's luncheon, enabled the visitors to meet other leading Canadians.

Malta

Malta has an ancient and diverse history. The islands — 122 square miles in total area — are located strategically 60 miles south of Sicily and are inhabited by almost 330,000 people. Malta's proud heritage has included links with the Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Crusaders, and latterly, with Britain, with which it was connected for 165 years. In September 1964, after many years of partial self-government, Malta gained its independence under Dr. Borg Olivier's leadership. Financial and defence agreements were concluded with Britain and a NATO headquarters has remained on the island.

Malta's internal preoccupations — it is engaged in reorientating its economy from virtually complete reliance on services towards greater economic diversification and increased exports — have absorbed much of its energy. The Government has, nonetheless, a broad interest in world developments. Malta's position at the cross roads of the Mediterranean and the European and Catholic loyalties of its people have both strongly influenced its external policy. As a member of the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe and other international organizations, Malta has shown a responsible concern with developments in many parts of the world.

Canada-Malta Relations

Canada was represented at the Maltese independence ceremonies in September 1964 by Mr. A. J. P. Cameron, Member of Parliament, and formal diplomatic relations were established in January 1965 when Mr. G. G. Crean, the Canadian Ambassador to Italy, was accredited concurrently to Valetta as High Commissioner. Mr. Crean and his staff have made frequent trips, and Canadian warships recently paid an official visit there. Dr. A. Cacchia Zammit, then Maltese Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, visited Canada briefly in July 1965, while Mr. Amato-Gauci held talks in Ottawa in December 1965. Dr. Borg Olivier's visit was the first by a Maltese Prime Minister.

Canada's most important ties with Malta are to be found in their membership in various international groupings, in particular the Commonwealth, and in immigration and trade. Wartime associations have not been forgotten by either country and both have a common Head of State in Her Majesty the Queen. Together with other Commonwealth countries, Canada sponsored Malta's admission to the United Nations. Economic relations have been mutually beneficial, with Canadian sales (mostly wheat) amounting to \$2 million in 1965 and Maltese exports totalling some \$387,000, a threefold increase over 1964. In