

Scenes in Valetta yesterday when thousands holding Papal and Maltese flags and singing the Maltese Hymn and Papal Hymn as well as religious hymns gave a thunderous reception to Mgr. Gonzi after His Grace left the Church of St. Paul Shipwrecked on celebrating Pontifical High Mass.



DEMONSTRATION IN VALETTA

Large Crowds Cheer the Archbishop

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A great demonstration took place yesterday when thousands of members of religious organizations, carrying flags and singing hymns, accompanied His Grace the Metropolitan Archbishop to his palace after the Archbishop had celebrated Pontifical High Mass at the Collegiate Church of St. Paul's Shipwreck, Valetta.

Immediately after the end of the Pontifical High Mass which lasted for nearly three hours, the demonstrators assembled near the main door of the Collegiate Church, singing *Christus Vincit*, *Christus Regnat*, and waving small yellow and white Papal flags. The demonstrators also carried placards with *Viva l-Papa*, and *Viva l-Arcisqof* on one side and a photograph of His Grace on the other.

By the time the Archbishop left the Church, so great was the pressure of the people that a policeman, one of the large number who accompanied the demonstrators to keep law and order, fainted and was carried out of the crowd by fellow policemen.

The enthusiasm of the demonstrators knew no bounds and the car carrying His Grace could not move and the police had to struggle to clear a narrow lane. It took over one hour for the Archbishop to reach the Palace after he left St. Paul's Church.

Shouting "Long Live the Pope" and "Malta will always remain Catholic" the crowds slowly moved on to Archbishop's Street and here the singing and slogan shouting was accompanied by the ringing of bells from the Greek Catholic Church.

Labour supporters, carrying copies of "is-Sebh" the Malta Labour Party newspaper, G.W.U. posters and photo-

graphs of Mintoff tried to break the demonstration when the Archbishop's car reached the Palace Square. They took position on the railing at one end of the square and waved *is-Sebh* as the car slowly passed by. The police exerted themselves to the limit in order to prevent a clash.

By this time the crowd had increased threefold, and the Archbishop's car was decked with flowers thrown from balconies along the route. Inside, the Archbishop could be seen blessing the crowds as they surged closer to the car.

Another big crowd was waiting near the Archiepiscopal Palace and greeted the arrival of His Grace with

more singing and loud applause.

The people invaded the porch of the Archbishop's Palace and His Grace, obviously tired, had difficulty in reaching the inner door.

The people did not immediately move off from near the Palace but continued singing religious hymns and shouting religious slogans. His Grace finally appeared in one of the windows and blessed the people gathered outside the Palace.

His Grace the Archbishop celebrated Pontifical High Mass at the Collegiate Church of St. Paul's Shipwreck, the Apostle who brought Christianity to Malta. His Grace was assisted by Mgr. Buhagiar and Mgr. A. Ghigo, and was welcomed inside the church by the Chapter of the Collegiate.

The large number of people who crowded the church, gave Mgr. Gonzi a great ovation.

The panegyric was delivered by Father V. Azzopardi. In the evening the usual procession with the statue of St. Paul passed through the streets of the Parish.

BRITISH M.Ps VISITING MALTA

Seven Members of Parliament — comprising three Conservatives, three Labour and one Liberal — are leaving London for Malta to watch the Referendum at the invitation of the Malta Government.

The visiting M. Ps. are:

Sir John Robinson, Major Patrick Wall and Mr. John Biggs - Davison (Conservatives); Mr. James Callaghan, Mr. R. Mellish and Mr. Roy Jenkins (Labour) and Mr. Joseph Grimond, (Liberal).

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TIMES OF MALTA

No. 6,358

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1956

Price 3d.

CATHOLIC CHURCH ON INTEGRITY *His Grace the Archbishop Addresses People of Malta and Gozo Government's 'Declaration of War'*

His Grace the Metropolitan Archbishop, Mgr. Sir Michael Gonzi, last night spoke to the people of Malta and Gozo over the local broadcast system. The broadcast will be repeated this morning at 6.15 o'clock.

His Grace the Archbishop, who spoke in Maltese said:—

"It has been stated by word and in writing that, in the Pastoral Letter of January 21 last, the Church gave no directives regarding the Referendum which is going to be held. But, who reads that Document carefully and without prejudice must see that the Church gave a fundamental *directive* so that one can know how he must behave in front of such an important problem.

"The Bishops wrote the Pastoral after much thought and reflection and kept in mind the responsibility of every word they were going to pronounce.

"In the Pastoral, without having offended anyone; we ask for that which every *responsible* person should ask before every change which may have harmful consequences. We asked according to the directives of the Holy See — today known to all — only written assurances, which in some way or other may be embodied with the document which brings this change. In the political question we did not interfere. We have been stating this even before the publication of the Pastoral Letter."

Declaration

The Archbishop went on to say that the publication of the Pastoral Letter had aroused a storm. "The Government rose against the Bishops and broke relations with the Church without thinking that we were not surprised



MALTA GOVERNOR'S RECENT BROADCAST

(Reuter's Special Service)

LONDON Feb. 9.

Mr. William Teeling (Conservative) asked the Colonial Secretary in the Commons today: "What instructions are in force regarding broadcasts by Governors of Colonies, either in this country or in territories to which they are posted; whether he is aware that in a broadcast the Governor of Malta showed bias towards a particular Party; and, in view of the fact that in the Colonies Governors represent the Crown if he would instruct them to refrain from broadcasting during Elections, Referendums or other times of crisis."

In a written reply Mr. Alan Lennox-Boyd said: "Broadcasting by Governors within their territories is a matter for their discretion but they have been asked to consult me before accepting any invitation to broadcast in the United Kingdom. I assume that the second part of the question refers to the broadcast made in London by the Governor of Malta on 26th January which, I am satisfied, was proper and fair, and, indeed, an excellent performance altogether. The answer to the third part of the question is "No, Sir".

MAHE SEYCHELLES, Indian Ocean Feb. 9:— Several Seychelles fishermen have been rescued after drifting helplessly in the Indian Ocean for a fortnight.