

## Peace and Progress

### Programme for the Nationalist Party General Election 1971

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#### TO THE ELECTORS OF MALTA AND GOZO

The Nationalist Party, supported by the confidence of the Maltese people, transformed Malta from colonial status to that of an independent Nation. On the foundation of political independence a new economy, now nearing fruition, was built. This was achieved at a time when we experienced more than one rundown, yet we have created conditions which increased the standard of living of all citizens, who are able to live in freedom free from the fears which prevail in so many other countries.

In this manifesto of the Nationalist Party you will find the policies which the party is offering for the future. In the international sphere and in the economic and social fields you will find those realistic and practical policies for which our people are waiting - policies which are related to the great progress of Malta and Gozo under a Nationalist Administration,

But the real issue facing the electors of Malta and Gozo at the coming election is the choice between continuing prosperity and progress, as in the past, or a torrent of empty words and obscure promises; a choice between full security for Malta or a headlong plunge into the treacherous and rough sea of Socialism.

We offer, and invite support for, a policy of Progress in Liberty and Liberty in Progress, which will lead to

ONE PEOPLE

A ONE CLASS SOCIETY

A UNITED NATION

(S.Borg Olivien) Leader of the Party

#### FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR - LET US MOVE FORWARD

##### 1. Economic Development

We are in the middle of the Third Development Plan. In these last five years the gross national product has risen by 60% and according to the same Plan we can expect that development will take place at a rate of not less than 9.4% a year. This economic expansion, built on the dynamism and courage of those who invest in enterprises, those who manage them and those who work in them, holds the key to the future of Malta. A Nationalist Government will continue to do its utmost so that private investment will go on increasing; the Development Plan envisages that private and public investment will reach a sum of at least £118m.

##### 2. Investments

The setting up of the Central Bank and the enactment of the Banking Act have placed the financial system and banking on a sound basis. We shall, therefore, continue to encourage investment in Maltese productive

enterprises. We shall also continue the policy of attracting foreign investments, especially when this type of investment will assist the increase in employment opportunities and exports. We shall also ensure that more Maltese capital is invested alongside foreign capital.

The Development Corporation, which has also been set up by the Nationalist Government, has made a useful contribution to the development of industries and tourism, The Corporation will continue to help by investing in industry and by providing capital when necessary.

The Corporation will make provision for the savings of Maltese people to be invested in Maltese industries.

### **3. Industrial Development**

The Nationalist Government has given great emphasis to the industrial development of Malta and Gozo. Since Independence the Government has built sixty-five factories and at present fifty other factories are being built on the Industrial Estates at Marsa, San Gwann, Mriehel, Bulebel and Gozo, During the same period the Government made capital grants to industry amounting to £3.4m. These programmes have resulted in a substantial new investment in industry, which created 7,000 new jobs and increased production, which in 1970 alone amounted to £17, 6m. Production from these Government-aided industries gave Malta an increase in national income and the workers an increase in their wage packets, which amounted to £3.8m. in 1970. We shall continue this industrial policy by building more new factories; we shall assist in establishing new industries; we shall also do our utmost to help existing industries, especially the smaller ones, and Maltese crafts.

Foreign trade is still increasing and there has been a significant increase in trade with the countries of the European Common Market. The Agreement with the Common Market Countries became effective as from the 1st of April 1971. This will offer wonderful opportunities to Malta. Apart from the direct benefits which will accrue to the worker through these developments, schemes will be encouraged whereby the workers will receive productivity bonuses.

### **4. Tourism**

One of the greatest successes of the Nationalist Government was in the field of tourism. Since Independence the number of hotels has been trebled and has reached a total of 112, with 8,448 beds. Today we have hotels of every category. A Nationalist Government will continue to provide training in the field of tourism in order to increase the number of Maltese personnel who will provide skilled employment and management in this industry; they will guarantee a service which will continue to be improved. We hope that a large number of British Tourists will continue to visit Malta; the success which we have begun to achieve in tourism from other countries, principally European, indicates the many great opportunities which the development of tourism still holds for us.

We shall give the Tourist Board greater independence and authority; it will also be responsible for the cleansing and care of the beaches and other localities frequented by tourists.

### **5. Agriculture**

Agriculture and Fisheries provide a living for many of our people. The Nationalist Government has guaranteed the farmer the tenancy of the land he works by legislation. As a result of the loans and grants by Government to farmers there has been a substantial increase in the value and quantity of agricultural products. The increase in tourism is providing an ever increasing market for vegetables, fruit, milk, and fish. With the help of F.A.O. we intend to help farmers to increase the quantity and improve the quality of their produce. They will be given incentive grants to encourage them to introduce new and modern methods of cultivation and breeding.

Agriculture is of particular importance to Gozo and we have therefore given, and we shall continue to give, special help to Gozitan farmers. A Marketing Board will be set up to guarantee the price of agricultural products for our farmers; it will have special reference to the export of potatoes.

A Nationalist Government will continue to encourage the development of co-operatives and will strengthen their influence in the development of agriculture in the country.

A Nationalist Government will support and give special facilities to co-operatives to import and distribute animal food-stuffs to farmers and herdsman, thereby stabilising the prices of such goods.

## **6. Fisheries**

A Nationalist Government will encourage the setting up of co-operatives for fishermen. The provision of berths for fishermen in Malta and Gozo will continue. In the various fishing centres facilities for the cold storage and preservation of fish will be erected.

Following their success in building houses and stores for fishermen in Malta and Gozo a Nationalist Government will intensify this programme.

## **7. Employment**

Economic planning has resulted in the great progress of which everyone is aware, Since independence the number of gainfully employed has increased from 86,500 to 101,160. This was achieved in a period when the economy was subjected to successive rundowns, resulting in the abolishing of 6,500 services' jobs. This means that by shrewd economic planning we have generated about 21,000 new jobs, some of which have absorbed those made redundant by the severe successive rundowns and others of which have created new opportunities.

A Nationalist Government is a guarantee that the country will continue to be developed on sound economic lines, through which opportunities for work for our young people will continue to increase; adequate and suitable work will be found for all those who want to work; the standard of living will not only be guaranteed, but every effort will be made to maintain it to a level comparable to that in developed countries,

## **8. Fiscal Policy**

Our fiscal system has to date been adequate for the needs of the economy of a developing country. But this system must be considered to be static. The recent agreement with the Common Market will afford us the opportunity of revising our fiscal system.

The Government has already prepared: (a) Legislation to enable and to encourage ships to be registered in Malta through fiscal facilities. This legislation, which will respect all generally accepted international conventions, will be presented as soon as possible; (b) Legislation which encourages the registration of companies for off-shore activities.

These measures, added to a new tax structure, should enable us to abolish completely Income Tax; the Nationalist Government binds itself to remove this tax not later than the fourth year of the coming Legislature. Until Income Tax is abolished the personal allowance of a married couple will be raised to £1,000 and that of a single person to £600.

This is the best way to:-

- (1) encourage the repatriation of Maltese capital invested abroad;
- (2) encourage foreign capital to be invested in Malta, together with Maltese capital, at an increased rate;
- (3) enable Malta to become a centre of international financial activities.

During its tenure of office in recent years the Nationalist Party has proved that with large scale investment in all sectors of production the standard of living of all the population is raised, employment is assured for all those who want to work, and enough revenue is generated to permit the betterment of social services in general and to give more help to those who deserve it,

## **9. Drydocks**

Under a Nationalist Government the Dockyard, with all its equipment and free from any debts, has become the property of the Maltese people. The Government ensured that no jobs were lost. Apart from this the Government obtained from the British Government a grant of £3m. for development in the Dockyard.

Initially work in the Drydocks was progressing favourably, so much so that we were fast approaching the breakeven point. Even after the Suez crisis of 1967, which, as expected, badly hit the Drydocks, we started to recuperate. Therefore, the present situation in the Drydocks is very little short of a national disaster and the responsibility for this falls in a large measure on the leaders of the General Workers Union, who up to now have controlled the Drydocks workers. Many of the industrial actions could have been avoided without the renunciation of just claims.

A Nationalist Government will give priority to the solution of the Dockyard problem. This solution must lead once more to commercial productivity; in the working out of this solution the Drydocks workers must have a share, which up to now has been denied them because of the way in which they have been led.

A Nationalist Government after putting the Drydocks on a sound basis and after the necessary investments to set it up once more on its feet will give all Drydocks workers a share in profits and due representation on the Board of the Corporation.

## **10. Industrial Relations**

Industrial development can only succeed if we have a good policy leading to better industrial relations.

Under the Nationalist Government the working conditions of all categories improved greatly; everyone enjoyed wage increases and our policy resulted in an increase of 50% for the private wage earner; we have introduced equal pay for equal work; we have increased vacation leave for all employees; we have reduced the working hours; we have enacted laws to protect workers from unjust dismissal and to provide work for the physically handicapped. A Nationalist Government as one of its principal aims will continue to seek an improvement in working conditions.

A Nationalist Government will continue to strengthen the negotiating machinery, as well as conciliation and arbitration, until the workers themselves choose to use the right to strike as a means of last resort.

In the case of Government industrial and non-industrial employees of a grade lower than that of a Higher Executive Officer, and of professional officers of the same rank, negotiations will continue on the claims and offers will be placed before an Arbitration Tribunal.

In the case of Government non-industrial of the grade of Administrative Officer and upwards and

comparable grades a Standing Advisory Committee will be set up whose duty it will be to consider and make recommendations on increases in pay and on conditions of work.

## **11. Power**

Power is of vital importance in a modern society. The Nationalist Government greatly expanded electricity supplies both for domestic use and for industries and hotels. We are determined to continue this policy until all Malta and Gozo are served. Contracts for oil exploration have been signed and preliminary work has already started. Development in this field can change for the better Malta's economy. A Nationalist Government will continue to extend and improve the gas service.

## **12. Communications**

Good communications are essential for the development of the economy so that the standard of living may continue to be raised. The Third Development Plan provides for the spending of more than Z12m. that is more than 25% of the total spending, for this purpose. The Nationalist Government has already expanded the telephone system in Malta and Gozo and with overseas countries. The Nationalist Government has built many miles of new and modern roads, together with impressive and useful bridges. A Nationalist Government will continue this policy in Malta and Gozo.

During the past few years the number of air passengers has more than doubled; we intend to spend money to improve facilities at the airport and in the harbours in both islands. A Nationalist Government will set up a national air company.

## **13. Education**

After the record spending on housing in the Third Plan the next highest sum will be spent on education. The Nationalist Government has already provided for the spending of a sum of almost £4m. or nearly 8% of the expenditure on development. Considerable help is being extended to private schools and we shall continue to provide for more secondary and technical schools.

A substantial expansion in technical education has led to the setting up of a Polytechnic, where education is free. The building of a new University is providing the best facilities including those for recreation and sport for all students. For the first time University education is free for all, Gozitan students already enjoy an annual grant of £90 and the first hostel has been set up for Gozitans. A Nationalist Government will continue to expand facilities for education at all levels.

The Nationalist Government has set up another record in the field of education. Today through the actions of the present Government any Maltese child can obtain its education completely free of charge from the lowest primary class through to a University course and degree. Help is also given for books, instruments and other needs.

This democratisation of education at all levels is assured and the opportunity to move forward independently of means or class is provided for all.

A Nationalist Government will continue to follow the study of modern education methods and particularly the concept of permanent education, which encourages development of the culture and personality of a person throughout his whole life.

It will be the aim of a Nationalist Government to raise the age for compulsory education to 16 years.

## **14. Culture**

Malta has a vast cultural heritage. We shall continue the policy of restoration of historic buildings, churches and monuments. We have already proposed the setting up museums of natural history, of folklore and of archaeology.

A Nationalist Government will attach great importance to the spreading of culture among the people and will encourage in every possible way activities and expressions in all fields of culture and so the National Arts Council will get all due help.

Following the completion of the imposing building, the new Law Courts, and following the good progress of the Kingsway project, a Nationalist Government will start work soon on the building of a National Theatre. Due to special circumstances, particularly the effect of the rundown, this has had to give way to the more urgent buildings of factories, hotels and a great number of houses.

A Nationalist Government will establish National Archives to preserve the historical documents and manuscripts of our country.

The study and knowledge of the history of Malta will be given their deserved prominence.

## **15. Sports**

It was a Nationalist Government which set up for the first time a National Sports Board and it is now their intention to strengthen it and so to improve its effectiveness. The Government has built several football grounds and water-pole pitches and has laid out playing fields for children throughout Malta and Gozo. A Nationalist Government believes that sport has an important part to play in the formation of character as well as in the physical development of the citizen. Therefore the Government will ensure that a Sports Centre of international standards is built at Marsa. It will specifically include a national stadium. We shall promote policies to ensure a better use, for recreational purposes, of the seas which surround us, both for tourists and for ourselves.

## **16. Social Security**

The Nationalist Party recognises the duty of Society to provide for the needy. To this end we have already extended the pension scheme to all Government employees; we have given increments to pensioners; we have increased and extended the benefits given under the National Insurance Act and we have lowered the age to 60; we have enacted a law to ensure work for the physically handicapped and another to protect the worker from unjust dismissal.

A Nationalist Government will continue to increase social security in all sectors, After the necessary research is undertaken a Nationalist Government will set up a system of insurance against illness, in which the patient will have free choice of doctor and hospital.

A Nationalist Government will enact legislation to provide for compulsory insurance against disease and injury suffered while at work.

Now that conditions of all workers have improved, largely as a result of the work of the Wages Councils, a national minimum wage will be fixed, which will be applicable to all workers.

A Nationalist Government will continue to encourage private industry to grant equal pay for equal work.

The working hours of Government employees will be reviewed with the aim of reducing them to 40 hours a week.

A Nationalist Government will pay allowances to families who have more than three children according to the number of children in the family.

In the years of the Nationalist Administration the standard of living of all the people rose as a result of the social and economic progress of the country.

A Nationalist Government will control unjustified increases in the cost of living; at the same time a Nationalist Government will ensure that the increases in the cost of living will be reflected immediately in wages, salaries, unemployment benefits, national assistance and in national insurance benefits.

A Nationalist Government will review the rights of women at law with the aim of improving them and of removing the discrimination which today exists. A Nationalist Government will link the pensions of government employees with present salary rates.

A Nationalist Government realises the need for a radical reform of the National Insurance Act, so that contributions as well as pensions will be related to the income of the contributors, thereby guaranteeing them a decent living.

A Nationalist Government, which has already taken various initiatives in relation to the aged, will continue to do all it can to ensure that old people who can still work are given adequate employment. Likewise the programme, which has already begun, and which provides houses for the old in blocks of Maltese housing, will be expanded.

## **17. Health**

The Nationalist Government modernised our hospitals and increased the number of beds, Work on the new Gozo hospital has started, a new hospital has been opened and work will soon start on as hospital. Customs duties on medicines have been removed.

A Nationalist Government will enact legislation to regulate the care of mental health according to the latest methods suggested by modern science.

The service of specialists in Malta and Gozo will be further increased and improved; equipment and facilities for better treatment will be expanded.

The sewage system will be further extended until all localities of Malta and Gozo will be provided with this service.

The provision of pure water will continue to be increased by conventional means and by desalination plants.

## **18. Housing**

The Nationalist Government has already provided for the spending of £5m. for the building of houses. This sum is equivalent to 10% of all the money to be spent on development. The number of houses built under a Nationalist Government is an all-time record. The Government itself built or is building 2,000 houses. It will continue to be the policy of a Nationalist Government to carry on an intensive (programme of housing for Maltese and to encourage and help all those who wish to own their own home. Therefore for this purpose the Home Ownership system will be developed further. More help will be given for the improvement of sub-

standard houses and the second storey scheme will be continued,

## **19. Policy for Youth**

A Nationalist Government, appreciating the importance of youth in the social life of the country, will facilitate by every means the development of their personality and the free expression of their positive aspirations. To this end we shall enact a law which will lower the voting age to 18 years.

A Nationalist Government will encourage activities both cultural and educational from which youths benefit and for this reason certain exemptions from entertainment tax will be effected.

A Nationalist Government will make it easier for young people to attend educational, cultural and social presentations which interest them.

A Nationalist Government will extend the operations of the vocational guidance and the youth employment sections of the Department of Labour,

## **20. Gozo**

It is only natural that what we have achieved and that which we shall achieve applies to Gozo as it does to Malta. But a Nationalist Government will take special care of the needs of the Gozitans especially in relation to the building of the new hospital, schools, agriculture, fisheries, roads, telephones, electricity, Mgarr Harbour, and the provision of water, all of which will get proper attention.

A Nationalist Government will recognise the absolute need for the elimination once and for all of the inconvenience and uncertainty which besets commuters between the two islands.

The communications project between Malta and Gozo has already been the subject of study by the Government. As soon as it is established which is the best project, which is in the interest of the whole Nation, which is wanted by the people and which is technically and economically feasible, a Nationalist Government will create it. In the meantime any projects which improve normal communications between Malta and Gozo will be considered.

A Nationalist Government will centralise as much as possible the Administration of the Government in Gozo.

With greater consultation with the Civic Council the sphere of activity and responsibility of that Council will be defined.

## **21. Maltese Abroad**

Emigration from Malta has diminished considerably, but it is necessary to keep the ties which bind us to our compatriots abroad, to ensure that their rights are everywhere respected and that they receive the best treatment. The Nationalist Government has given support to a housing scheme for Maltese in Australia. We shall take care that special facilities continue to be given to Maltese persons seeking work in Britain. We shall encourage the setting up of a centre for emigrants in Malta.

A Nationalist Government will seek an agreement as a matter of urgency with the Australian Government on the reciprocity of social services.

A Nationalist Government will continue to press for doctors and other professional people emigrating from Malta, as well as skilled workers, to have their degrees and other qualifications recognised in Australian states and in other countries to which they go.



## **22. Foreign Policy and Security**

The Nationalist Party believes that Malta should not be neutral in the battle of ideologies between countries of the West and other nations. This viewpoint remains valid although the world continues to be split into blocks. Therefore a Nationalist Government, while continuing to maintain good relations with all other countries, in particular Mediterranean countries, especially in the commercial sphere, still maintains that Malta's place is on the side of Western ideology. Until now this policy has been reflected through the Defence Treaty and Financial Agreement with Britain and through the facilities which we have given N.A.T.O., as well as by Malta's membership of the Council of Europe and the recent agreement with the countries of the European Economic Community. A Nationalist Government will continue to strengthen the special relationship and friendship with Britain and its other Western Allies in such a way that the associations and real stability in the international field, which our country needs, are assured.

By its activities in the United Nations Organisation, in the Council of Europe, and in the Commonwealth, a Nationalist Government will continue to work actively to promote world peace, built on the free will of the people, on social justice, on respect for the fundamental rights of man and on economic security for all.

## **23. One Social Class**

Under the Nationalist Government the greatest achievement in the social sphere has been the progress of the people towards a one-class society, a middle-class one.

It will be the aim of a Nationalist Government to complete this process and to raise further the standards of this single, middle class.

## **24. Decimalisation**

Malta will decimalise and go metric as other nations have done. To this end a lot of the work required has been done; all necessary help will be given to the people to make this change.

## **25. Civic Councils**

A Nationalist Government will examine what contribution civic committees can make to the administration of the country.

## **26. Fundamental Principles**

Through this manifesto we wish to proclaim the fundamental principles of our Party which are:-

- (a) Our close links with the teachings of the Church;
- (b) Our ties with the Maltese language; with our Latin and European Culture; and with the moral, social and artistic traditions of the Maltese Nation;
- (c) the safeguarding of the democratic system, under a Constitution approved by the people;
- (d) the raising of the moral, intellectual, social and economic standards of all the people.

We commend this manifesto to the electors of Malta and Gozo, a manifesto which is in the interest of the whole Nation. We invite the electors to vote for candidates of the Nationalist Party. A Nationalist victory will bring to Malta more

## PROGRESS IN PEACE

(G.Borg Olivier)  
Leader of the Party

(V.Tabone)  
Secretary General