

D.A.P. ELECTORAL PROGRAMME AND APPEAL TO THE NATION

General Welfare, and a Fight Against Poverty and Communism

Fellow citizens,

With the restoration of Self-Government to these Islands, at a time when post-war problems have still to be solved, it is imperative that you should return to power a Government which will have as its ideal “the greatest good of the greatest number” – a Government whose members will be fully conscious of their civil and moral responsibilities towards the community.

SOUND ECONOMY THE KEY-NOTE

The time is approaching when the electors by their choice at the polls will determine who is to guide the destinies of the Island. The Democratic Action Party stands for moderation and the avoidance of extremes of all sorts, and has in view not only the requirements of the immediate economic and social principles in order that the benefits of Self-Government may accrue to ourselves and be passed on to our children.

THE CONSTITUTION

The Democratic Action Party undertakes to work the Constitution to the greatest possible benefit of the whole population. This, however, does not mean that we consider that the Constitution satisfies all the legitimate aspirations of the people of Malta and Gozo. It will therefore be the duty of the Democratic Action Party to exert all its efforts in order to do away with such clauses or reservations as limit unduly the activities and liberties of the people.

Being fully alive to the difficult circumstances in which not only Malta but the whole world finds itself, we do not intend to make any glittering promises impossible of fulfilment. The D.A.P.’s practical and realistic policy will be to seek the benefit of all classes of the population exerting its best endeavours from the very start to prepare the country by means of the encouragement of new industries to be ready to meet the situation which will arise when the Imperial contribution towards War Damage and Reconstruction will be nearing exhaustion.

The spectre of widespread unemployment after a period of relative prosperity must be avoided by an intelligent directorate, which the D.A.P. will provide.

With this end in view we submit to you, the electors, the following programme:

RELIGION AND THE CROWN

The corner-stones on which all our actions will be based shall be the Roman Catholic Religion and full loyalty

to the British Crown.

RELIGION

The Roman Catholic Religion, which is the faith of very nearly one hundred percent of the population, must be jealously guarded against the exotic and materialistic infiltrations which have done so much harm in other countries.

Even in non-Catholic countries it is generally recognized that the civil authority alone is incapable of checking the wave of crime and materialism which is overrunning so many countries without that spiritual help which alone can give a new orientation to the war demoralized youth.

We pledge the Democratic Action Party to fight all the strength at its disposal the infiltration of Communism within these islands.

THE EMPIRE

Loyalty to the British Crown is a duty to our forefather and our children. Our forefathers joined the Empire of their own free will, an act denoting statesmanship and wisdom on their part. Today, the strength of the Empire through the loyalty of all its component parts to the Crown, is Malta's strength. Malta's prosperity and well-being are dependant on that strength.

At the same time the Democratic Action Party will uphold that there must be respect and observance of all the rights deriving from the compact between Malta and Great Britain.

EDUCATION

In the sphere of education the Democratic Action Party will continue the course already initiated in the field of universal compulsory education. The building of schools will be accelerated with a view to providing the necessary accommodation for the largest possible number of pupils, without interfering with the speedy construction of houses as far as may be possible.

Due emphasis will also be laid on Technical Education in order that Malta may turn an ever increasing number of skilled technicians. At the same time every effort will be made to reduce the number of adult illiterates.

The education given to prospective emigrants will be of the kind most suitable and useful to them on their arrival in the receiving countries. As far as possible, therefore, intending emigrants to a specified country shall be trained in a school satisfying the requirements of that country.

EMIGRATION

The Democratic Action Party shall explore every avenue to increase transportation facilities for intending emigrants.

When shipping is secured the greatest help will at first be afforded to those intending emigrants who can

satisfy the authorities in charge of emigration that their case deserves being given priority. This initial period, its is hoped, will be followed soon after by one of greater activity as the rate of absorption of migrants is increased in the countries of destination.

Wherever possible emigration to English-speaking countries will be encouraged. At the same time due attention is being given to the immense industrial strides made by certain South American countries, primarily the Argentine which have been described by the highest authorities as being equal to those made by the U.S.A after the first world war.

It will therefore be the duty of the Democratic Action Party to tap this source by obtaining the most accurate information available for our emigrants and preparing the way for their favourable reception in the countries selected by them.

THE SENATE

As already submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies this Party favours the institution of the Senate, a principle which was approved by the National Assembly.

The institution of a Senate is logically to be considered more useful in the early stages of Self-Government than after ten or more years having elapsed.

The Democratic Action Party will therefore continue to urge the Secretary of State to repeal the restrictions with regard to the initial ten years.

As already submitted to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the Democratic Action Party is in favour of the existence of a Second Chamber with adequate powers of control over legislation other than that covering financial matters.

FINANCE

The Democratic Action Party cannot but regret the levity with which matters of finance are being treated. The impression is being created that salaries, wages, social services and cost of living are merely a question of sound or unsound legislation on the part of the governing authorities.

If finance depended merely on appropriate legislation there would be no financial difficulties in any country. The encouragement of such or similar views by our opponents must be deplored as tending to bring about a national disaster.

The fact that Malta is a country without natural resources must be faced and the policy of the Democratic Action Party must be shaped in the light of this undeniable fact. This Party therefore, while it does not consider any kind of taxation barred by reason of its nature, holds the view that all taxes necessary to meet the essential needs of the Government and the people whether direct or indirect must be levied on a scientific basis, and not by means of rash and imprudent measures which impoverish the country and pave the way to a future of acute want if not absolute destitution.

The present international financial situation with its inevitable repercussions on Malta has proved beyond doubt that the suspension of Food Subsidies by the Imperial Government was premature, and the Democratic Action Party will endeavour to secure their extension.

The sum arbitrarily fixed as the Imperial Government's liability in respect of War Damage and Reconstruction has also been affected by the upward trend of prices of all articles of primary necessity. Even therefore, had the original allotment been adequate the present circumstances would have imposed the necessity of a revision.

It will therefore be our duty to approach the Secretary of State for the colonies with a view to an equitable solution of this matter, taking into consideration the substantial sums which are being locally spent from the War Damage and Reconstruction Fund in the interest of the Services, saving the British Government the provision of funds for this purpose.

SOCIAL SERVICES

All social services such as Old Age Pensions and Sick Benefit shall be made available either on a contributory basis or otherwise, compatibly with the financial provision of funds for this purpose.

For this purpose the Democratic Action Party will make it its duty to go minutely into all the various heads of expenditure in order to make such economies as may be possible and, in particular, to eliminate such items of expenditure justified only as a war measure, which have been allowed to recur notwithstanding changed conditions.

HOUSING

All possible facilities to expedite the building of houses will be given and all methods leading to this end will be explored. Particular attention will be given to the building of Workmen's dwellings.

In this connexion, however, it is not intended to stop the building of schools, as this would check progress in stamping out illiteracy. Nor would it be considered advisable to stop the building of hotels, as these owing to the shortage of houses, are indispensable to house visitors and tourists who are a source of revenue and employment for the Island. The Democratic Action Party will do its best to develop the tourist industry and means of transport to and from the Island.

The erection of new premises for the Royal University, for a National Theatre for Law Courts and for other public buildings shall be proceeded with as soon as possible as they are part of the necessary life of the community.

WATER AND ELECTRICITY

Both these enterprises are vital to the life of the community and must be conducted on a modern and satisfactory basis with the least possible delay, the necessary capital expenditure being raised by means of a loan.

Water and Electricity, besides being absolutely necessary for the private individual, are also indispensable in connexion with new industries which it is intended to develop.

The Imperial Authorities are heavy consumers of water and it would therefore be to the mutual advantage of both sides of the Diarchy to share the capital expenditure involved. The Democratic Action Party feels

confident that the Imperial Authorities will be prepared to accept this reasonable view.

PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION

A Public Services Commission will be instituted on which the Civil Service Association will be represented.

This is deemed necessary as it is considered impossible to grant to Government employees connected with Services vital to the community the power to settle grievances, real or imaginary, by means of a strike.

It is therefore essential to give all categories of Government Civil Servants the assurance that they will be fully heard before questions affecting their vital interests are definitely decided upon by the Government.

TRADE UNIONS AND ARBITRATION

The legitimate claims of Trade Unions will be fully respected. In fact the Democratic Action Party considers that the necessary machinery for arbitration which does not exist at present should be provided with the least possible delay.

Arbitration must be considered inseparable from Trade Unionism if clashes between different views and interests are to be avoided.

GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY

Farmers will be given the opportunity to purchase Government agricultural property. A sufficient water supply and direct ownership are the best means of improving such lands and increasing production to the benefit of the whole community.

RETURN OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS

The Democratic Action Party will claim the return from the Imperial Authorities of certain open spaces and public buildings occupied by the Services and still retained by them. For this purpose the Democratic Action Party will request that an expert be sent out to Malta to determine the respective rights and claims of the Maltese Government and the Service Authorities as was done in the benefit of the whole community.

DEFENCE REGULATIONS

Laws created on account of war-time exigencies will be revoked at the earliest date possible.

EX-SERVICEMEN

The Democratic Action Party recognizing the services rendered to Malta by ex-servicemen will extend every possible help to them.

NEW LAWS

New laws will be enacted (a) to regulate the employment of women and children in industry; (b) to deal effectively with the increasing wave of juvenile delinquency; (c) to revise the law relative to the conditions of service in the Police force; (d) to expedite as much as possible the settlement of the War Damage claims providing also for compensation of stock in trade.

The Democratic Action Party also intends to enact a law whereby, until the present crisis and shortage of houses and shops is overcome, the rights of owners and tenants will be reconfirmed and reconciled to their mutual benefit:

FELLOW CITIZENS

From the foregoing you will have seen that we do not wish to dazzle you with the mirage of an uninterrupted period of prosperity or of a Socialist Utopia.

Our main concern will be to give you an honest and progressive Government which will bring Malta safely through the difficult post-war period which confronts us. The Democratic Action Party intends to tackle "first things first" in the interest of the community as a whole, and has in its ranks practical men to do their utmost to solve the existing problems.

The Democratic Action Party is against the Nationalization of Industries such as the Nationalization of means of transport, which has brought far richer countries to such sore straits.

The Democratic Action Party believes in private enterprise and the liberty of the individual to improve his or her position without interference from the State, compatibly with the maintenance of the sanctity of family life, and the well-being of the community as a whole.

On behalf of the Democratic Action Party,

J.Hyzler, Chairman

G. Pace, Secretary