

sua~~d~~e the most important potential opponent of the plan to sign a statement accepting the proposals. Bishop Emanuele Gerada is Gonzi's deputy and the man who succeeds him. He has close contacts with the Vatican through Giovanni Benelli, substitute to the Vatican Secretary of State and a key figure in the hierarchy. Gerada had to be won over to the report if it was to succeed. At the meeting, however, it became clear that Gerada was less than enthusiastic, and, in spite of his signature of the agreement, he prevaricated to such an extent that both Gonzi and McKinseys realised he had the power to scupper the report. . . ."

Then, in Court, where both Gerada and Gonzi through their lawyer made it known that their evidence should be heard, the disc ran that as editor I was a Nationalist Party supporter and "hostile" to the Mintoff party. A monk, who was a member of the Editorial Board and of the Board of Directors of "Il-Hajja", on October 23rd declared in Court that he knew me as an independent person; on October 29th he joined forces with two priest-Directors in a front-page affidavit to claim he had always known me as pro-Nationalist and anti-Labour. At the same time, Manwel Dimech has come to be understood as a symbol of the Malta Labour Party and in January 1972 Nationalist Party supporters blackened the bridge plaque with tar in retaliation at a Labour Party demo which tore down a monument to former Nationalist Prime Minister Nerik Mizzi.

Meanwhile the work of a special Commission, announced in mid-October, under the chairmanship of Labour Party veteran Karmnu Zammit, proceeds in earnest collecting funds for the erection of a suitable monument to this man Dimech. In November, a "Henry Frendo Action Committee", under the leadership of *The Financial Times* Malta correspondent Godfrey Grima, climaxed its activities by a protest march in Valletta, with the support of the largest youth club in the island, parading banners such as "Frendo, McKinsey, Dimech", "Sacked for being Independent" and "After Ligutti . . . Frendo".

And, for good measure, in a recent May Day mass meeting, Prime Minister Dom Mintoff inveighed against the clerical "Il-Hajja" administrators calling them ("rats . . . for whom the Labour Party was on the alert."

Malta, May 1972.

Henry Frendo