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MEDICAL SCHOOL
G'MANGIA MALTA

**A HEALTHY PEOPLE
A HAPPY PEOPLE**

FOREWORD

After the Conclusion of the 1973-1980 Development Plan, I cannot but show my satisfaction on seeing the results of the considerable progress achieved in the Health and Environment Sectors in our Country.

As I had the occasion of stating during the World Health Assembly last year, the process of the economic development through which Malta is currently passing has created new problems in the field of Public Health. These problems are those always encountered through the industrialisation. For some of these problems we were already prepared. For others, as in the case of all other countries in a stage of development, we have had to depend on the experience of developed countries which had already passed through the same stage. It was therefore important for us to increase our direct contacts both with foreign countries and with the relevant international organisations.

Since we started our National Health Scheme on 1 April, 1979 with the introduction of free hospitalisation, we have continued to enlarge this Scheme by extending the community care services by nurses and midwives, as well as domiciliary care and treatment, on 1 January 1980. This service to which every Maltese and Gozitan is entitled, is now free to all the population. On 1 May 1980, we introduced a General Practitioner Emergency Service, operating from the Government Polyclinic in Floriana. This service ensures that the public can obtain medical attention at all times, should any emergency occur. Exactly one year after this, we introduced family welfare clinics, staffed by specialists in this field.

In order to further improve our community and district Services, we have recently undertaken a programme of modernization of Government clinics, which so far has already included the opening of a new clinic at Santa Lucia, and the transfer of other clinics to larger and more appropriate premises. We have also opened a new Polyclinic at Paola. This a programme which will continue indefinitely, as together with the expansion and extension of the Services

we provide, we have also to continue increasing the facilities necessary for these Services.

In these last years, my Ministry has given a strong emphasis to hospital modernisation, where not only we have added to the medical facilities available but also provided all the possible comforts both for the patient and for the visitor. One of the largest items of work performed was the erection of the Karin Grech Children's Hospital, which was inaugurated in November 1979. I can also mention the considerable extension to the Out-patients Department at St Luke's Hospital, and, in the same hospital, the erection of a new Maternity Unit containing around a hundred and seventy beds. This Unit can be termed a self-contained Women's hospital, fully equipped with all necessities, and together with the Karin Grech Hospital, forms a modern Mother-and-Child Complex. The number of projects we have realised in the hospitals of Malta and Gozo is so large that I would need volumes to describe them all.

I must not omit to mention the importance we have attached to the elderly, as we pledged, both in the provision of hospital and community services, and in the opening of the Haż-Żmien complex at Mtarfa in July, 1979. This complex is the first of a series of similar ones which are already planned for the future implementation.

In the field of the Environment, which is extremely vast and intimately related to that of Health, we have introduced legal and administrative measures to control air and sea pollution, to protect both workers and the general public from the various hazards arising out of such pollution. In order to continue improving our Public Cleansing Services we are purchasing a number of modern refuse compression and other vehicles to cope with the ever-increasing demand. We have also established Malta's first Nature Reserve at Għadira, and since 1 January this year, we have started to assume responsibility for the maintenance and embellishment of various localities in Malta.

Because of our small size, there will always remain a number of specialised matters which will require recourse to overseas countries. By means of the Agreements we have signed, and through other contacts, we have provided new opportunities through which local patients can obtain specialised treatment in overseas hospitals and clinics whenever necessary.

We have done a lot to constantly improve the Health of our population, and we shall continue to honour the pledge of the Socialist Government to keep the Maltese population healthy so that it can continue to give its contribution to the good of our country.

V. MORAN
Minister of Health and Environment

Introduction

The population of Malta and Gozo enjoys a system of Health Services which provides for each individual throughout his life. The primary scope has always been, and remains, that of continually improving the state of health of our people, not only because it is every individual's wish to be always healthy, but also because in the country in general, a healthy people means a happy and productive population.

The fact that these Health Services are given free of charge to whoever requires them but cannot afford them already places Malta among the very forefront in the world in the field of Social Services, and in advance of a large number of other countries in a state of development. Apart from this, the National Health Scheme which the Maltese Socialist Government has been gradually introducing over the last two years is placing these Services, which are continually being extended and expanded, at the disposal of the whole of the population of our country, free of charge to all, irrespective of individual means.

Aims and Objectives

The plans of the Socialist administration for the development of the Health Services have the following objectives;

- (a) comprehensive development of community care, which will not only remedy past deficiencies, but will also extend these Services in amount and quality.
- (b) a hospital modernization programme comprising both an increase in the number of beds and the updating of basic and medical services through the alteration of old systems and the introduction of modern ones. Thus, hospital overcrowding will be avoided, and both medical care and the patient's general environment will be raised to the highest possible levels.
- (c) the introduction of a new concept in the care of the elderly and the handicapped, with the aim of providing them with the most efficient facilities whatever the individual's particular circumstances, and wherever possible, the provision of the

necessary services to enable them to live a normal life within the community.

The 7-year Development Plan (1973-1980) was geared to meet these objectives, following comprehensive study. In the 5-year Development Plan (1981-1985) which the Ministry of Health is preparing, emphasis will be given to the consolidation of those services which have already been placed on a sound basis, and on the expansion of modern services, mainly in the community and in the field of care of the elderly, so as to extend regional and district services as far as possible.

Hospital Modernization

A comprehensive programme of updating and modernization was commenced in all Government Hospitals in 1973 and is still ongoing. In general, apart from the purchase of modern equipment for investigation and treatment of disease, basic services, such as electricity, hot water, heating etc., have been altered or completely renewed. Patients' diets have been considerably improved, not only through the installation of new kitchens in hospitals, but also through the introduction of heated trolleys to ensure that the food remains warm up to the time it reaches the wards. The wards themselves have been re-constructed and reorganised to enable patients to have the space necessary not only for treatment, but also for better environmental conditions. The facilities available for hospital staff have also been improved so as to enable employees to work under the best possible conditions.

St Luke's Hospital

St Luke's hospital is Malta's acute general hospital and also serves as a teaching hospital for doctors, nurses and other para-medical staff. The following main works have been performed on this hospital:

- (a) A new Emergency and Admitting Department was established, providing facilities for accidental injuries, as well as serving as the basis for admission of patients, who are then referred to the various wards as appropriate. This Depart-

ment also includes a short-stay ward for the benefit of those patients requiring only brief duration, and has been equipped with all the necessary facilities for treatment and investigations of all types of emergency cases, including an operating theatre.

- (b) A physiotherapy Department was erected. This is used by patients suffering from fractures and requiring special treatment, patients requiring long periods in bed, and patients suffering from burns. This Department has several types of equipment for treatment, including a hydrotherapy pool and a gymnasium.
- (c) The hospital pharmacy was centralized in a new building and equipped with the best facilities to satisfy public requirements.
- (d) The Department of Pathology was enlarged and modernized through the establishment of a new laboratory complex for the necessary investigations on patients. This complex includes a chemistry section, where examination of body products is carried out, a Haematology section, for analysis of blood and cerebrospinal fluid, a microbiology section, for identification of bacteria, parasites, and other agents causing disease, Histopathology, for examination of body tissues, and Transfusion. This laboratory services the in-patient population, and also provides a service for out-patients. In the main laboratories, work is performed on a 24-hour basis.
- (e) An Intensive Therapy Unit, comprising 10 beds, was set up, for patients whose condition requires constant and intensive care. Here, the patient's condition is regularly and continuously monitored throughout his treatment by means of modern instrumentation. The equipment used in this ward is on a par with the best in Europe, and prior to its opening, Departmental nurses receive special training in the United Kingdom in the operation of such equipment.
- (f) A new Operating Theatre Complex was set up, comprising four main theatres, a recovery room and a sterilizing room. The whole complex is equipped with a special air-conditioning system designed to keep the rooms sterile and germ-free, apart from being provided with the most modern medical equipment.

- (g) An Immediate Communication (Bleep) System was introduced, enabling constant contact with specialists and doctors whenever required.
- (h) The X-Ray Department was enlarged, enabling specialized examinations, such as renal and other arteries, breast, and veins, to be carried out in addition to routine examinations such as heart and lungs, kidneys, stomach and intestines. This Department is to-day providing an efficient and immediate service to both in-patients and out-patients, and operates an emergency service on a 24-hour basis, including Saturdays and Sundays. The Department also provides a Service to the Gozo hospital both in interpretation of X-rays taken in Gozo itself, and through regular visits to Gozo by Departmental Radiologists.
- (i) The ambulance services, operating from St Luke's Hospital, was re-organized both by purchase of new vessels and through donations from various countries.
- (j) The out-patients' department was re-organized and enlarged to enable it to cope more efficiently with the large number of patients who do not require admission into hospital wards. Among the arrangements made within this Department, two clinics, one for Orthopaedics, and the other for fractures, were opened. Apart from the acquisition of medical equipment, provision was also made for the patients to enjoy better waiting facilities while visiting for appointments.
- (k) A Coronary Care Unit was established. This new Department for the treatment of heart diseases is equipped with the most modern instrumentation enabling constant surveillance of patients. The Department provides facilities for the treatment of a range of heart diseases.
- (l) Various wards in the hospital were comprehensively modernized, beds were arranged in the most modern and convenient way to provide more space both for treatment and for better environmental conditions. In every ward, ablution facilities were expanded.
- (m) A number of works of general nature were also carried out. These included the erection of a boiler-house, the installation

of a new telephone system, the establishment of a Medical Records Centre, the erection of a new and modern kitchen, the establishment of a new department for blood donations, as well as replacement of several items of machinery.

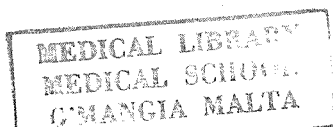
Karin Grech Hospital

This modern hospital was erected within the general complex of St Luke's Hospital, and while being self-contained with respect to treatment of sick children, makes use of the basic services already existing in St Luke's Hospital itself, to avoid duplication. Karin Grech Hospital has 165 beds for children and 22 cots, contained within modern wards, and is equipped with the bed apparatus and facilities both from the medical aspect and from the environmental one, the latter being accorded importance owing to the fact that patients are still in their formative years. This hospital, which cost more than two million Malta pounds, is considered to be among the best children's hospital in Europe, and includes a section for babies requiring special care, as well as modern operating theatres. The design also includes adequate recreational space, and ample space, for parents and other visitors.

The Maternity Unit

This hospital, which is housed in a new building, is located close by the Karin Grech Hospital, together with which it forms a mother-and-child complex. The Unit, while making use of general services within St Luke's Hospital itself, such as laboratories, X-ray facilities, etc., is self-contained from those aspects concerning obstetrics and gynaecology. Among its sections are ante-natal, labour and post-natal wards, as well as a modern nursery for babies. Apart from the gynaecology wards, there are rooms for infectious diseases, and an operating theatre for appropriate operations.

The same building houses the Central Sterile Supplies Department, where sterilization of instruments and operating theatre supplies is effected. This is a new Department which will start to provide for the requirements not only of the mother-and-child complex, but also for those of all hospitals in Malta and Gozo.



Has-Serh

This hospital, which was once dreaded by our elderly people, was formerly known as Mgieret, its name then being changed to St Vincent de Paule Hospital. It has now been modernized and converted into a decent hospital for our elderly, under the new name of Has-Serh. A considerable number of works were performed in this hospital, including the following:

- (a) the Wards, which were previously large, dark and cold, with beds containing straw mattresses, and corridors open to the elements, have been modernized, and reduced in size for more comfort and privacy, and equipped with central heating. This entailed the erection of a modern boiler house by the Socialist Government, for the provision of heating and hot water to the whole hospital.
- (b) The present Government also provided for the handicapped children residing in this hospital by establishing a Juvenile ward, thus centralizing all handicapped children and removing them from the various wards they had previously shared with elderly patients. A special school was also erected within the grounds of the same hospital. In this school, the children receive appropriate education which in no way cuts them off from the rest of the society.
- (c) the old, coal-operated kitchen, which was still present in the early 1970's was replaced by a new modern one, revelling those in Malta's major hotels.
- (d) an occupational therapy service was started. By means of this, the elderly people at Has-Serh are given therapeutic exercises to keep them mentally and physically in a good state of health. This includes embroidery, lace-making, painting, sculpturing, needlework, weaving, carpentry, etc.
- (e) another new service established at Has-Serh has been the Dental clinic. This makes dental treatment and care available to the elderly patients in the same hospital, and has removed the need to take these patients all the way to St Luke's Hospital, with all the inconvenience involved, for such treatment.
- (f) St Bartholomew's Hospital, which was once reserved for leprosy patients, and is located within the general complex of

Has-Serĥ, was also modernized. Named after one of Malta's main writers, Ruzar Briffa, this hospital now offers more space within the complex for elderly citizens.

- (g) the Physiotherapy service was also introduced into Has-Serĥ by the Socialist Government. This service has recently been expanded from twice weekly to daily which was made possible by the location of a permanent physiotherapist at the hospital.
- (h) in order to enable the elderly people in this hospital to remain in an environment similar to that of their homes, a Sports and Social Centre was established, providing for a large number of variety of recreational activities, which includes the participation of elderly people from outside the hospital together with those resident at Has-Serĥ.

Haz-Żmien

The residential centre of Haz-Żmien at Mtarfa provides all the facilities for those elderly people, who, while not requiring hospital care, have no one to look after them, and therefore are not able to live independently. The Centre consists of three buildings, one for males, one for females and one for couples. These are furnished with bedrooms, sitting-rooms, bathrooms and dining-rooms. There is also a large hall, a chapel, and a modern laundry. The location of the Centre at Mtarfa also provides for an appropriate restful environment.

The treatment of mental diseases

The Socialist Government is doing everything possible to remove the stigma existing with regard to mental diseases, and to-day in Malta, as in all advanced countries, patients are no longer afraid of hospitalization, as they know that, following appropriate treatment, they are able to return to a normal life within their families and in society within the shortest possible time. Great progress has been effected in this field, not only from the technical viewpoint, but also from the conceptual one. Since October 1972, a radical change in the admission and release of "informal" patients (i.e. those patients entering hospital of their own free will, as

distinct from those admitted through certification by doctors or as a result of a Court order) was effected. Through this change, any patient being admitted to hospital of his own free will can be released whenever he so desires, only provided he gives 24 hours notice. As a result, the number of "informal" patients has tripled over the last eight years.

Apart from hospital care, the following works were also carried out:

- (a) "Half-way houses" — Special houses for those patients who, while not fit for assuming a normal life in society, do not require hospital treatment were established. These houses also serve as rehabilitation centres for those patients who are not in a condition to move straight from hospital to a normal life, and provide conditions for acceleration of the final treatment.
- (b) Electro-convulsive therapy was extended to the out-patients clinic at St Luke's Hospital, so that patients outside Mount Carmel Hospital would not have to go there for such treatment.
- (c) Part of the Government School at St Paul's Bay was converted into a holiday house for mental patients, and equipped with a sea-water swimming pool.

Mount Carmel Hospital

Among the several items of works performed at Mount Carmel Hospital, the following stand out:

- (a) A comprehensive programme of modernization of wards and sections of the hospital was carried out. A number of these were completely re-modelled, requiring extensive structural alterations. As a result, thirty-bed dormitories were converted into wards of three, four, or six beds. Apart from this, wards were equipped with all modern conveniences, including bathrooms, air conditioning, heating and emergency lighting.
- (b) A modern kitchen, providing better facilities for patients' food was installed.

- (c) A central laundry was erected. This completely altered the old washing system into a modern mechanized one. This laundry is providing for the needs, with regard to washing and drying of clothing and linens, of all the hospitals in Malta.
- (d) Lifts were installed for the convenience of patients, and to facilitate movement of apparatus and equipment.
- (e) A new boiler-house was erected. This now provides a hot water facility to all the hospital wards, as well as to the laundry, kitchen and other services.
- (f) The staff quarters were expanded and modernized. A new building, with all necessary facilities, was specially erected for female staff.
- (g) A maximum security ward was established. This ward, housing those patients admitted into the hospital by Court order, who have to spend long periods under rigorous custody and surveillance has all the necessary facilities not only for adequate security, but also to enable the provision of modern comforts concomitant with an appropriate environment designed to accelerate recovery.
- (h) A Lithium Carbonate Clinic, providing cure for certain mental diseases. was also opened. This treatment allows the patient to attend on an out-patient basis, rather than have to be admitted into the hospital.
- (i) Occupational Therapy was established, consisting of mental and physical activities designed to hasten the process of cure and rehabilitation, This treatment is now being performed on a professional basis and three sections have been developed — all equipped with modern facilities for various trades and occupations.
- (j) A playground for sick children was opened. This has all the recreational facilities found in other playgrounds in the towns and villages of Malta.
- (k) Comprehensive additions were made to sports and social activities for the mentally ill. These activities form an integral part of the patient's treatment, and apart from providing recreation, help considerably as a means of preparation for re-entry into normal society. The facilities include a Social

Centre equipped with all recreational requirements, as well as arrangements for the conveyance of patients to public cultural, recreational and sporting activities.

Boffa Hospital

Boffa Hospital can be considered as a new hospital since its opening for use by the whole of the Maltese population. This hospital is being utilized for various purposes.

- (a) Part of the hospital has been modernized, and is used for convalescent patients referred from St Luke's Hospital.
- (b) Another part has been converted into a special section for infectious diseases, and by these means, the old isolation hospital, known as 'Lazzaretto Hospital' in Gzira, could be closed down.
- (c) A Radiotherapy Department was established and equipped with all the necessary apparatus. This has now made it possible for the majority of cases of malignant tumors, which previously required treatment overseas, to be treated in Malta.

Apart from this, the hospital was generally modernized, the works including provision of basic services through replacements and alterations of the electricity, heating and hot water system, which also entailed the installation of new boilers.

Craig Hospital

Craig Hospital, in Gozo, was opened in 1973 and provided this island with its first modern hospital, equipped with all necessary modern facilities. This hospital has two sections, one functioning as an acute general hospital, the other as a geriatric hospital.

Community Care Services

The development of Community Care Services is being accorded considerable importance within the overall framework of the Health Services in Malta. The objective is to provide the patient who does not require hospitalization with all the necessary facilities for treatment within his own environment.

The Government Community Care Services, which were initiated in 1975, include treatment and care on a domiciliary basis, by specially-trained nurses, according to doctors' prescription, ante-natal and post-natal domiciliary visits, as well as deliveries in the home itself, by registered midwives, treatment for Diabetes, and distribution of drugs.

The Community Care Services are operated from clinics and dispensaries. Polyclinics have been opened at Floriana, Paola and Mosta. These are playing a regional role, and to-day include facilities for a wide range of treatments. The programme of establishment of new clinics is continuing, and apart from this, a number of clinics and dispensaries have been comprehensively modernized. New dispensaries have also been opened in those localities not previously served.

At the Floriana Polyclinic, a new service has been started with the objective of establishing whether or not handicapped children owe their condition to hereditary factors. Advice is given to parents on the possibility of any other children they may have in future having the same handicaps. This service is being extended to other polyclinics.

Since May 1981, Family Welfare clinics have been established with the objectives of providing family planning services, including a medical service whereby certain diseases to which women are particularly susceptible can be diagnosed in their initial stages and appropriate treatment prescribed. Advice is also given on family relationships, and treatment of sick children, as well as advice on child health. This new service operates from Government polyclinics.

Dental Services

Dental care is a service available to the whole population operated by the Department of Dentistry, based at St Luke's Hospital, and at Craig Hospital, Gozo. Personnel in this Department are also responsible for the necessary care and treatment required in all other hospitals in Malta as well as in the Civil Prisons.

The School Dental Services cover children under 16 years of age attending Government Primary Schools.

Dental clinics are equipped with the most modern facilities, and the service is free. In May 1980, a new clinic for schools was opened at the Government Community Health Centre at Floriana. This clinic has also been equipped with modern apparatus and facilities so that children in Government Schools can receive full dental care and treatment.

Preventive Health Services

These services are of equivalent importance to curative services, as their main objective is to prevent or minimize disease. They form part of the Public Health Services.

The Services comprise:

- (a) a free vaccination service for children.
- (b) control of food products, both of local origin and imported.
- (c) adequate surveillance of passengers entering Malta.
- (d) personal services, including ante-natal services, child health and children's medical services.
- (e) Occupational health services, protecting the worker according to his particular type of occupation.

In a large number of these services, the role of the Health Inspectorate is an important one, because the Health Inspector is in constant contact with the public to ensure that no inconvenience or other matter which can affect human health is allowed to occur.

This service is continually being updated to enable it to cope with public problems, which are always on the increase as national development advances.

The National Health Scheme

The National Health Scheme entered into its first phase on 1 April 1979 with the introduction of free treatment and care in Government hospitals for all the population. On 1 January 1980, the Community Care nursery and domiciliary care services were also extended to the whole population on a free basis. The third phase started operating on 1 May 1980 with the introduction of a general practitioner emergency service covering evenings, nights, and the whole of the weekend period. This service is also available to the whole population without payment.

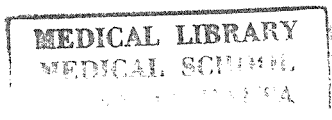
The new services Government is introducing both in hospitals and in the community are all an integral part of the National Health Scheme, the scope of which is continually increasing.

Other Medical Services

In 1980 a comprehensive programme on Diabetes was set up under the overall co-ordination of the World Health Organization. Belgium, Yugoslavia and the International Diabetes Federation, as well as a number of experts of international standing, are participating in this programme. In January 1981, a survey was commenced with the aim of obtaining a better assessment of the prevalence of the disease in Malta and Gozo, the factors causing it, and the means necessary for its prevention and control. The further phases of the programme are now continuing, and the whole programme will go on until a satisfactory method of control of the disease, which is extremely common in Malta, is found.

Diabetes in Malta

Diabetes, which to-day has assumed great importance in the Health Sector in Malta, has been known to occur in the country for the last two hundred and seventy (270) years, and is probably still older. This was started by



Dr Paul Cassar in a lecture on the occurrence and history of Diabetes in Malta, delivered at the Medical School on 15 May 1980. He described how Maltese doctors started to pay greater attention to this disease during the last century, particularly in 1826, when the then Professor of Medicine at the University of Malta used to deliver lectures and give practical demonstrations to students on the subject.

According to Dr Cassar, Maltese doctors employed the methods recommended by noted English, Italian and French doctors in the treatment of Diabetes, and used to keep patients on a strict diet, generally free of sugar and excess carbohydrates, and also emphasize the need for exercise, mainly walking, for control of the disease.

The first Diabetes clinic was opened at St Luke's Hospital in 1963 and the first studies at national level, aimed at acquiring information on the prevalence of the disease in Malta, were carried out in 1964-65.

In 1973, the Minister of Health of that time appealed to the World Health Organization to provide assistance towards studies on the status of Diabetes in Malta. The answer to this appeal commenced to materialize in August 1980, when the Diabetes programme in Malta, which is still ongoing, was established.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Government of Malta has signed Reciprocal Health Care Agreements with various countries, which up to now include the United Kingdom, Yugoslavia, Belgium, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Greece and Italy. Similar agreements with other countries are in advanced stage of preparation. These agreements provide for:

- (a) treatment of Maltese patients in specialised hospitals abroad, where such treatment cannot be performed in Malta;

- (b) the provision of overseas specialists;
- (c) exchange of specialists, doctors and medical information;
- (d) training of Maltese doctors, nurses and technicians in various fields of specialization;
- (e) the provision of professors and lecturers to Malta's Medical School.

Apart from this, the Government of Malta has also obtained assistance in the medical field through donations of specialized apparatus, equipment and vehicles from various countries, including Libya, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Iraq. This assistance was realized following personal visits by the Minister of Health and Environment to these countries.

Training Courses

Up to 1971, the Department of Health used to organise training courses in paramedical fields for Supervisory Nurses, Enrolled Nurses, Midwives and Health Inspectors. All other training used to be held abroad.

To-day, apart from existing courses, which have been continually updated, the Ministry is organizing a number of new courses, among which are courses in Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Radiography, Medical Laboratory Technology, Pharmacy Technology, Dental Hygiene, and First-line management for Supervisory Nurses. All these courses are organised and conducted on internationally-recognized standards. Because of the availability of such courses, a large number of Maltese Students have the opportunity of following their training — courses here in Malta, within their own environment, instead of having to proceed abroad. Apart from this, expenditure incurred in financing overseas training has been considerably reduced.

Environment

In 1971, Government allocated responsibility for environmental matters to the Minister who was most appropriate from time

to time. In 1976, the Ministry of Health was formally changed into the Ministry of Health and Environment.

Apart from co-ordinating those specialized environmental activities which form an integral part of the work of other Ministries, and for this reason have remained within the executive responsibility of such Ministries. The Ministry of Health and Environment staff gives considerable emphasis, as part of its own functions, to those aspects of environmental protection which directly or indirectly affect human health.

One of the primary sectors in Public Cleansing, where the work involved has increased considerably over the past few years on account of the ever-increasing number of houses, villas, hotels, industries, and other establishments. In this sector, work performed included the following:

- (a) The number of refuse collection vehicles was increased, and old vehicles were replaced by more modern and appropriate types.
- (b) A service for the collection of bulky refuse from households, on individual request, was introduced.
- (c) The street cleansing programme, as well as that involving other public areas, was expanded.
- (d) An inter-departmental programme of co-operation was initiated, to allocate responsibilities at executive level on a more rational basis.
- (e) A continuous campaign for improved public cleanliness at national level was introduced. The Ministry also contributed materially through the provision of a large number of refuse containers in various areas of Malta and Gozo to facilitate public co-operation in this important sphere.

In the pollution control sector, the import, sale and use of agricultural and household pesticides were placed under legislative control, to avoid hazards to the operator, consumer and the natural environment. A marine pollution control programme, including

analysis and monitoring, was established, to ensure that fish and other marine products presented to health hazards to the consumer. Monitoring of sea water itself, especially in recreational areas, was extended, to ensure that any dangers or health hazards arising from bathing would be avoided.

The problem of oil pollution at sea was comprehensively studied and methods of control of this type of pollution updated. The Ministry maintains continuous liaison with the Armed Forces of Malta, who are charged with executive responsibility for actual control of oil pollution at sea, by providing constant advice on updated control methods. Apart from this, a national contingency plan was also developed, to enable immediate action to be taken in the event of any accident involving pollution of national waters by oil. As a result of the Maltese Government's initiative, the Regional Oil-Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea was established at Manoel Island, in Malta, in December 1976.

In the sphere of pollution control, the Government of Malta has succeeded in obtaining comprehensive assistance from the United Nations in the form of experts, apparatus and equipment, training of local personnel in overseas institutions, as a result of which Malta's national programme has been considerably strengthened.

In the field of protection of the natural environment, the Government of Malta succeeded in obtaining financial assistance from the World Wildlife Fund for the establishment of Malta's first nature reserve, the Għadira Wetland Area.

A number of educational programmes were also organized from time to time for University Students, Government Teachers, Government employees, and officials from parastatal institutions, in various aspects of the environment and its management. Financial assistance was also obtained from UNESCO towards the preparation of a manual on environmental studies for use by school-teachers in Malta. Assistance was also obtained from UNESCO for a special study to be conducted on the environmental problem of Gozo.

With respect to environmental embellishment, the Ministry progressively commenced to take over responsibility for the maintenance and enhancement of a number of roads in Malta since 1 January 1981, and the local environment is being embellished through the planting of large numbers of ornamental trees and shrubs.

In the international sphere, Malta has taken an active part in environmental programmes, especially in those concerning the Mediterranean. The initiative of the Government of Malta since 1972 contributed significantly towards the formulation and development of the UNEP-sponsored Mediterranean Action Plan, which was adopted in 1975. This initiative and action led to the recognition of Malta and of Maltese experts, in the environmental field, especially where Europe and the Mediterranean region is involved.

Sir Temi Zammit's Laboratory

Among the historico-cultural activities of the Department of Health in 1980, pride of place goes to the restoration of the old Public Health Laboratory, in which Sir Temi Zammit, M.D. and his colleagues of the Commission on Mediterranean fever worked from 1904 to 1907. This restoration was effected by Dr Paul Cassar on his own request to the Minister of Health — a request which the Minister immediately accepted, and provided his full help and co-operation, together with that of the staff of the Ministry, towards the realization of this project.

The opening was effected on 25 June 1980 by the Minister of Health Dr V. Moran. This date was selected to commemorate the discovery of the micro-organism responsible for Brucellosis (also known as Mediterranean Fever or Undulant Fever) in goat blood, by Sir Temi Zammit on 25 June 1905.

As a result of Sir Temi Zammit's discovery, Undulant Fever is to-day controlled not only in Malta, but all over the world through pasteurization of milk. In Malta pasteurization of goat's milk was first started in 1938.

This laboratory, which has been abandoned and forgotten, is now open to the public. It contains furniture, instruments, books, photographs and documents connected with the work of Sir Temi Zammit and his colleagues, during their research on the causative agent of Brucellosis.

As Dr Paul Cassar observed, the historical importance of this laboratory is unique, because other places in Malta which 75 years ago were connected with the same research, do not exist to-day. These were the rooms in Station Hospital in Valletta (the old "Sacra Infermeria") where Colonel Sir David Bruce discovered the bacterium responsible for Brucellosis in the pancreas of man in 1887, and the rooms in the Lazzaretto hospital where Sir Temi Zammit used to keep, and carry out experiments on, the goats in which he discovered the same bacterium in 1905.

This laboratory forms a precious part of our national heritage in the field of medicine and the history of our country and, as the Minister of Health stated, should be "an inspiration to the bulk of future generations of Maltese doctors". It remains as a memory of Sir Temi Zammit, who worked throughout his whole life for the good, not only of the Maltese people, but of all mankind. (Reference: *Sir Temi Zammit's Laboratory*. Published by the Department of Health and Environment, Malta, 1980).

CAPTIONS (in sequential order of photos)

1. "We also have free hospitals which are among the most efficient in Europe. In the matter of free hospitalization, we are in the forefront, and we pledge to do everything to bring the best specialists in the world to Malta, so that the need to go abroad for medical treatment will continue to decrease. We have started this, and we are fully confident of continuing it and strengthening it" — **DOM MINTOFF**, Prime Minister (Marsa, 30.4.80).
2. Minister Dr Vincent Moran.
3. A service which gives credit to the Socialist Government.
4. One of the Community care services.
5. A bird's eye view of the St Luke's Hospital complex.
6. The emergency and admitting department.
7. The Physiotherapy Department, which is attended by patients in Government hospitals, as well as out-patients who require this form of treatment.
8. One of the new Physiotherapists treating a patient.
9. The warm-water hydrotherapy pool. This pool provides for a number of exercises which were not possible previously.
10. The Pathology Department has been expanded and modernised.
11. The pharmacy, which has been centralized in a modern building, affording greater convenience to the public.
12. The Intensive Therapy Unit, in which the lives of countless patients were saved.
13. The Central Console in the Intensive Therapy Unit, where special monitors enable simultaneous surveillance over the condition of ten patients in the ward.
14. The operating Theatre complex, which was enlarged and modernized to provide a better public service.
15. A minor operation being performed in one of the operating theatres in the Karin Grech Hospital.
16. Some of the vehicles of the Ambulance service.

17. A view of one of the modern out-patients' clinics, which replaced those which were antiquated and lacking several of the requirements of modern medical treatment.
18. The out-patients' waiting area, which was given a completely new look, so that patients could wait in comfort and in a pleasant environment.
19. A general view of the Coronary Care Unit. This new ward has 19 beds, 7 of which are equipped with monitors linked to the central console in the Nurses' Station.
20. The central monitoring console in the Coronary Care Unit.
21. One of the beds, complete with monitor, in the Coronary Care Unit.
22. The Staff of this Unit received special training to enable them to give the best treatment to the patients.
23. One of the 'old' wards in St Luke's Hospital. These wards have now been reduced in size by means of aluminium partitions, both to improve the general appearance and to afford more privacy.
24. One of the modern wards in the Ophthalmology Department, now housed in the Karin Grech Hospital.
25. The modern reception area of the wards at St Luke's Hospital.
26. A new bedroom, providing both comfort and privacy to the patient.
27. One of the dining rooms at St Luke's Hospital, resembling a hotel dining room rather than one normally expected in a hospital.
28. Children in Karin Grech Hospital under the continuous attention of a nurse.
29. Karin Grech — the girl who innocently lost her life through a letter-bomb — after whom the children's hospital was named.
30. His Excellency the President of the Republic, Dr A. Buttigieg, together with Minister and Mrs Moran, during the opening ceremony at Karin Grech Hospital.
31. Some of the distinguished personalities who were present at the opening of the hospital.
32. The play-room where children in Karin Grech Hospital spend a large amount of their time.
33. The Entrance Hall to the children's hospital, decorated by drawings of characters from popular children's tales.

34. The Special Care Paediatric Unit in Karin Grech Hospital.
35. One of the operating theatres in the complex formed by Karin Grech Hospital and the maternity unit.
36. On the initiative of the Minister of Health and Environment and Mrs Moran, the walls of this complex were decorated with scenes from popular fairy tales to provide a better and more pleasant atmosphere.
The artistic work was performed by Mr and Mrs George Apap, and Messrs Carmel Cilia, Tony Degiovanni, Carmel Micallef, Joseph Micallef and Anthony Pace..
37. The mother-and-child complex at St Luke's Hospital.
38. The modern reception area which has a communication system linked to each bed.
39. A two-bedded ward in the Ante-Natal Unit.
40. A woman approaching delivery-time in one of the labour wards, which are equipped with foetal monitors.
41. The dining room and reception room, with which each floor of the complex is equipped.
42. The modern nursery in which newly-born babies are kept.
43. A front view of what once was Mgieret and now Has-Serh.
44. One of the old halls, lacking every comfort, which existed in this hospital.
45. The bedrooms as they formerly existed in St Vincent de Paule Hospital.
46. Bedrooms as they are to-day at Has-Serh.
47. The male section, which has now been modernised to enable elderly citizens to enjoy the best possible comforts.
48. The old boiler house at Mgieret.
49. The modern boiler house at Has-Serh.
50. The modern kitchen, rivalling those found in the best hotels in Malta.
51. Minister Moran addressing residents at Has-Serh during a programme organized on the occasion of the opening of the sports and recreational Centre.

52. Minister Moran talking to each patient individually to ensure that all their requirements are met.
53. The residential Centre for the elderly at Haż-Żmien.
54. Elderly citizens talking to Minister Moran during the official opening of the Centre at Haż-Żmien on 19 July 1979.
55. One of two-bedded rooms used by residents at the Centre.
56. One of the sitting-rooms where residents meet their relatives or spend their time chatting.
57. A single bedroom in the Centre. These rooms also have a connecting bathroom.
58. The small chapel for religious services at Haż-Żmien.
59. Minister Moran unveiling a commemorative plaque on the occasion of the official opening of Haż-Żmien. Also in the photograph are Mrs Moran and Minister F. Micallef.
60. A general view of the Ellul Mercer Hall in the Mediterranean Conference Centre, where a regional meeting on the elderly was held.
61. Minister Moran delivering the opening address at the regional meeting on the elderly. Also appearing are Mr Evner Ergun, Chairman of the meeting, Dr Alfred Grech, Chief Government Medical Officer and Dr A. Depares, Principal Medical Officer.
62. The half-way houses at Mount Carmel Hospital.
63. An aerial view of Mount Carmel Hospital.
64. Wards which were modernized by the Socialist Government during the last ten years.
65. One of the old wards, which were totally incompatible with modern medical care, and which were hardly fit for housing livestock.
66. The old kitchen which existed in Mount Carmel Hospital up to the 1970s, which operated by coal and firewood.
67. The modern kitchen replacing the old one in Mount Carmel Hospital.
68. Up to 1971, washing was performed by hand. This used to cause considerable hardship to staff and was very time-consuming.

69. Wringing was also done by hand, and clothing and linen had to be painstakingly hung up to dry.
70. (2) The stone on which scrubbing and wringing used to be performed.
71. (1) An interior view of the old Laundry, reminiscent of the days of Charles Dickens.
72. The modern Central Laundry erected by the Socialist Government in 1972
73. Wringing and drying in the new laundry at Mount Carmel Hospital.
74. One of the halls in the Social Centre, where patients at Mount Carmel Hospital spend their time.
75. "Speranza Hall" in the Occupational Therapy Section, where exercises and teaching help the patient in his treatment.
76. Sir Paul Boffa Hospital, which was previously only for foreigners.
77. The cobalt unit in the Radiotherapy Department at Boffa Hospital.
78. Minister Dr V. Moran with Mr Frantisek Zurek, Czechoslovak Minister of Commerce, during a visit to Craig Hospital.
79. Minister and Mrs Moran, with Dr Rapa, Superintendent of Chambrai Hospital, and Mr Cefai, Secretary for Gozo, during a visit to the hospital.
80. One of the midwives of the Community Care Service shows a mother how to wash and dress her baby.
81. The Floriana Polyclinic, which also provides the base for the emergency General Practitioner Service.
82. Minister Moran during the official opening of the Polyclinic at Paola.
83. Some of the personalities present during the opening of the Paola Polyclinic on 21 February, 1981. With Minister Moran are Mrs Moran, and Dr A. Depares, Principal Medical Officer.
84. One of the modern clinics now present in several towns and villages.
85. Minister Moran announces the opening of family welfare clinics during a talk to a women's association.
86. The dental clinic, which was expanded to cope with public demand.
87. Some of the foreign experts who came to Malta to help in the Diabetes Survey.

88. The Minister of Health of Greece, Dr S. Doxiades, together with Dr V. Moran, Maltese Minister of Health and Environment, signing the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement between the two countries. Also appearing are the Chief Government Medical Officer, Dr A. Grech, and Mr Tony Debono, Private Secretary to the Minister.
89. The Maltese Minister of Health together with Dr Luc Dhoore, Belgian Minister of Health and Social Security, and Dr Josef Faber of the World Medical Association, during a meeting at the Ministry of Health in Belgium.
90. The signing of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement by Dr V. Moran, Maltese Minister of Health and Environment and Mrs Mila Djordic, Yugoslav Deputy Minister of Health.
91. With Dr Luc Dhoore, Belgian Minister of Health and Social Security.
92. Co-operation in the medical field between Iraq and Malta was discussed in February 1980. Dr Riyadh Ibrahim Husain, Iraqi Minister of Health, during the discussions with Minister Moran. Also appearing are Mr Tony Debono, Private Secretary to the Minister and Mr J. Buttigieg, Assistant Head in the Department of Health.
93. With Professor S. Halter, Secretary-General at the Belgian Ministry for Public Health and Family Planning.
94. With H.E. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates.
95. With H.E. Prince Fahd, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.
96. Professor Prokopec, Minister of Health of Czechoslovakia with Dr V. Moran, Minister of Health of Malta during the ratification of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement between the two countries.
97. The representative of the Polish Minister of Health, Dr Zdzislaw Mamos, together with the Chief Government Medical Officer, Dr Alfred Grech, during the ratification of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement between the two countries.
98. Dr A. V. Hyzler, Minister of Health between 1974 and 1976, during the signature of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement between Malta and United Kingdom.
99. In a delegation headed by Prime Minister Dom Mintoff for discussions with the Government of Morocco..
100. In May 1978, Minister Moran attended a conference of Ministers of Health of non-aligned countries, where he was elected vice-president. In 1980, he was

selected to represent the Mediterranean region in addressing the assembly on the occasion of the death of President Tito.

101. Minister Moran during discussions with Dr Muftah Usta Omar, Secretary for Health in the General People's Council.
102. Professor Anatas Malev, from the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Bulgaria, shakes hands with Malta's Minister of Health after the signature of the Reciprocal Health Care Agreement between the two countries. Dr R. Popivanov, Minister of Public Health, signed on behalf of Bulgaria, while Dr V. Moran, Minister of Health and Environment, signed on behalf of Malta.
103. Minister Moran together with Dr Fathi Arafat, President of the Red Crescent Society of the Palestinian Liberation Organization.
104. Maltese Minister of Health, Dr V. Moran, with H.E. Hamad Rahman Al. Madfa, Minister of Health of the United Arab Emirates.
105. With H.E. Dr Rahman Al-Awadi, Minister of Health of Kuwait.
106. Professor Fara, Specialist in plastic surgery, with Minister Moran at Luqa Airport, during a meeting with the Press.
107. Student-nurses during a Lecture in the Nurses' School.
108. Radiography students whose course is also being held in Malta.
109. A group of new pharmacists with Minister and Mrs Moran and acting Chief Pharmacist Mr A. Scicluna Spiteri.
110. Mrs Maggie Moran presenting the gold medal to the nurse coming first in order of merit in the examination.
111. Students in medical laboratory technology performing blood examinations.
112. Some of the new vehicles purchased by the Department of Health and Environment to cope with the increasing demand for refuse collection services.
113. Among its activities in public cleansing, the Department of Health and Environment also cleans roads in rural areas, outside towns and villages.
114. One of the squares cleansed every day.
115. The UNEP/IMCO Regional Oil-Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, located at Manoel Island.
116. A modern sweeper, capable of cleansing wide streets.

117. Minister Moran receiving a bouquet from an employee on the occasion of presentation of certificates of appointment.
118. Minister Moran addresses newly-appointed employees.
119. Some of the employees present for the ceremony of presentation of certificates of appointment.
120. Dr A. Mangion, Consultant Psychiatrist, presenting a bouquet to Dr V. Moran, Minister of Health and Environment, on behalf of his colleagues, newly-appointed doctors.
121. On the occasion of the International Year of the Disabled, Minister Moran distributed 20 special watches to blind people during a ceremony at his residence.
122. One of the blind people receiving a watch from Minister Moran.
123. Minister Moran presiding over a meeting of the Committee set up by the Government to organize a campaign for assistance to the Italian earthquake victims. £M105,721 in cash, as well as 12,357 blankets, were collected from the people of Malta for this scope.
124. A group of foreign dancers taking part in a variety programme for hospital patients and elderly people.
125. Minister and Mrs Moran during one of the variety programmes organized for residents of Has-Serh.
126. Minister Moran during his address on the occasion of the official opening of Sir Temi Zammit Laboratory. Also appearing is Dr Paul Cassar.

"We also have free hospitals which are among the most efficient in Europe. In the matter of free hospitalization, we are in the forefront, and we pledge to do everything to bring the best specialists in the world to Malta, so that the need to go abroad for medical treatment will continue to decrease. We have started this, and we are fully confident of continuing it and strengthening it" — DOM MINTOFF, PRIME MINISTER (Marsa, 30.4.80).

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