

N E W S



MEDAC's Euro-Mediterranean Vocation

*By President Emeritus Prof. Guido de Marco
Chairman of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies*

<http://home.um.edu.mt/medac/>

I was appointed Foreign Minister on the 5th of May 1990. It was at this time that we created our Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC). I remember Professor Kappeler, who was our first director. This linkage between Malta and Switzerland was a unique approach towards the training of diplomats. I was very much involved ever since as a Minister primarily, and later as Head of State. In the workings of the Mediterranean Academy we had in mind, as we have in mind today, that the focusing of the Mediterranean requires diplomats who have been trained to think Mediterranean.

We launched MEDAC before the Euro-Med Partnership (EMP) started. This year in November we are celebrating ten years of Euro-Med Partnership. We established MEDAC in Malta because we sensed at that time the forthcoming events of history: 1989, the fall of the Berlin Wall; December 1989, the meeting in Malta between Bush and Gorbachev whereby in the words of Edward Shevardnadze, 'the Cold War was buried'; August 1990, the invasion of Kuwait; October 1990, the Unification of Germany when for the first time in contemporary history we could say that Germany is one.

Many would have thought that the division of Germany in two was going to be a permanent feature in our geography. I will always remember and treasure the words of perhaps one of the greatest Foreign Ministers of Germany, Genscher. At the time I was President of the United Nations General Assembly. He came to see me in my office on the eve of German unification. He told me, "You will understand that I will not be here tomorrow" and then he said something that remained stuck in my mind; "You see Mr. President,

the Germany which is going to be born tomorrow will be one that will be striving not for a Germany in Europe, but for a European Germany". I later realised that Genscher was equating the words of another great German, Thomas Mann; "The future of Germany lies not in a German Europe, but on a European Germany".

Before this historic event in 1975, at the first CSCE Helsinki Summit, the Maltese Government placed the cornerstone of future relations between Europe and the Mediterranean. The main thesis then of Malta's foreign policy, a thesis which to my view is still valid today, was that there could be no security in Europe unless there is security in the Mediterranean and vice-versa. This statement is to be found in the so called Mediterranean basket under Helsinki. And when with Commissioner Manuel Marín at the time we were discussing the possibility of launching the Euro-Med dialogue, this cornerstone which Malta had already established, namely the interfacing between security in Europe and security in the Mediterranean, was actually referred to as a method of how to develop this Euro-Mediterranean dialogue, a prerequisite to securing peace in our region and also beyond it.

When we were discussing this with the Swiss agents and government, mainly also through the diplomatic institute in Geneva, what we had in mind was what better investment than to invest in diplomats coming from the Mediterranean region. If we wanted to introduce in the thinking of the governments the furthering of



The Director of MEDAC, Dr. Stephen Calleya and President Emeritus, Prof. Guido de Marco delivering the keynote speech inaugurating the academic year 2005-2006

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diplomacy within our region, the best way that this could be done was by bringing together students of diplomacy. Through their activities and studies at the Mediterranean Academy young diplomats are able to focus on diplomacy in our region and beyond, in the full understanding that the Mediterranean requires a better understanding of what the contemporary problems actually are.

From the very beginning of the 1990s we also focused on having a specific Mediterranean dimension in our activities at MEDAC. Over the past fifteen years students at MEDAC have been following events that are happening in the Mediterranean on a day to day basis. We could lecture to our students not only on the principles of International Law, the governance of International Relations, the setting up of embassies, the protocol and all these other features which are a regular part of the curriculum of all diplomats, but students could also specialize on issues pertaining to regional relations across the Mediterranean. Whether you are a student from Palestine, Malta, China or the Ukraine, studying at MEDAC enables you to focus on an area of diplomacy that is Mediterranean centric.

As Foreign Minister, one of my greatest satisfactions used to be traveling to different countries and meeting alumni of MEDAC. For example on a visit to Slovenia, I met one of the young diplomats at the service of the Foreign Minister that was a student that had graduated from our MEDAC. I went to Damascus and I saw that the young diplomats at the Presidential Office, studied in Malta at MEDAC. I traveled to Egypt and I find students who graduated from our MEDAC. I went to Ramallah to visit Yasser Arafat and found three, four students from Palestine graduated from MEDAC. The same applies to Tunisia, Albania and elsewhere.

All of a sudden, we have more than 400 former alumni of this Academy spread out through the world today who are responsible in forming the policies of their respective Governments and this shows that the training in Mediterranean diplomacy, Human Rights and fundamental freedoms is influencing the thinking of power politics. All have been influenced by the Academy, which seeks to give its own imprint on their future studies. I always believe that it is a rather inexpensive way to create a cross-fertilization of ideas and influences between our students, through their stay at MEDAC. This is how we have acted and reacted in these last few years. I want to say that our relations have indeed improved with our Swiss friends. We are now in the process of formulating a new statute for MEDAC, bringing in those who want to collaborate with us on the

workings of MEDAC as part of the governing body. When we have relations with particular bodies, whether they be international organisations or governments, we will also ensure their presence through membership of the governing board, because we believe that those who are involved can give us much better information and assistance which is essential to future diplomatic training. This is our Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, an Academy that is constantly evolving to cater to the demands of future diplomats.

I always believe that in contemporary international relations diplomats have an important say. Diplomacy is a very relevant language. Diplomats are not those who try and colour, through graceful words and half truths. Diplomats are those who have the courage to say things in such a way as not to hurt, but try to persuade others. I have always believed in the logic of persuasion and not imposition. Ideas that are imposed do not catch on. Ideas that catch are those that are the result of the logic of persuasion. We don't have weapons to enforce what we want. We only have the logic to persuade. If we fail, it means that we have failed to persuade. So if I were to make a recommendation to diplomats, it is to develop the art of persuasion, develop the logic of persuasion, develop the understanding of the other persons approach. The Italians would call that 'La ragione degli altri'. Try and understand what the rationale is that has led the others to adopt the position that they have.

I am saying all this in the light of the future. The future of the Euro-Mediterranean region is still in doubt. I always repeat what I was asked many years ago, whether I am an optimist or a pessimist. I always say, pessimists are bores, optimists are dreamers but dreams are not enough. We ought to be realists and realism demands of ourselves a realistic approach to politics and this is where I believe that we should as diplomats, train our diplomats to be realists, to be correct, to have their own principles and to master the logic of persuasion. It is by adopting such principles that MEDAC is looking ahead.

MEDAC is already an institution which is close to other diplomatic institutions in Europe and in the Mediterranean. Together we will continue to ensure that MEDAC remains an Academy of excellence that is at the service of diplomats that would like to achieve a better understanding of the Mediterranean area.



The XVIII Euro-Med Seminar

By Dr. Stephen C. Calleya

*Director of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies
and Lecturer in International Relations*

The Eighteenth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar took place in Malta between June 3rd-6th 2005. The four days of proceedings focused on recent developments in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, particularly the conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean foreign ministerial meeting held in Luxembourg a few days earlier and preparations currently being conducted in anticipation of the tenth anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in November 2005.

This international gathering brought together diplomats from the majority of the twenty-five European Union member states and the ten Mediterranean Partner countries that are currently members of this multilateral initiative. The Seminar was organized by the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies of the University of Malta under the auspices of the European Commission who assist in co-ordinating this Euro-Mediterranean confidence building initiative.



In the last nine years the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership has provided the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies a welcome normative framework for expanding its training activities in the Euro-Mediterranean regional setting. The objectives of the Information and Training Seminar are to enhance the understanding of diplomats from the European Union and the Mediterranean partner states about the various aspects and the functioning of the European Union with special reference to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and specific security issues in the Mediterranean.

Throughout the four-day seminar academic specialists and other professionals from both Europe and the Mediterranean presented a series of lectures on developments within each of the three chapters of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, namely the political and security, economic and financial, and the cultural and human resources chapters. Particular attention was dedicated to topics that include The EU's Neighbourhood Policy, Euro-Maghreb Relations and the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation. The seminar also examined developments that have taken place in the Euro-Mediterranean area during the Luxembourg EU Presidency.

The Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training meeting also highlights the pivotal role Malta continues to play in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership process. The Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, Minister of Foreign Affairs delivered the keynote opening address of the Eighteenth Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training Seminar on Friday, June 3rd 2005.

Further information on the Euro-Mediterranean Seminars can be found at www.euromed-seminars.org.mt

All of the Euro-Mediterranean Information and Training sessions have been geared towards mid-ranking diplomats. At the same time an effort was made to attract junior representatives who had attended previous meetings for the purpose of building a core group across the Euro-Med area dealing with Euro-Med matters. An overwhelming majority of both EU and Mediterranean partner countries participated in the Seminar.

The networking effect has already turned out to be a much appreciated feature of the meeting.

The significance of this exercise was further underlined in the



Group photo of Participants

Luxembourg Presidency Conclusions of the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in May 2005 where direct reference is made to the training sessions as a confidence-building measure.



Malta & Development Policy Work Shop

By Dr. Omar Grech

*Coordinator of the Human Dimension Programme and
Lecturer in International Law*

A workshop on Malta and Development Policy was held on the 21st and 22nd January 2005. This workshop organized by the Human Dimension Programme of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies brought together various stakeholders in Development Policy formulation from Governments, academia and NGOs.



(From left to right) The Human Rights Coordinator, Dr. Omar Grech, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Dr. Michael Frendo, and MEDAC's former Director, Prof. Jürg M. Gabriel at the opening of this Workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was that of stimulating discussion on and around Malta's Development Policy and of providing an input to

the same policy. Given that Malta's accession to the European Union brought with it new responsibilities in the field of development cooperation it was felt that such a discussion came at a particularly apposite time.

The structure of the workshop consisted of a number of presentations from resource persons, which then led to a moderated discussion around the key themes presented. The presentations were designed to give different perspectives on development policy. The experiences of Ireland and Switzerland as donor countries and Tunisia as a recipient country were outlined together with NGO perspectives, the role of development education as well as other related issues.

The final session of the workshop was devoted to a focused discussion intended to provide the Maltese authorities with some concrete suggestions on the formulation of a national development policy.

A report from this workshop was published and is available from MEDAC.

Human Rights Summer Course *By Dr. Omar Grech*

The 6th Human Rights Summer Training was organised by the Human Dimension Programme between the 6 and 14th July 2005 at the Victoria Hotel Sliema. The theme chosen for this year was Development and Human Rights: Educational Perspectives.

The 15 participants came from Morocco, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Ireland, Malta, Egypt, Algeria, Moldova and Tunisia. Some of the subjects dealt with during the summer training were:

- Understanding International Law (Prof. David Attard)
- Theories of Development and Underdevelopment (Dr. Colm Regan)
- HIV/AIDS and Development (Mr. Brogan Mulhall)
- The Right to Development (Dr. Omar Grech)
- Arab Views on Development (Prof. Mustapha Al Sayyid)
- Gender and Development (Ms. Valerie Duffy)
- Teaching Human Rights & Development (Dr. Peadar Cremin)

Apart from the topics above the summer training also focused on arts based approaches to the teaching of human rights and development. The afternoon sessions were, in fact, of a highly interactive nature and apart from exploring the use of the arts in human rights and development education also gave participants and lecturers the opportunity to focus on the human rights and development challenges in their respective countries. The final day was dedicated to an in-depth evaluation of the summer school

by the participants themselves. Apart from the formal “learning opportunities” the participants enjoyed learning from each other during breakfast, lunch, dinner and until the small hours. The participants themselves planned and delivered a “cultural event” of music, song and dance. MEDAC also organised an excursion to Valletta and the Three Cities followed by lunch in Marsascala as well as a wine tasting event at Meridiana Wineries.

This summer training, like all other activities run by the Human Dimension Programme, was funded by the Swiss Development Agency.



Photo of Participants at the Victoria Hotel

MEDAC Study Visits



MEDAC Students Visit to Rome

By Dr. Marco Colazingari

Holder of the Italian Chair and Lecturer in International Economics

On Sunday the 6th February, 2004, the MEDAC students left Malta airport on a flight to Rome for a 5-day study-visit. The programme, financed by the Italian-Maltese protocol, was specifically tailored in order to pursue the practical aspects of MEDAC's didactic objectives: to provide the students with an opportunity to interact with real time issues in the diplomatic world. Given the large number of International Organizations located in Rome and the three days available to visit some of them, the programme's schedule focused on international organisations that would provide students with as diverse experiences as possible.

On the first day of the visit to Rome the MEDAC students had the chance to debate cutting-edge questions and problems at the Istituto Diplomatico, the Diplomatic School of the Italian Foreign Minister, where



MEDAC Students briefed at FAO

the Director, Minister Maurizio Serra, hosted and addressed the students in the Istituto Diplomatico premises in Villa Madama. The afternoon of the first day in Rome saw the MEDAC students visit the SIOI's (Società Italiana Organizzazioni Internazionali) headquarters in Piazza Venezia, where they were

hosted to a lecture by President Alessi. Among other topics MEDAC students were able to debate on the practicalities of internships and job applications in international organizations.

The FAO (Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations) was the third International Organization visited by MEDAC students. Ms Joke Sipkes of the FAO staff gave the participants an overview of the FAO activities worldwide. The students were invited to interact and sought clarification of the role of the United Nations when it comes to addressing the hunger problem in developing countries. Later in the day MEDAC students attended a conference at the Swiss Embassy. This meeting focused on the different aspects concerning the overall functioning of an Embassy on a day-to-day basis. In the cozy atmosphere of his residence, Ambassador Bruno Spinner hosted a very enjoyable evening reception for the students, where personalities from the academic and diplomatic world convened for the occasion.

The last working day in Rome was dedicated to the long visit at SCV (Stato Città del Vaticano). Monsignor Pietro Parolin and Monsignor Auza of the Secretary of State gave the students an instructive speech about the ancient and modern diplomatic activity of the Holy See, the first in the world to build a worldwide network of diplomats. A truly impressive visit to the invaluable treasures owned by the Vatican followed: MEDAC students had the chance to see Raffaello's and Michelangelo's

paintings and frescos, hanging around the *Loggioni*, and visited up to the gate of the Pope's private apartments before finally entering the backdoor of the Sistine Chapel to visit the Vatican Museum. In the afternoon the students were invited to attend a meeting addressed by the Maltese Ambassador Edward Melillo. Ambassador Melillo provided the students of MEDAC with an overview of the functioning of the Embassy and Malta's foreign policy goals. The discussion was followed by a reception in the Maltese Embassy in *Lungotevere*.



MEDAC Students in St. Peter's Square

Visitation Trip to Geneva

By Dr. Omar Grech

The Human Dimension Programme organized for the fourth consecutive year an educational visit to Geneva for all the M.Dip and M.A. students between the 30th March and 3rd April 2005. The visit is aimed at familiarizing the students with 'la Geneve internationale', which is one of the major hubs of multilateral diplomacy as well as being the human rights and humanitarian law centre of the world.

The group from MEDAC was welcomed at the Geneva Graduate Institute by Dr. Daniel Warner who explained the history of how Geneva came to play such a prominent role in international affairs and also the role of the Graduate Institute in Genevan affairs since the 1920s. At the Geneva Centre for Security Policy,



The Students briefed at ICRC

Dr. Fred Tanner (a former Director of MEDAC) introduced the Centre and then proceeded to chair a panel on multilateral diplomacy. The members of the panel were alumni of MEDAC now posted in Geneva as well as H.E. Saviour Borg, Malta's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva.

The students also visited the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. At each of these organizations the students were briefed about the functions of the respective organizations. The briefings were concluded by vigorous Q & A sessions. The trip was concluded with a visit to the Palais de Nations followed by some sight seeing in Montreux on Lake Geneva.



MEDAC Students visiting the Palais de Nations

Alumni News



Mr. Mutasem Hayatla

M.A. Student from Palestine

Class 2002-2003

Former MEDAC Librarian 2001-2004

Currently working with UNHCR in Damascus

At first glance, one might think spending several years in a tiny island in the middle of the Mediterranean would only contribute to enhance his chances to enjoy rocky, but tidy, beaches. However, one can not appreciate the wealth of such experience unless he lives it day by day. Working and studying at MEDAC was an unforgettable and life-rewarding experience.

When I started thinking of writing this article about my experience at the academy, many great memories occurred to me. I started recalling wonderful moments with unique colleagues who never hesitated to provide every possible help

they could offer.

A sense of gratitude to the academy overwhelms me every morning as I enter my office at UNHCR where I work as a legal counsellor and where I am referring back to most of the topics I learned at MEDAC. Although it is a general assumption that academic theories are not applicable when it comes to our daily work, yet, nothing paved my way through the first challenges at work when dealing with international legal issues and made my assessments valued by my supervisors, than application of the knowledge I acquired during my time at the academy.

This knowledge was not the result of an individual effort, but, the accumulation of valuable information provided by great and committed professors, namely, Professor Jurg Martin Gabriel, Dr. Stephen Calleya, Professor David Attard, Dr. Omar Grech, and last but not least Professor Felix Meier. These special people did not only contribute to my academic life, but also played a role in shaping my personality and helped me view the world from different perspectives.

In addition to my study at the academy, I had the chance to work as a librarian, or the "Library Director" as my Chinese colleague Yao used to call me, and website editor. As a research counsellor later on I learnt to be part of a cooperative

and efficient administrative team. It was only through this experience that I became familiar with several managerial skills that are essential to perform duties assigned to me at work. It was an easy landing for me, unlike other newly working colleagues, to organise my workload, prioritise my monthly goals and dedicate time to research to enhance my legal assessments with up to date information.

My learning and working experience at the academy will never stop affecting my career and personal life. I will always cherish very special memories with great friends whom I would never have had the chance to meet had it not been for my opportunity to study at MEDAC.



Mr. Hossam El Din El Shenawy

M.Dip Student from Egypt

Class 2003-2004

Currently working with the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and

Posted to the Egyptian Embassy in Singapore in September 2005

First of all, I would like to thank very much all those who contributed to the effort to bring this newsletter to light. Special thanks go to Prof. Jürg Martin Gabriel and Dr. Stephen Calleya who stood firmly behind the idea of establishing the MEDAC Alumni Association, which is a remarkable event in the history of our alma mater. I would like also to congratulate Dr. Calleya for assuming the directorship of MEDAC, and to thank Prof. Gabriel for his devotion to the academy and its students during the past years.

I am very pleased and excited to be able to contribute this article to the first issue of this newsletter. I think it is extremely useful to share with each other the experiences gained in the course of studying at this prestigious academy.

When I go back with my memory to June 2003, when I first submitted my application to study at MEDAC, I remember how

worried I was that my application would be rejected on the basis that I come from a science & engineering background. It was somewhat of a surprise that my application had been accepted! Since then, I figured out that the management of the academy does value the out-of-specialization skills of its students. Later on, I got to know that this is by no means done in compromise to the standards of teaching at the academy. It is rather the responsibility of the student to exert the extra effort needed to keep up with his/her colleagues coming from a humanities background. On the other hand, professors and staff were always there readily offering their help and advice with virtually no limits.

In my case, studying at MEDAC helped me essentially to feel more pertinent and related to the field of Diplomacy. It gave me the knowledge and confidence that I enjoy throughout the everyday practice of my career as a diplomat.

MEDAC thanks Mutasem and Hossam for their contribution to this issue of the MEDAC Newsletter and extends to them all the best wishes for their career. We are also very keen to know more about our former students. MEDAC is in the process of forming an Alumni Association for which the participation of our former students is essential. All those former students interested in joining our Alumni Association, kindly let us know by sending an email to medaclibrary@um.edu.mt

The Official Alumni country contacts are:

Boba Boskovic, *Serbia-Montenegro*
Lassaad Boutara, *Tunisia*
Hossam El Din El Shenawy, *Egypt*
Lela Garsevanishvili, *Georgia*
Jana Grilc, *Slovenia*

Reem Jabr, *Syria*
Gang Luo, *China*
Agustela Nini, *Albania*
Inga Pavlina, *Latvia*
Amina Selmane, *Morocco*

Maysoun AlMozayyen, *Palestine*
Rowaida Tawfiq Ebrish, *Libya*
George Vital Zammit, *Malta*
Alessandro Giuliano, *Malta*

Farewell !

Congrats and Good luck to MEDAC Class 2004/2005!

Eleven junior diplomats from ten different countries have successfully completed the Master in Diplomacy course of the Academy, while eighteen post-graduate students have completed their Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies. The Graduation Ceremony will be held on November 30, 2005. MEDAC extends its farewell to the following graduates. Congratulations!

Master in Diplomacy

Ms. Agustela Nini, *Albania*
Mr. Gang Luo, *China*
Ms. Lela Garsevanishvili, *Georgia*
Mr. Walid Al Qazaz, *Jordan*
Ms. Inga Pavlina, *Latvia*
Ms. Rowaida Tawfiq Ebrish, *Libya*
Mr. Ian Miller, *Malta*
Ms. Maysoun Almazayyen, *Palestine*
Ms. Reem Jabr, *Syria*
Mr. Dawsar Drissi, *Tunisia*
Mr. Rabii Zenati, *Tunisia*

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Mr. Alessandro Giuliano, *Malta*
Ms. Alexandra Galea, *Malta*
Mr. Anselmo Bugeja, *Malta*
Mr. Bertrand Borg, *Malta*
Ms. Clare Azzopardi, *Malta*
Mr. Darren Camilleri, *Malta*
Mr. David Ellul, *Malta*
Mr. Demetrius Klitou, *USA*
Ms. Denise Long, *Malta*
Mr. Duncan Psaila, *Malta*
Mr. Emanuel Bianco, *Malta*
Ms. Fluer Ann Houlton, *Malta*
Mr. Ian Gauci Borda, *Malta*

Ms. Ivana Tasic, *Serbia*
Ms. Karen Pace, *Malta*
Ms. Kate Amanda Bauer, *USA*
Ms. Loredana d'Arrigo, *Italy*
Mr. Neville Galea Roberts, *Malta*



MEDAC Class 2004/05

Welcome!

MEDAC would also like to welcome our new students for the academic year 2005-2006:

Master in Diplomacy

Mr. Bangfu Wang, *China*
Mr. Karim F. M. Moukhtar, *Egypt*
Mr. Mourad Youssry, *Egypt*
Mr. Hanno Parksepp, *Estonia*
Mr. Muhannad Alwan, *Iraq*
Mr. Raimonds Vingris, *Latvia*
Ms. Hanan El Khatib, *Malta*
Ms. Lana Lulu, *Palestine*
Mr. Raed Mohamed Hergli, *Tunisia*
Mr. Mohamed N. Kasraoui, *Tunisia*
Ms. Ebru Ekeman, *Turkey*
Mr. Dmytro Senik, *Ukraine*

Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

Ms. Valerie Croin, *Belgium*
Ms. Tanya Stefanova Varbanova, *Bulgaria*
Ms. Maria Konstantinidou, *Greece*
Ms. Kinga Offenbacher, *Hungary*
Ms. Lysanne Bakker, *Netherlands*
Mr. Saviour Aquilina, *Malta*
Mr. Ryan Borg, *Malta*
Mr. Matthew Buttigieg, *Malta*
Ms. Christianne Caruana, *Malta*
Ms. Michela-Maria Debattista, *Malta*
Mr. Neil Kerr, *Malta*
Mr. Adam Kuymizakis, *Malta*
Mr. David Ian Mansfield, *Malta*
Ms. Maria Micallef, *Malta*
Mr. Roberto Pace, *Malta*

Ms. Joanna Rose Portelli, *Malta*
Mr. Edward Spiteri, *Malta*
Mr. Darren Vella, *Malta*
Mr. Philip Vella, *Malta*
Mr. Alan Keith Zerafa, *Malta*
Mr. Keith Zammit Marmara, *Malta*



MEDAC's Chairman, Prof. Guido de Marco and Director, Dr. Stephen Calleya with the 2005/2006 students at the opening of the academic year

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to our diploma students who are continuing their second year of part-time studies.

Diploma in Diplomatic Studies

Ms. Moufida Rezgui, *Algeria*
Ms. Maria Attard, *Malta*
Mr. Morgan Azzopardi, *Malta*
Ms. Georgina Cassar Seguna, *Malta*
Mr. Neville Debattista, *Malta*
Mr. Mark Galea, *Malta*
Mr. Carmel Herd, *Malta*
Ms. Jennifer Icao-Calleja, *Malta*

Mr. Christian Mangion, *Malta*
Ms. Mary Mifsud, *Malta*
Mr. Jesmond Polidano, *Malta*
Mr. Holger Saliba, *Malta*
Ms. Shirley Sultana Rizzo, *Malta*
Ms. Victoria Vella, *Russia*
Ms. Celine Zammit Gatt, *Malta*



Diploma Students June 2004



A Final Word

By Prof. Jürg M. Gabriel

*Former Director of the
Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and
Lecturer in International History*

I came here two-and-a-half years ago hoping that Malta would be a more exciting place than Zurich. Well, it was. My wife and I have spent a wonderful time here – and will be back. There are too many good memories associated with MEDAC to return permanently to Alpine Europe, however attractive the mountains and the winters may be.

By far the most enjoyable experience was the contact with students, the young people we met from both sides of the Mediterranean and beyond. The junior diplomats deserve special mention. After all, they are the main reason why the Swiss Government has supported the Academy for the last 15 years. More than ever I am convinced that there is a need to train junior diplomats in the four classical disciplines taught at MEDAC and that it can be done successfully.

I enjoyed teaching, but it was also my aim to raise standards and promote academic quality. The annual evaluations seem to indicate that the effort was appreciated. There is nothing more depressing than a graduate school without standards, a place where “anything goes” and no one ever fails. It is especially unfair to those students who work and succeed.

The various excursions and social events were especially rewarding. We fondly remember the trips to Tunis, Rome and Geneva, but also the many smaller functions and ceremonies. The two invitations to Dun Karm’s estate are indelibly carved into our minds.

As I have often stated, privately and publicly, MEDAC’s academic and administrative staff are without exception doing a fine job. At all times I enjoyed the full cooperation of Stephen Calleya, Omar Grech and Marco Colazingari. And, as any visitor to our institution knows, Audrey Cassar and JoAnn Camilleri are two ladies that make the place tick like a Swiss clock.

Let me extend special thanks to Mutasem Hayatla and David Cassar, the two librarians I worked with. Both of them did a great job turning what was a mere storage facility into a veritable

library. The result is encouraging: students from all over campus realize that the MEDAC library is a place to do serious work in an academic environment.

It was also my aim to recruit visiting scholars committed to teach an entire (one-week) module. It is easy to get lecturers willing to fly into (sunny) Malta to deliver a 45-minute speech, but it is much harder to get competent scholars devoted to serious teaching. I think MEDAC has made progress in this respect. Ambassador Magdy Hefny from Egypt and Dr. Simon Mason from ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology), have turned out to be a particularly successful pair teaching diplomats about international river management in the Mediterranean basin.

As director I was in regular contact with a number of different embassies. Relations with the Egyptian, Tunisian and Chinese delegations were particularly close, given the presence at MEDAC of students from these countries. In addition, I managed to cultivate excellent and cooperative relations with the ambassadors of the Netherlands, France and the United Kingdom.

Let me end this farewell message by congratulating Stephen Calleya on his appointment as my successor. He amply deserves to become MEDAC director and I am sure he will do a good job.



Ambassador Magdy Hefny (left) & Dr. Simon Mason (right)

FOR THOSE SEEKING TO PREPARE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CAREER

The Academy offers the following courses:

Two year Part-time Diploma in Diplomatic Studies

One year Full-time Postgraduate Studies: Master in Diplomacy and Master of Arts in Diplomatic Studies

For more details on these courses and various activities of the Academy write or fax to:

The Director, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, University of Malta, Msida, MSD 06, Malta

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E-mail: medac@um.edu.mt

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