



His Eminence Fra Angelo de Mojana, Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John (centre) with H.E. the Governor General, Sir Maurice Dorman (right), Dr. G. Borg Olivier, the Prime Minister, H.E. Lady Dorman and His Grace the Archbishop, Mgr. M. Gonzi, at the Palace, Valetta, before the State Banquet on Thursday.

## OPENING OF BLOOD BANK AT VALETTA

BY OUR STAFF REPORTERS

His Most Eminent Highness, Prince Fra Angelo de Mojana, Grandmaster of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, yesterday afternoon inaugurated the Blood Bank at the Headquarters of the Order's local Association in St. Ursula Street, Valetta.

The Blood Bank was set up by the Maltese Association of the Order with the cooperation of the Cathedral Chapter. It was blessed by His Grace the Archbishop.

The Vice-President of the Association, Judge W. Harding, made the opening speech. Judge Harding presented the

Grandmaster with a portrait painting of His Eminence, the work of the Maltese artist William Apap. The painting was commissioned by the Malta Association and is to be hung at the Grandmaster's Chancery in Rome. The Grandmaster spoke of the significance of his

State Visit to Malta and the challenges and aims of the Order.

Conte Brunatti, representing Fiat of Turin, then presented His Eminence with the Fiat mobile van, specially equipped with all advanced equipment for the collection of blood. The ambulance was then presented by the Grandmaster to the Association and blessed by His Grace the Archbishop.

The Maltese Association has contributed £1,300, the sum raised from the selling of the Great Siege Fourth Centenary gold medals coined three years ago, for the setting up of the blood bank.

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# OPENING OF BLOOD BANK

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The Cathedral Chapter contributed £3,000 for the acquisition of the blood transfusion equipment and the setting up of the Centre, and £2,500 for its maintenance each year.

The equipment is of the highest standard — the Blood Bank will be run by well trained personnel.

The van presented to the Order will go round cities and villages to collect blood and take it to the Centre to be examined and classified. The blood van is the only one of its kind available in Malta, and the Association hopes that many will offer blood for prospective patients.

"The Blood Bank should be a great boom to the nation and constitute a considerable relief to the load of public need which Government has to face at the moment," said a spokesman for the Association.

The Association paid tribute to His Grace the Archbishop who suggested the idea of setting up the blood bank and for his personal interest and hard work. The Association thanked the doctors who have helped in the setting up of the blood bank, particularly Dr. Francis Pullicino and Dr. Farrugia who established contacts with some of the best blood banks and blood transfusion centre organizers abroad. After undergoing intensive training at these Centres, Dr. Farrugia was able to plan the technical equipment of the Blood Bank.

Technical advice was given to the Association by Professor Salvatore Musumeci of Catania; Dr. Paolo Iozza, Director of Eurospital; Professor Giuliano Agostini, Director of the medical direction of the Firm Baxter; Professor Renato Nicolini, Director of the Blood Bank of the United hospitals of Trieste; Professor Roberto Venturini, President of the Association of the Italian Blood-Transfusion Centres; Professor Lorenzo Callero, Director of

the A.V.I.S. Centre of Turin; Professor Enrico Ciocatto of the University of Turin; and Professor Pietro Valdani, Director of the Surgical Clinic of the University of Rome.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of personalities, headed by Their Excellencies the Governor General and Lady Dorman, the Prime Minister, Dr. G. Borg Olivier, Mgr. Martin J. O'Connor, Apostolic Nuncio, H.E. Dr. A. Dazzi, Italian Ambassador and Mr. J. Mamo Dingli, Ambassador to the Sovereign Military Order of St. John. Also present were Dr. A. Cachia Zammit, Minister of Health and Mrs. Cachia Zammit, Prof. C. Coleiro, Chief Government Medical Officer and Mrs. Coleiro; Dr. F. Pullicino, Blood Transfusion Officer at St. Luke's Hospital; Dr. P. Bernard, Senior Health Officer; Dr. A. Cuschieri, Senior Medical Officer; Dr. and Mrs. H. Marguerat and Dr. C. Vella, Assistant-Blood Transfusion Officer.



The Grandmaster cutting the red and white ribbon at yesterday's official opening of the Blood Bank at the Headquarters of the Order's local Association in St. Ursula Street, Valetta. Looking on are H.E. Quintin Jermy Gwyn, the Grand Chancellor (right) and H.E. Dott. Dino Marrajeni, the Ambassador of the Order to Malta (left).