



The web of intrigue thickens

Silence was broken this week in relation to the Lino Cauchi mystery when Home Affairs minister Tonio Borg and Justice minister Austin Gatt were asked a series of parliamentary questions by Nationalist MPs Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando and Jean Pierre Farrugia.

The answers given did not reveal much but they confirmed what this newspaper has been reporting over the past few weeks; that the police have received

new information about scandalous land deals in the eighties, which could shed some light on Lino Cauchi's disappearance and murder.

Today we continue looking at the individuals who were professionally close to Lino Cauchi and question whether it is just coincidence that these individuals were time and again implicated in various scandals. It is a bitter pill to swallow, but it is difficult to

deny that investigations into various scandals which occurred in the eighties always lead back to the same names.

And it seems that individuals who made a great deal of money at the expense of others today continue to enjoy the fruits of their 'labour' while time helps others forget the scandals.

But the truth is that Lino Cauchi's relatives will never forget his brutal killing and the mystery that

has shrouded the case from the very start. And what about the individuals who were coerced into selling off their land for peanuts, or were subjected to endless pressure by 'protected' people? Should they forget the injustice they suffered?

These and many other questions deserve answers. The issues have been raised again, let's ensure they're not buried for a second time.

The chemist who had

JOE CAMILLERI from Mosta, aged 69, is a chemist by profession but made his wealth from a totally different line of business.

Mr Camilleri started his career as a chemist employed with the civil service. But after the 1971 election he was appointed private secretary to Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, a post he relinquished in 1976. The government then appointed Joe Camilleri onto the board of directors of the Regional Oil Combating Centre at Manoel Island.

Joe Camilleri had been president of the Labour Youth League between 1952-1962 and international secretary of the Labour party between 1958-1971. Camilleri represented the Labour government as a director on a number of commercial entities and public companies.

In 1979 Camilleri founded a family company called CMR Commercial and started involving himself in land deals. In 1981 Camilleri was appointed on the board of directors of Mid Med Bank by the Labour government, where he occupied the post of deputy chairman.

Joe Camilleri's name, along with that of Piju Camilleri, Joe Pace of Magic Kiosk, Victor Balzan and the late Lorry Sant surfaces in the report of the Per-

manent Commission Against Corruption published in 1990. Joe Camilleri also features prominently in Judge Anastasi's report on irregularities that occurred in Mid Med Bank prior to 1987.

The report issued by the Permanent Commission Against Corruption implicates Joe Camilleri in two cases.

The first case relates to a land transfer deal, involving Piju Camilleri and a company owned with Joe Camilleri.

On 8 October 1981 in front of Notary Joseph Scirha, a contract was signed by which ZPS Co. Ltd, owned by a certain Joe Borg and Victor Balzan, had to transfer tracts of land in San Gwann to Piju Camilleri. The transfer - free of charge - was requested by Piju Camilleri, as compensation for 'arranging' road alignments to the benefit of Joe Borg and Victor Balzan.

Joe Borg had opposed this transfer but finally gave in after Piju Camilleri had threatened to blow him up with a bomb a month earlier.

During the said meeting a private agreement was signed with Piju Camilleri, who was representing P. & J. C. Co. Ltd, which stated that the company had paid the sum of Lm8,800 to redeem the emphyteu-



Prescription ends building permits bribes case

Magistrate Robert Hadden yesterday acquitted Lawrence and...
The court heard that the defendant had been charged with...
The court found that the defendant had not committed the...
The court also heard that the defendant had been charged with...
The court found that the defendant had not committed the...
The court also heard that the defendant had been charged with...
The court found that the defendant had not committed the...

Civil Court rejects judges' demands

Mr Justice Azzopardo yesterday rejected the demands of...
The court heard that the judges had demanded...
The court found that the judges' demands were...
The court also heard that the judges had demanded...
The court found that the judges' demands were...
The court also heard that the judges had demanded...
The court found that the judges' demands were...

Accused in Paola blast case claims human rights violation

The court heard that the defendant had been charged with...
The court found that the defendant had not committed the...
The court also heard that the defendant had been charged with...
The court found that the defendant had not committed the...
The court also heard that the defendant had been charged with...
The court found that the defendant had not committed the...
The court also heard that the defendant had been charged with...

Grech's Ltd. Bathroom Centre

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TELEMALTA UPDATE

INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE

LUQA

Telemalta Corporation wishes to notify subscribers at Luqa that in the process of expanding the telephone network in this locality, the telephone service will be temporarily suspended on the dates as shown hereafter:

Friday October 30 and Saturday October 31, 1992
Friday November 7 and Saturday November 8, 1992

The Corporation, while regretting the inconvenience caused, will be doing its utmost to restore service to the shortest time possible.

EXCHANGE RATES

London	1.0000
New York	1.0000
Geneva	1.0000
Paris	1.0000
Frankfurt	1.0000
Stockholm	1.0000
Oslo	1.0000
Copenhagen	1.0000
Helsinki	1.0000
Brussels	1.0000
Amsterdam	1.0000
Zurich	1.0000
Basel	1.0000
Geneva	1.0000
Paris	1.0000
Frankfurt	1.0000
Stockholm	1.0000
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LONDON STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares closed lower after...
The market was...
The market was...
The market was...
The market was...
The market was...
The market was...

Old newspaper reports highlighting land deal scandals

sis. The sum of money was never paid to Joe Borg and Victor Balzan.

Chemist Joe Camilleri was a shareholder in P. & J. C. Co. Ltd through his company CMR Commercial. The auditors for P. & J. C. Co. Ltd were the firm Diamantino Manfre, with whom accountant Lino Cauchi worked prior to opening shop on his own, toward the end of 1981.

According to Joe Borg's evidence, a couple of days before the October agreement, his partner Victor Balzan had told him that Public Works minister Lorry Sant was thinking of sending Joe Camilleri to sign the contract instead of Piju Camilleri.

This led Joe Borg to exclaim in front of the Commission; "Lorry Sant's carriage was being driven by two cabbies!"

The second incident involving Joe Camilleri concerned a tract of land in Lija belonging to a company in which a certain Winston Carbone had substantial share-

holding.

Carbone's company had bought land in Lija, which had no building permits. The value of the land amounted to Lm30,000 but the price was to be paid only when the necessary permits were issued.

In his evidence in front of the Commission, Carbone said that at one point he was talking to a certain Lorry Zammit, who was the proprietor of the bar in Zebbug known as the 'S' Club, about the land in Lija.

Carbone alleged that Zammit offered to help him to obtain the necessary building permits. When Carbone accepted, Zammit mentioned Joe Camilleri from Mosta as the key person and soon after a meeting was arranged between the three individuals.

Carbone said that Camilleri wanted a sum of money to be able to get him the permits, but owing to liquidity problems Carbone could not come up with the cash. Instead Carbone offered to

other business interests

transfer free of charge a piece of land in Iklin, estimated at Lm10,000; six shops in shell form in Lija to the tune of Lm12,000; and Lm3,000 in cash. After this agreement was reached Camilleri handed over the permits to Carbone.

The deed to transfer the property was signed on 6 November 1981 and the value of the properties was estimated at Lm10,000. Carbone had testified that he never saw a cent of that amount while Joe Camilleri reiterated in front of the Commission that he

had paid cash.

Nowhere in the deed was the Lm3,000 mentioned that Carbone had to pay Camilleri as part of the arrangement. This sum was paid by Carbone some five years later and the Commission also saw the original cheque written by Carbone for the sum of Lm3,000, which was countersigned by Camilleri. In his evidence Camilleri had said nothing about this payment.

Although Joe Camilleri was not employed with government he had the 'power' to obtain build-

ing permits at will. The Commission, commenting on this point, said that Camilleri could have obtained this 'power' through his close links with Piju Camilleri and minister Lorry Sant.

In September 1990 Joe Camilleri was charged with corruption in relation to the Carbone case, only for it to be thrown out of Court by Magistrate Peralta for lack of proof.

Joe Camilleri was also implicated in a corruption case instituted by a certain businessman, John Debono, against ex-

Labour candidate and public work's official Lorry Cuschieri. Debono alleged that he had paid the sum of Lm35,000 to Cuschieri to be able to obtain building permits in Mosta. In his evidence Debono said that Cuschieri had delivered the money to a house in Mosta, which turned out to be Joe Camilleri's residence. The case instituted in 1989 dragged on for three years and was eventually thrown out because the time for prescription had elapsed.

In the Mid Med Bank scandal uncovered by Judge Anastasi toward the end of 1993, Joe Camilleri's name surfaced frequently. The Anastasi report had revealed irregular bank loans approved by the bank's highest authorities without their being the necessary security to substantiate the loans.

Among the companies benefiting from such irregular loans, one finds P. & J. C. Co. Ltd and Domestic Electrical Appliances Ltd, in which Joe Camilleri had a shareholding.

Continued from page 1

Media interest prompts PQs galore

DR BORG was answering questions put to him by Nationalist MPs Jean Pierre Farrugia and Jeffrey Pullicino Orlando following the renewed media interest in the case.

Meanwhile, Dr Pullicino Orlando asked Justice Minister Austin Gatt why no magisterial inquiry into Lino Cauchi's murder was launched in 1986 when it was amply clear that the remains found in Buskett a year earlier were Lino Cauchi's. Dr Gatt said that a reply will be given in another sitting.

The inquiry to identify the remains found in Buskett was concluded by Magistrate David Scicluna in 1989 when it was certified that the corpse was Lino Cauchi's. It was only after that date that Magistrate David Scicluna continued the inquiry to establish a motive for who could have murdered the Santa Venera accountant.

The Lino Cauchi case took a fresh twist late last year when land speculators involved in shady land deals in the eighties broke their silence. They gave evidence in front of the inquiring magistrate about scandals involving land transfers for building permits.

The new evidence revolves around a number of stormy meetings that occurred before the 1981 election between Piju Camilleri and the developers. Lino Cauchi, who was identified as Camilleri's accountant, was also present for these meetings. During these meetings large tracts of land were transferred to companies belonging to Piju Camilleri and Joe Pace of the Magic Kiosk, in exchange for favours related to building permits and schemes. At the time, building schemes fell under the direct responsibility of the public works minister, Lorry Sant.



An artist's impression of Home Affairs minister Tonio Borg answering questions in parliament this week



Continued from page 1

Company set up to operate and charter fishing vessels

THE MEMORANDUM of association explicitly states that the company had to carry out its business, 'exclusively in conjunction

with the Maltese Libyan Arab Fishing Company Ltd'.

The latter company was registered in 1978 and was a joint ven-

ture between the Maltese government and Libya, with the intention of carrying out fishing activities for the economical benefit of both Malta and Libya. The company was eventually dissolved in 1990.

On 22 February 1990, Victor Balzan resigned from the board of directors of International Fishing Co. Ltd. This is the last documentation available at the Registry of Companies, apart from the annual return for 1985.

Last week *MaltaToday* reported that in the early nineties Italian police had uncovered links between the Sicilian mafia, *Cosa Nostra*, and Maltese businessmen, involving drugs and arms trafficking in the central Mediterranean.

Palermo magistrates had in their possession a number of fishing permits containing Victor Balzan's signature, which however were believed to be false. The police operations, code named *Sole 1* and *Sole 2*, revealed close contacts between Victor Balzan and a certain Mario Bono from *Mazara del Vallo*. Voice recordings of telephone conversations between the two individuals related to the trafficking of drugs utilising fishing boats.

The fishing boats from *Mazara del Vallo* were used as a cover-up to transport drugs and arms to Malta en route to Libya. It was believed that a Maltese person with very close contacts in Libya could ensure safe passage into the North African country of the illicit trade.

RECEIVED
23 FEBRUARY 1990
REGISTRY OF COMPANIES

AB77/C647/3
FORM X 27 FEB 1990

No. of Partnership 0047

THE COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS ORDINANCE, 1962
Notification of Changes among Directors
Pursuant to Section 12B

Name of Partnership International Fishing Company Limited

Sent by Victor Balzan, Flat 2, Sub St. Nova Street, Old St. John's Church, Sliema

To the Registrar of Partnerships
International Fishing Company Limited

I hereby certify you in accordance with Section 12B of the Commercial Partnerships Ordinance, 1962 that:-

Mr. Victor Balzan resigns from the board of directors with immediate effect.

Signature: V. Balzan
(State whether Director, Managing Director)

Dated this 22nd day of FEBRUARY 1990.

PUBLISHED ON 28 JUL 1990 IN GOVT. GAZETTE

NOTE - This sample is reserved for heading and need not be printed.

4. (i) The Authorized Share Capital of the Company is twenty thousand Maltese liri (Lm20,000) divided into twenty thousand Ordinary Shares of one Maltese lira (Lm1) each.

(ii) The Initial Issued Share Capital of the Company is five thousand Maltese liri (Lm5,000) Ordinary Shares of one Maltese lira (Lm1) each, which is being issued and subscribed for as follows:

V.B. & Son Company Ltd 82, High Street, Sliema	2,500 Ordinary Shares	£2500.00
Philip Vaglica Via Mangidisi, 6, Mazara del Vallo Sicilia	2,500 Ordinary Shares	

(iii) Forty per cent (40%) of the issued share capital of the Company is being paid up by the subscribers thereof.

(iv) The remaining shares in the capital of the Company shall be at the disposal of the Board of Directors, who subject to any provisions in the Memorandum or Articles, may allot, issue or otherwise deal with or dispose of the same to such persons on such terms and conditions and at such terms as the Board of Directors think fit.

5. Unless and until otherwise determined by an extraordinary resolution of the Company, the affairs of the Company shall be managed and administered by a Board of Directors consisting of not less than two and not more than five Directors appointed by the Company in General Meeting. The first Directors of the Company shall be VICTOR BALZAN and PHILIP VAGLICA.

EXCHANGE CONTROL DIVISION
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The documents giving details of the fishing company set up by Victor Balzan and Philip Vaglica