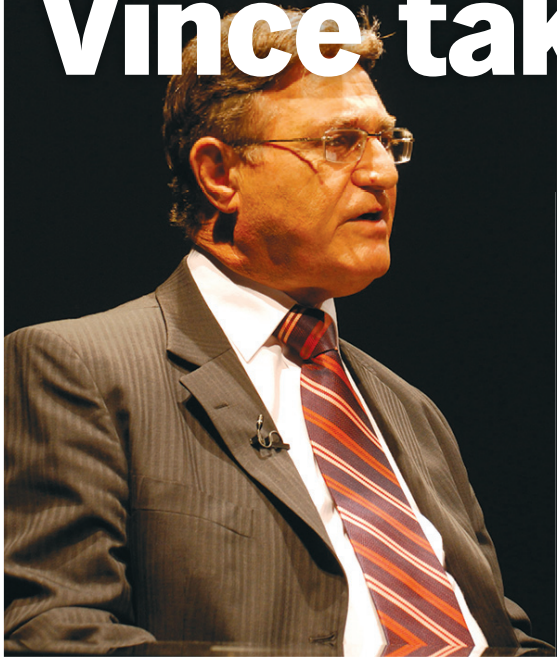




Vince takes up Gatt's challenge



David Darmanin

GRTU Director-General Vince Farrugia yesterday counter-challenged Infrastructure Minister Austin Gatt after the latter doubted whether small business owners would respect a union directive to default part of the payment owed to Enemalta in electricity bills.

"Vince Farrugia has every right to issue any directive he wishes," Gatt had told sister paper Business last week. "We'll see whether his members obey him or otherwise."

But Farrugia yesterday said he had no doubts on his intention to issue the directive, claiming the law is on his side.

"By consumer law, I have every right to refuse paying for a product or service that



GIOVANNI BONELLO

INTERVIEWED
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AUSTIN POWERS

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We saved Gaddafi, not Craxi - Mifsud Bonnici



Karl Schembri

FORMER Prime Minister Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici has shed doubts on the Libyan foreign minister's declaration last Thursday claiming that Italy had tipped off Libya of the US bombing raid on Muammar Gaddafi's house in April 1986.

Speaking to MaltaToday, Mifsud Bonnici said he was "extremely surprised" by Abdel-Rahman Shalgam's claims that he was informed by former Italian premier Bettino Craxi "one or two days" before the US bombing.

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"An hour before the bombing, we had informed Libyan air traffic controllers that unidentified, unauthorised planes were approaching their region," after passing over Maltese air space, Mifsud Bonnici recalls about the fateful attack on the night of 15 April, 1986.

"I'm extremely surprised (by Shalgam's declaration) as the Libyans were totally unprepared for the attack. So they either ignored the Italians' tip-off or I don't know."

In fact, the attack had killed Gaddafi's 15-month old adopted daughter and some other 40 civilians, and injured 226 others.

Asked if Libya and Italy were revising history just as they concluded reconciliation deals, Mifsud Bonnici said: "Possibly, yes."

To this day, Libya reserves the highest respect for Mifsud Bonnici, for whom red carpet treatment is offered on his regular trips to Tripoli.

Mifsud Bonnici said that, ironically, in the same evening



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mt survey

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