

✓ Sitting No. 6/64

Cabinet Meeting held at the Ambasciata d'Agan, Valletta, on Tuesday, 14th January, 1964, at 10 am.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister
 The Hon. Minister of Public Buildings
 & Works.
 The Hon. Minister of Justice and
 Parliamentary Affairs.
 The Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry
 & Agriculture.
 The Hon. Minister of Health.
 The Hon. Minister of Education,
 Culture and Tourism.
 The Hon. Minister of Labour, Employ-
 ment & Welfare...

Absent: The Hon. Minister of Finance,
 Customs & Ports.

Reduction of British Defence Forces in Malta.

The Cabinet agreed on a joint communiqué regarding the discussions which the Commonwealth Secretary General had with the Prime Minister of Malta on the proposed reduction of British Defence Forces in Malta following the Defence Review published by the British Government last February. These discussions were a continuation of the consultations under Article 6 of the Defence Agreement

initiated by Lord Beavick in Malta in August, 1966.

Letter from the Leader of the Opposition.

The Cabinet was informed of a letter dated 16th January, 1967, which the Prime Minister had received from the Leader of the Opposition in which the Prime Minister was asked to call an urgent meeting of the House of Representatives so that the Visiting Forces Act would be abrogated until such time as it pleased the British Government to remove the threat of discharges.

The Cabinet considered the matter very carefully and agreed that as the House of Representatives was meeting on the 20th January and as the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Act would in no way affect the financial privileges enjoyed by the British Forces in Malta, but would deprive all NATO forces stationed in Malta of the privileges granted by that Act, agreed that there would be no advantage in recalling the House of Representatives a day or two earlier than the date for which it stood adjourned for the purpose stated in the letter.

The Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Justice & Parliamentary Affairs who was acting Minister of Finance, Customs & Ports, and the Hon. Minister of Labour, Employment

and Welfare withdrew in order to attend at the talks with the Commonwealth Secretary on the reduction of the British Defence Forces in Malta.

OPM/E/715/66. Reorganization of Hospital Staff (Memo. No. 717)

#

Hon. Ministers were informed.

Mr. J. Carabott and Mr. A. Tabone were in attendance. The Hon. Mr. E. Cuschier was unavoidably absent.

That there were no "Finance" and "Establishments" objection to the reorganization of the Hospital staff as proposed in memorandum No. 717. They therefore agreed to the recommendations contained in the said memorandum. Details of that reorganization and also of certain claims made by the General Workers Union that could be implemented were to be worked out by "Establishments" and communicated officially to the Hon. Minister of Health with the least possible delay.

Confirmation of Written Opinion

The file mentioned below was circulated to Ministers whose written opinion was as follows:

OPM. 453/50 - H.C. The former General was advised to appoint the following gentlemen to be Electoral Commission for the year 1964, in terms of regulation 13 of the Sgo Local Government (Elections) Regulations 1961:

The Chief Electoral Commissioner - Chairman

L-ARKIVJI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

Dr. Hugh W. Harding, M.A., M.D., P.R. Med. S.
Dr. Vincenz Scerri, M.D.
Dr. Serge Vassallo, M.D.

Liamu Larnaca
Prime Minister
28.2.64

Adj. Secy
Secretary to Cabinet.
28.2.64