

V  
-Sitting No. 9/67.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Ambassadors' Residency, Valletta, on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1967, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister  
The Hon. Minister of Finance, Customs  
+ Ports.  
The Hon. Minister of Public Building  
+ 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 + Leisure.  
The Hon. Minister of Labour,  
Employment + Welfare.

Reduction of the British Defence Forces in Malta.

#: (The Hon. Mr. C. Cassar, Dr. M. Loffredo, Dr. C. Fenech and Mr. F. Amato were in attendance)

# The Cabinet considered again the question of the reduction of the British Defence Forces in Malta. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the almost total withdrawal of British Forces from Malta, as planned by the British Government, would render the Defence Agreement between Britain and Malta inoperative. It was felt therefore that the decision of the British Government to proceed with its plan was a breach

of the obligations under the Agreement and that, though such violation, the British Government could not but be regarded as having forfeited all the rights, privileges and facilities to which it was entitled under the Defence Agreement. It was agreed also that the visiting Forces Act 1966 be amended and that the first reading of the amending Bill be moved in the House of Representatives at the first opportunity.

Lamart Larnane  
 A/Prime Minister.  
 28.2.67

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 id/B...  
 Secretary to Cabinet.  
 28.2.67

# It was agreed that no ~~agreements~~ consultations took place at the appropriate time in terms of article 6 of the Agreement.

Lamart Larnane  
 A/Prime Minister.  
 28.2.67

id/B...  
 Secretary to Govt  
 28.2.67