

✓ Sitting No. 36/68.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge d'Angelo, Valletta, on Thursday, 14th May, 1968, at 11 am.

Present: 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 + Tourism.

The Hon. Minister of Labour, Employment + Welfare.

Absent: The Hon. Prime Minister who was away on official business.

Strike action by the General Workers Union.

The aP Prime Minister informed the Cabinet of the outcome of his meetings with representatives of the General Workers Union regarding their three claims, viz. (i) 40-hour week, (ii) change in the disciplinary procedure and (iii) introduction of a pension scheme for all industrial employees in the Government service. With regard to claim (i), the Union would now be prepared to go to the

A 1-0 + 1-0 Council decided the matter

of Lanes paid in by watchmen in the Government service was reduced to 48 per week. The Union undertook to send in a memorandum on Claim (ii). "Establishments and Finance" were preparing a joint report on Claim (iii).

Accounts of meetings with the General Dockers Union were given also by the Minister of Health and the Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture.

The Minister of Health stated that among the several claims of the General Dockers Union were the establishment of Whitley Councils for the staffs in the Hospitals and the parity in the salary of State Registered Nurses and Executive Officers. The Cabinet was not adverse to the establishment of Consultative ~~Executive~~ machinery, but the question of parity of State Registered Nurses with Executive Officers was a matter for consideration by the Independent Commission.

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture informed the Cabinet that the Union of the General Dockers Union for more sorters at the General Post Office would be met, but that there appeared to be difficulties to the creation of an Inspectorate class as demanded by the Union. The Cabinet agreed that this matter be examined again by representatives of "Establishments", Finance and the General Post Office.

Representations made by Establishments Division.
(The Administrative Secretary was in attendance)

The Acting Prime Minister informed the Cabinet that he had taken exception to the tone of a letter which the staff in Establishment Division had addressed to the Administrative Secretary on the 10th May, 1968, concerning the report carried in the Times of Malta of the 10th May on a meeting which representatives of the General Workers Union had on the 8th May with the Acting Prime Minister.

The letter in question was read out to the Cabinet. It was agreed that the staff in Establishment Division should be asked to apologise in writing for what they had written. The Administrative Secretary was asked to see that that decision was complied with by the staff concerned.

Confirmation of Written Opinion

The files mentioned hereunder were circulated to Ministers whose written opinion was as follows:

OPM. 389/68.

It was agreed that Malta should accede to the European Convention on Information on Foreign Law, and appoint the Women Advocate General's Chambers as the National Liaison body.

OPM. 311/68.

It was agreed that Malta should sign, with a view to ratification, the United Nations

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights.

OPM. 940/63

It was agreed that Malta should sign a Basic Agreement with the World Food Programme.

OPM. 369/68.

H.E. the Governor General was advised to approve the restoration to its owner of one pink coat which had been uncracked and therefore seized by order of the Criminal Court of Magistrates of Industrial Police.

OPM. 318/68.

H.E. the Governor General was advised to approve the transfer of ownership of the vessel "S.S. Janis Stavros" from Messrs. Greek Shipping Transports Organisation Co. Ltd. of 148, Britanni Street, Valletta, to Messrs. Levantine Sea Transports Co. Ltd. also of 148, Britanni Street, Valletta.

Edwin Oliver
Prime Minister.
21.5.68

W. R. A. A.
Secretary to Cabinet.
21.5.68.