

✓ Sitting No. 8/68.

Cabinet Meeting held at The Palace, Valletta, on Saturday, 9th November, 1968, at 10 am.

Present: The Hon. Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Customs & Excise.

The Hon. Minister of Public Building & Works.

The Hon. Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism.

The Hon. Minister of Labour, Employment & Welfare.

Absent: The Hon. Prime Minister and The Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, who were away from the Island on official business.

The Hon. Minister of Health who was indisposed.

Terms of Reference of the Salary (Anomalies) Commission:

Strike action by the Civil Service Staff Organizations.

(The Hon. Mr. E. Caschieri and Mr. J. Grech were in attendance)

Ministers considered the text of a cable which the ^{Hon.} Acting Prime Minister had drafted for transmission to Hon. Prime Minister who was away from the Island on official business. The cable was approved with slight amendments as shall hereunder:

Cable forwarded on Saturday, 9th November, 1968

Hon. Prime Minister

and Mr. Cacabatt

Dr. Tabone and Mr. Cuschieri re Anomalie advise me to write to Associations confirming your proposed revision salaries but omitting your first proposal interpretation of terms of reference to Commission as interpreted by Government. They base their advice on your words to Staff Associations present at the meeting of 28th October in the sense that also after the proposals the Commission would be free to give its interpretation with regard to anomalies. Wish to inform you that Associations present at sitting have not given any reply and others have rejected proposals and confirmed strike action for the 15th next. These last have only accepted proposal in so far as it leaves this revision in the hands of an independent body. Not having been present at the said sitting and in view of your letter to Associations of 28th in which you reiterated first proposal and confirmed our decision to limit interpretation of terms to our interpretation I felt I could not send a letter and bind you not within the full terms of your proposals by omitting proposal of first stage. I see inconsistency in proposing first stage and at the same time explaining that Commission is to give its own interpretation but Dr. Tabone and Mr. Cuschieri told me that this is what you gave the Associations to understand during the sitting. I should explain to you the practical side of the issue. If we withdraw our proposals which have not been accepted the consequence would be that Commission would remain free to interpret the terms of reference and we will still remain politically bound to implement revision. If we withdraw your first proposal and implement revision the results would be identical as the revision would be a concession by Government. There is also the possibility of Associations implementing the threatened strike also if we omit the first phase and concede the second phase of your proposals. I

your kind permission

Edgar Barreca
Secretary to Cabinet 3.12.68

Esther Debono
Prime Minister
19.12.68