

✓ Sitting No. 2/69.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Ambasciata d'Inghilterra, Valletta, on Thursday, 2nd January, 1969, at 6.30 p.m.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister

The Hon. Minister of Public Building & Works.

The Hon. Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture.

The Hon. Minister of Labour, Employment & Welfare.

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

The Hon. Minister of Health

The Hon. Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism, who were indisposed

OPM. 557/68 Defence Agreements and Financial Assistance Agreements: Re-Appraisal of Anglo/Maltese Relations (Memo. No. 1210).

(The Hon. Mr. E. Cuschieri, Mr. F.E. Amato Jani and Mr. M. Abela were in attendance)

Ministers considered Memorandum No. 1210 concerning the outcome of preliminary talks which had taken place between representatives of the Malta Government and of the British Government on the offer

which the British Government was prepared to make in relation to the ~~facilities~~ ^{aid still} due to Malta under the Financial Assistance Agreements of 1964. Ministers agreed that the offers were unrealistic and they therefore ~~propose~~ ^{decided} to pending further talks on the subject with the British Government a careful re-appraisal should be made of ~~these~~ Anglo/Maltese relations with a view to:

- i) Considering whether the Defence Agreements and the Financial Assistance Agreements of 1964 should be formally abrogated and replaced by a new agreement;
- ii) Considering whether such new arrangement:

- a) should be framed in such a way as to allow the British to continue to use certain listed facilities;
- b) should revise the facilities to be so retained;
- c) should provide for an annual rent to be paid by the British for such facilities; and
- d) should fix a maximum and minimum level of employment by the British Government in Malta.

iii) Considering how such facilities should be used.

It was agreed that studies along the above lines should be instituted forthwith by representatives of the:

Office of the Prime Minister (Economic Planning and Defence)

Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Affairs

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Ministry of Finance, Customs & Ports,
Office of the Crown Advocate General, and
Lands Department

Ca.
Ministers did not agree
that any negotiations about NATO should be made
~~through the British Government; they should be made~~
~~direct with NATO.~~
~~through the British Government; they should be made~~
~~direct with NATO.~~

Ca.

Champlain
Prime Minister
11th Dec, 1969.

Prof. A. A. A.
Secretary to Cabinet
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