

Meeting No 21 of 1970

Cabinet meeting held at the Auberge d'Oragon on Friday, 20th March, 1970, at 6 p.m.

Present: The Prime Minister and Ministers of Finance, Customs and Port

The Minister of Public Building and Works

The Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture

The Minister of Health

The Minister of Education, Culture and Tourism

The Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare

8 p.m. 414/70 UK - Malta Air Fares

Ministers considered the stalemate reached in the discussions on I.P.T.A.'s proposals to increase the UK/Malta air fares which in fact had already been implemented "subject to Government approval". It was agreed that discussions with the British Government, in terms of the Air Services Bilateral Agreement, be held before 1st April, 1970, only if B.L.A. took positive steps straightaway to discontinue selling tickets at the higher rates.

8 p.m. 508/70 Government Financial participation in Malta Airlines.

Ministers considered a proposal by which the Government would acquire 30% of Malta Airlines shares at par, payment thereof to be made out of accruing dividends. It was agreed that the matter be considered further by the Prime Minister and his advisers, keeping in view the desirability that the Government should ultimately own not less than 51% of the shares