

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE  
HON. PRIME MINISTER

United Nations Regional Seminar on "Sampling  
Methods in Current Statistics"

The United Nations Economic Mission for Europe has invited the Principal Government Statistician and another participant to attend a regional seminar on "Sampling Methods in Current Statistics" to be held in Budapest, Hungary, on 16th/27th September, 1963. All expenses, including travel, board and lodging, will be defrayed by the United Nations Technical Assistance.

2. In brief, the purpose of the seminar is to study the best methods of conducting statistical surveys. The Principal Government Statistician states that the study would be very useful to the work of his Department. He recommends that he and Mr A. Busuttill (Higher Executive Officer at the Statistics Office) should be nominated to attend the seminar. There would be no "Finance" or "Establishments" objection to the two nominations.

3. There is the fact that this United Nations seminar is being held in a Communist-ruled country. The Government of Hungary will be the host to the seminar. The participation of the two Maltese officials might therefore be a source of embarrassment to the Government (press, public, Parliament). If it is decided that this should be avoided there would be the alternative of asking for a report on the conference, although the report would not be as useful as actual representation.

4. Hon. Ministers are asked whether they agree that Malta Government Officials should participate in the United Nations seminar on this occasion.

4th May, 1963.