MEMORANJUM TO CABINET BY THE HON, MINISTER OF COMMON JEAUTH AND FOREIGN ASFALS AND THE HON, MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SCCIAL WEIFARE

Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference, June 1965.

At its 49th session in June 1965, the International Labour Conference adopted the following Conventions and Recommendations:-

- 1. Employment (Women with Family Responsibilities) Recommendation, 1965 (No.123);
 - 2. Minimum Age (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No.123)
 - Minimum Age (Underground Work) Recommendation, 1965 (No.124);
- 4. Medical Examination of Young Fersons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No. 124);
 - 5. Conditi ns of Employment of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965 (No. 125).
- 2. The first instrument urges Government to pursue a policy to enable women with family responsibilities who work outside their homes to exercise their right to do so without discrimination, and to develop such services as would enable women to fulfil their various responsibilities at home and at work harmoniously.
- J. In the field of public information and education the competent authorities are recommended to encourage consideration of problems of women workers as may be necessary to help these workers to become effectively integrated in the labour force on the basis of equal rights; to undertake or promote research into various aspects of their employment; and to engender broader public understanding of their problems.
- 4. In the case of women who, on account of their family responsibilities arising out of maternity, do not find themselves in a position to return to work immediately following exhaustion of the normal established period of maternity leave, the decommendation urges that appropriate measures should be taken to the extent possible, to allow them a reasonable further period of leave of absence without relinquishing their employment, all rights resulting from their employment being fully safeguarded.
- 5. The general concept in Malta is that a married woman's place is her home. Government female employees are required to leave their employment on marriage, and most women in private employment also relinquish their jobs on marriage. From a social point of view it is not desirable to encourage married women with family responsibilities to

take up employment, nor is this desirable from an economic point of view, at least, until better times prevail.

- 6. It is not therefore intended to apply the Recommendation or to introduce legislation whereby some of its provisions would be applied; but it will be kept in view in case future developments justify a revision of policy.
- 7. The other four instruments all deal with the employment of young persons for underground work in mines. Convention No. 123 and Recommendation No. 124 both concern the minimum age of admission to underground work in mines. Convention No. 124 concerns the medical examination of young persons for fitness for employment underground while hecommendation No. 125 concerns the conditions of employment of young persons for underground work in mines and deals mainly with health, safety and welfare; weekly rest and annual holidays with pay; and training.
- 8. In all four instruments a "mine" is defined as any undertaking, whether public or private, for the extraction of any substance from under the surface of the earth by means involving the employment of persons underground, and employment or work underground in mines includes employment or work underground in quarries.
- 9. In the absence of mines as defined above the four instruments are inapplicable in Malta and no action is therefore indicated.
- 10. Ministers are required to a ree to the decisions at paragraphs 6 and 9 of this memorandum before the five instruments are placed before the House of Representatives, accompanied by a statement indicating the intention of Government, in terms of paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

5th October, 1965.

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