

Sitting No. 10/62.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge d'Oran, Valletta, on Wednesday, 3rd October, 1962, at 6 pm.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Planning & Finance.
 The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism.
 The Hon. Minister of Education.
 The Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Power & Communications.
 The Hon. Minister of Justice.
 The Hon. Minister of Works & Housing.
 The Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare.
 The Hon. Minister of Health.

The minutes of Meeting No. 9/62 were read. The Hon. Prime Minister remarked that the public seal of Malta did exist. It was decided therefore to retain the words "under the public seal of Malta" in Section 32(2) in the draft Legislation to set up a statutory Electricity Board. The Hon. Minister of Justice undertook to inform G. Ennema Curren, Deputy Attorney General, accordingly.

OPM. 1168/62.

Exemption from Customs duty on certain materials for local use (Demo. No. 6)

Mr. A. Camilleri, Comptroller of Customs, and
 Mr. S. Mgeji, Director of Industrial Developments,

were in attendance.

The Cabinet again considered the question of the exemption from Customs duty of certain materials which were required by certain firms in Malta for local use. The materials comprised rough diamonds, certain ingredients required for producing balanced foods in quantity for cattle and animals, and items required for the making of gloves and rubber seals and mouldings.

It was stated that the bulk of the finished products of these firms was meant for exports and that the duty which was currently being paid on the imported materials was refundable. The Comptroller of Customs estimated the total duty payable on all the materials under consideration at £1000 a year.

Doubts were expressed as to whether the grant of this exemption from Customs duty would go against any law or against the "preferential tariff" agreements. The Cabinet decided therefore in favour of granting the desired exemption from Customs duty provided that the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism ascertained beforehand that there were no legal or constitutional difficulties.

Mr. R. Amilleri, Comptroller of Customs, and Mr. S. Meggi, Director of Industrial Development, were in attendance.

The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism started the discussion by stating the reasons for and the motives behind the proposed Bill amending the Schedule to the Imports and Exports Duties Ordinance.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of the Schedule of Amendments were discussed. It was explained that when the Balle Bacon Company's application for financial assistance under the Aids to Industries Act was approved the Government confirmed in writing that the duty on imported bacon would be increased in order to protect the new industry. It was proposed to raise the duty on imported bacon to 50/- per 100 kilos for a period of two years and after that to consider the reduction of the duty to its present rate, viz. 12/6 per 100 kilos.

This matter was considered in all its aspects, both financial and political, and it was decided that consideration of the question of levying a protective duty should be postponed to a later date. Meanwhile the importation of bacon was to be put under licence. Importation was to be limited to normal imports.

With regard to the other items in Parts II and III of the Schedule, it was

decided that discussions should be held by the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Industrial Developments & Tourism without reference to the Cabinet as a whole.

H.L.S.W. 204/62.

Presentation to the Legislative Assembly of the Actuarial Reports 1961 (Demo. No. 23).

The Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare explained that the first quinquennial Actuarial Reports on the operation of the National Insurance Act was received in November, 1961, when there was no Legislative Assembly in existence and the Reports remained unpublished. The Comptroller's advice was that once the Reports was published in the Government Gazette at the time it was received it should now be presented to the Legislative Assembly in order to comply with the provisions of the Law. The Hon. Prime Minister was considering the matter further and would inform in due course the Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare whether the Reports should be laid on the Table of the Legislative Assembly.

Eschomplivies

Prime Minister

10.10.62

Secretary to Cabinet.
10.10.62