

Meeting No. 18 of 1971

Cabinet meeting held at the Auberge d'Aragon  
on Thursday 25th March, 1971

Present:

- The Prime Minister and Minister of  
Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs
- The Minister of Finance, Customs & Post
- The Minister of Public Buildings & Works
- The Minister of Justice and Parliamentary  
Affairs
- The Minister of Trade, Industry and  
Agriculture
- The Minister of Education, Culture &  
Tourism
- The Minister of Health
- The Minister of Harbour, Employment  
and Welfare.

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TA' MALTA

Sec. 2662/60

Strikes by the Millers Association

Ministers noted the agreement  
between the Government and the Malta  
Millers Association which reads as  
follows:

" IT IS AGREED THAT

- a) The Milling Fee be increased by 4/3  
per ton of wheat milled, with  
arrears as proposed by Mr  
P. J. Tucker in par. 56 of  
his report dated 31st December  
1970.

b) A further increase in the Milling fee of up to 4/2 per ton of wheat milled (about £10,000 a year) to be paid with effect from 1st January, 1970 towards the increase in operating costs since 1st January 1970.

This Agreement is subject to the overriding condition that all the Seven Flow mills shall resume full normal operations by 7.30 a.m. on Thursday the 25th March 1971, at the latest.

sd) J. T. Amigo  
Chairman  
Malta Millers Association

sd) W. Podesta,  
Secretary, Ministry of  
Trade, Industry & Agric.

OPM/515/67/11

### Defence Arrangements.

Ministers considered a Note for the Press prepared by the British High Commission which reads as follows.

#### "ROYAL MARINE COMMANDO GROUP

1. It was announced on 11 March that, after consultations with the Malta Government, the British Government

proposes to replace the present British Army battalion later this year by "an equivalent unit".

2. In fact, the equivalent unit will be a Royal Marine Commando Group.

The total strength is likely to be of the order of 900 men.

#### TIMING

3. It is proposed that the replacement should take place in mid-July.

#### LOCATION

4. The Royal Marine Commando Group will be shore-based, and will take over the barracks at St. Andrew's vacated by the Battalion.

#### COMMANDOS TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY FAMILIES

5. The wives and children of the Commandos will be stationed with them in Malta.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMANDO GROUP

6. The only difference that will be apparent between the activities of the Infantry battalion at present in Malta and those of the Commando Group will be that the latter, as part of the amphibious

force, will from time to time embark in ships to take part in exercises at sea.

(Practically all the British Armed Forces would have a NATO role in time of war, but the important thing from Malta's point of view is that the presence of the Commando Group will not cause any increase in the scale of NATO activity in Malta)

#### GHAJN TUFFIEHA - NO CHANGE OF ROLE

7. The Training Camp at Għajns Tuffieha will be used as at present for training purposes by the Commando Group stationed in Malta, by the Malta Land Force, and by other units visiting the Island.

8. There will be no change in the role of Għajns Tuffieha.

#### TOUR OF DUTY

9. The normal tour of duty for the Commando Group would be about 2 years.

#### EFFECT ON THE RUNDOWN

10. As has already been stated all discharges due to take place under the Rundown in the

immediate future have been stopped while a review takes place of the effects, in terms of the employment of locally engaged civilians of the replacement of the Battalion by a Commando Group

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11. It is the object of the review to estimate how many LEC's will now be necessary, but it can be said now that, compared with the situation which would have existed, if the Battalion had been removed without replacement, there will certainly be more jobs than there would otherwise have been.

12. The Rundown cannot be expected to cease altogether as from now because the rate of discharge of LEC's, and the reduction of Army administrative units, have proceeded more slowly than the related Rundown of the major units."

Ministers decided that the British High Commissioner should be informed that the words in brackets at para. 6 should be omitted. Ministers also decided that the British High

Commission should be asked to add the word "substantial" before the words "more jobs" in para. 11.

PQ 8681/2/2 Qrendi Bomb Dump

Ministers considered Memo No. 1627 and decided to defer consideration to another sitting when the land's file would be available.

871/1111/3/71 Policy regarding citizens of Malta who failed to renounce their citizenship

Ministers considered Memo N. 1708 and asked to have the views of the Crown Advocate General before a final decision is taken.

Written Opinion

The following files were circulated to Ministers whose written opinion was as follows:

land 816/62/11 : H. E. the Governor General was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of premises 69/70 St Helen St B' Kera (Memo 1723)

Land 781/70 HE the Governor General was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of 8 plots of Land at Zepher (Memo. 1721)

Land 650/58 HE the Governor General was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of 1 plot of Land at St. Julian's (Memo. 1720)

Land 64/69 HE the Governor General was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of 1 plot of Land at Mosta (Memo 1719)

OPM/823/66 Ministers agreed that Messrs Farsons Investments Ltd should acquire from Government the area at Rabat shown shaded Red on plan 65 823/66 - Red 48A in OPM 823/66 (Memo 1678)

Prime Minister

Secretary to Cabinet,