

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET BY THE MINISTER OF
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM (ad int.)

Amendment of Section 31 of the
Import Duties Act, 1964

The amendment of the Excise Duty (Crown Corks and Non-alcoholic Concentrates) Ordinance, 1961, which is now before the House of Representatives, will enable the Minister of Industrial Development and Tourism to issue regulations permitting local brewers and vintners to purchase crown corks from manufacturers in Malta without payment of excise duty. Until the final passing of the amendment, brewers and vintners have to pay excise duty at the rate of one half-penny per crown cork and they subsequently obtain reimbursement by way of drawback; the amendment will remove the necessity for this procedure which ties up large sums of money particularly in the case of the brewers.

2. Concurrently with the issue of regulations permitting the purchase of locally manufactured crown corks free of excise duty there should be published parallel regulations for an equivalent facility on imported crown corks. It has been found however that the powers of the Governor-General to make regulations under section 31 of the Import Duties Act, 1964, are not sufficiently extensive to permit this, and a minor amendment in subsection (g) of this section will set matters right.

3. The said subsection at present empowers the Governor-General to make regulations "generally for any other matter incidental or supplementary to any of the foregoing matters." It is proposed to alter the wording so as to empower the Governor-General to make regulations "generally for any other purpose connected with the operation of the provisions of this Act."

4., The Acting Attorney General has accordingly prepared the attached short Bill, and Hon. Ministers are invited to agree that the Bill be submitted to the House of Representatives for approval.

15th October, 1964.

A BILL
entitled

AN ACT to amend the Import Duties Act, 1964.

Citation

1. This Act may be cited as the Import Duties (Amendment) Act, 1964, and shall be read and construed as one with the Import Duties Act, 1964, hereinafter referred to as "the principal law".

Amendment of section 31 of the principal law.

2. For paragraph (g) of section 31 of the principal law there shall be substituted the following paragraph:-

"(g) generally for any other purpose connected with the operation of the provisions of this Act."

Objects and Reasons

The object of this Act is to empower the Governor-General to make in relation to the Import Duties Act, 1964 any regulations which may become necessary for the operation of certain provisions of the Act.