

JOINT MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET BY THE MINISTER OF
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AND THE MINISTER FOR
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Membership of the Inter-Governmental Maritime
Consultative Organisation

Consideration is being given whether Malta should not subscribe to the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (I.M.C.O.).

2. This Organisation was established by an International Maritime Conference which was set up by the United Nations in February, 1948.
3. The objectives of I.M.C.O. are:-
 - (a) To provide machinery for co-operation among Governments in the field of governmental regulation and practices relating to technical matters of all kinds affecting shipping engaged in international trade and to encourage the general adoption of the highest practicable standards in matters concerning maritime safety and efficiency of navigation.
 - (b) To encourage the removal of discriminatory action and unnecessary restrictions by Governments affecting shipping engaged in international trade so as to promote the availability of shipping services to the commerce of the world without discrimination.
 - (c) To provide for the consideration by the Organisation of matters concerning unfair restrictive practices by shipping concerns.
 - (d) To provide for the consideration by the Organisation of any matters concerning shipping that may be referred to it by any organ or specialised Agency of the United Nations.
 - (e) To provide for the exchange of information among Governments on matters under consideration by the Organisation.
4. The Convention for the establishment of I.M.C.O. was signed at Geneva, on the 6th March, 1948. As may be seen, its functions are consultative and advisory.
5. MEMBERSHIP - Members of the United Nations may become members of the Organisation by:-
 - (a) Signature without reservation as to acceptance;
 - (b) Signature subject to acceptance followed by acceptance;
 - (c) Acceptance, which shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary General of the United Nations.

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta

6. FINANCES - Each Member shall bear the salary, travel and other expenses of its own delegation to the assembly and of its representatives on the Council, and other committees and subsidiary bodies.

7. Subject to any agreement between the Organisation and the United Nations the Assembly shall review and approve the budget estimates and shall apportion the expenses among the Members in accordance with a scale to be fixed after consideration of the proposal of the Council thereon. In accordance with the latest Resolution of the Organisation, Malta's contribution for a full year would amount to £725, while a sum of £84 would be payable towards the Working Capital Fund on entering the Organisation.

8. HEADQUARTERS - The headquarters of the Organisation are in London but its site may be changed by a two-thirds majority vote.

9. On the subject of whether any benefits would be derived from joining the Convention, it is interesting to note that during 1964, especially when the possibility of Malta becoming independent began to attract the attention of other countries, enquiries were received from shipping concerns overseas with the view of having their ships registered at this Port. Between January and October, 1964, eight vessels were registered locally. Two of these of 5,332 and 7,291 gross tons respectively, are employed in international trade and have never been to Malta. In addition to these there are at least another five ships in the process of being registered. These make up a total tonnage of 34,700 gross, and include a tanker of over 10,000 gross tons.

10. As already stated in paragraphs 3 (e) and 4, the functions of I.M.C.O. are consultative and advisory, designed, inter alia, to provide for the exchange of information among Governments on maritime matters. In view of this, and of the growing attention which is being focussed on this Port from overseas, it would appear that Membership of the Organisation would help to project in Malta the field of international shipping, thus enhancing the interest of foreign ship-owners in the attractions of registering ships in Malta which cannot but result to our benefit.

11. Hon. Ministers are invited to agree that Malta should become a member of I.M.C.O.

26th August, 1965.