

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE MINISTER OF COMMONWEALTH AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Amendment of the Passports Ordinance

Cap. 98

One of the main objects of this Bill is to extend the definition of a passport to include other official documents issued for travel purposes by the competent authority. This is being done in contemplation of eventual arrangements with other countries in respect of the use of certificates of identity or other official travel documents in lieu of passports for purposes of travel.

Before the issue of the new Malta passport, it was felt advisable to show that the word "MALTA" has the same meaning as is assigned to it by section 126 of the Constitution of Malta.

Section 9 of the Passports Ordinance is also being amended to include the making of regulations in respect of passports issued to citizens of Malta by Malta Missions abroad. The provisions of clause 5 of the Bill are essentially consequential on this.

Hon. Ministers are invited to recommend enactment of the attached draft legislation.

OPM 475/64
16th August, 1965.

L-Arkivji Nazjonajta, Malta

A B I L L

entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Passports Ordinance,
Cap. 98.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives of Malta, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Passports (Amendment) Act, 1965, and shall be read and construed as one with the Passports Ordinance, hereinafter referred to as "the principal law".

Amendment of section 2 of the principal law.

2. In section 2 of the principal law, immediately after the definition of the expression 'transfer', there shall be added the following definitions:

"'Malta' has the same meaning as is assigned to it by section 126 of the Constitution of Malta;

'the Minister' means the Minister for the time being responsible for matters relating to passports;

the expression 'passport' includes a certificate of identity, identity card or other official document issued for travel purposes by a competent authority."

Amendment of section 9 of the principal law.

3. Section 9 of the principal law shall be amended as follows:-

(a) for the words "Prime Minister" there shall be substituted the word "Minister"; and

(b) immediately after the words "in Malta" there shall be inserted the words "and, in respect of passports issued to citizens of Malta, outside Malta".

Amendment of section 10 of the principal law.

4. In section 10 of the principal law, for the words "Prime Minister" wherever they occur there shall be substituted the word "Minister".

Addition of new section 11.

5. Immediately after section 10 of the principal law there shall be added the following new section:

11. Where any of the offences referred to in sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 of this Ordinance is committed outside Malta in relation to a passport issued to a citizen of Malta, the offender may in Malta be

prosecuted, tried and punished in the same manner and to the same extent as if the offence had been committed in Malta".

Objects and Reasons

One of the main purposes of this Bill is to extend the definition of a passport to include other official documents issued for travel purposes by a competent authority, and this is being done in contemplation of eventual arrangements with other countries in respect of the use of certificates of identity or other official travel documents in lieu of passports for purposes of travel.

The regulation-making power in section 9 of the principal law is also being amended to include the making of regulations in respect of passports issued to citizens of Malta outside Malta. The provisions of clause 5 of the Bill are essentially consequential on this.