

Memorandum for Cabinet

The U.N.E.S.C.O. Convention concerning the Exchange of Official Publications and Government Documents between States, adopted by the General Conference in 1958, provides for the exchange between Contracting States of official publications and government documents on a reciprocal basis. Official publications and government documents are deemed to be material executed by order and at the expense of any national governmental authority and include parliamentary documents, reports, journals and other administrative papers. Confidential documents, circulars and other items not made public are not considered exchange material. What constitutes exchange material is left to a Contracting State to determine.

2. The Convention was acceded to on behalf of Malta in 1960. The Department of Information was appointed the exchange authority in Malta. The Convention was one of the treaties inherited by Malta on independence.

3. A second U.N.E.S.C.O. Convention, considered by the General Conference at the same time, concerned the International Exchange of Publications. It was not then extended to Malta as the Director of Information felt that extension was unnecessary in view of the paucity of locally produced material, as defined in the Convention itself. The Director of Information is now of opinion that as Malta is independent accession to this Convention has become desirable.

4. The Crown Advocate General advises that there is no legal objection to Malta becoming a party to either Convention.

5. Hon. Ministers are invited to approve confirmation of one Convention and accession to the other.

7th February, 1966.