

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

Contribution by United States Government
towards costs of Malta Flight Information Centre

1. The Flight Information Centre at Luqa provides the following facilities:

- (a) Meteorological Communications;
- (b) Services and Facilities for R.A.F. Purposes;
- (c) Air Traffic Control;
- (d) Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network.

2. By an Exchange of Letters dated the 21st September, 1964, effected under the Defence Agreement, the Malta and United Kingdom Governments agreed that (a) was to be the financial responsibility of the Government of Malta; (b) of the Government of the United Kingdom while the recurrent costs of (c) and (d) were to be shared between the two Governments on the basis of the proportion of U.K. military use to total use of (c).

3. For the financial year ended the 31st March, 1966, the services under (c) and (d) cost the U.K. Government £52,147 and the Government of Malta £116,070, a total of £168,217.

4. United States military planes have been making substantial use of these facilities and, through the year under review, the aircraft movements position was

	Movements	%	Cost in £
U.K. Military	16,127	30.3	52,147
U.S. Military	13,644	26.0)	116,070
Civil	23,423	43.7)	
Total	53,194	100.0	168,217

5. It is considered that the United States Government, like the United Kingdom Government under the provisions of the Defence Agreement, should contribute a share towards the cost of this important service of which it is making substantial use. Pro-rata sharing of the costs listed above would have reduced the actual Government expenditure from £116,070 to £72,334 and involved the United States Government in a subvention of £43,736.

6. Ministers are invited to consider whether representations should be made to the United States Government with a view to their agreeing to pay a pro-rata contribution towards the cost of providing the Air Traffic Control Service and the Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network Services.

4th January, 1967.