

Memorandum for Cabinet by  
the Honourable Minister of Trade  
Industry & Agriculture

The Introduction of the Metric System

Following a recommendation of the Malta Board of Standards, a representative technical sub-committee was set up to study the question of introducing the metric system into Malta.

This technical sub-committee held two meetings under the Chairmanship of Mr L.A.W. Hayward - the Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture and the findings of these meetings were incorporated into a report written by Mr Hayward dated September 17, 1966, a copy of which is attached hereto and entitled "Report to the Malta Government Recommending the Introduction of the Metric System".

The report is restricted in its scope to the question of weights and measures (lengths and capacities) only, and indicates that the question of decimal currency would be a subject to be dealt with independently through the Ministry of Finance, Customs and Port.

The report refers to the general global trend towards metricisation and states that the longer the delay in taking action to convert to the metric system, the greater will be the ultimate cost.

The British Government's target date for complete conversion is 1975 and after this, it is anticipated that nearly all Malta's external trade will be conducted in metric units. The feeling is thus expressed that metricisation may eventually be forced upon Malta.

The conclusion was reached that it would be desirable for a policy of metricisation in Malta to be announced without delay and that as far as practicable the same method of approach as was being followed in the United Kingdom should be adopted. This would entail the use of units of the Systeme International and would be in conformity with Malta's affiliations to the British Standards Institution and the International Standards Organization and would be in line with all other countries which had already and which were making the change.

The Honourable Ministers of Finance, Customs and Port, and of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, have expressed their general concurrence with the recommendations of this report and Hon. Ministers are therefore asked to consider whether they endorse the findings of the report. If so, Hon. Ministers may wish to agree that action should be taken as recommended in resolutions (4), (6) and (7) which appear on pages 6-7 of the attached report. These resolutions refer to:-

- (4) the formal pronouncement by Government of a policy decision to convert to metric units of weights and measures;

- (6) the appointment of a standing advisory committee to deal with the conversion;
- (7) the provision of funds for the promotion of metricisation.

Resolution number (5) refers to the question of a weights and measures inspectorate and the urgent need for the early appointment of trainee officers to operate the inspectorate particularly if metricisation is contemplated. A memorandum entitled "Establishment of a Weights and Measures Inspectorate" by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture was forwarded to the Secretary to Cabinet on September 7, 1966 and it is thus desirable that this memorandum and the above mentioned memorandum be dealt with concurrently.

L-ARKIVI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

9th February, 1967

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Report to the Malta Government

Recommending the Introduction of the

Metric System

- (1) Introduction
- (2) Preliminary meeting
- (3) Second meeting
- (4) Discussion

(1) Introduction

At the Sixth Commonwealth Standards Conference held in London in July 1965 at which Malta was represented, the following resolution was passed:-

"The Conference considers that it would be useful at this time for standards organisations to undertake a detailed assessment of the position and economic implications of a change to the Metric System on the lines of the report which has been undertaken in India, South Africa, and the United Kingdom."

It was therefore felt that the Malta Board of Standards (now officially constituted) would be an appropriate body to initiate an enquiry into the subject and a memorandum entitled "Conversion to the Metric System" was placed before the Sixth Meeting of the Board held on 28.1.66.

At this meeting it was recommended that a sub-committee should be nominated to report on the desirability and practicability of Malta adopting the Metric System. It was suggested that this sub-committee should be comprised of the following:-

one representative from the  
 Treasury  
 one representative from the  
 Public Works Department  
 one representative from the  
 Education Department  
 one representative from the  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 one representative from the  
 Federation of Maltese Industries  
 the Mechanical Engineer -  
 Department of Industry  
 The Scientific Adviser -  
 Ministry of Trade, Industry  
 and Agriculture.

Nominations were obtained from the authorities  
 concerned and a preliminary meeting took place on  
 5.5.66.

On 18.8.66 a second meeting of the sub-committee  
 was called and resolutions were agreed which were  
 then presented to the ninth meeting of the Malta  
 Board of Standards held on 25.8.66. At the latter  
 meeting, the Scientific Adviser was requested to  
 prepare a report for the attention of the Malta  
 Government (this report).

## (2) Preliminary Meeting

The data presented on the agenda of this  
 meeting (copy of agenda as attachment "A")  
 indicated the increasing global trend towards  
 metricisation which already embraces over 80%  
 of the World's population, and attention was drawn  
 to the fact that a number of relatively undeveloped  
 countries have already made the change-over.

Reasons why Malta should consider the change  
 were briefly summarized as follows:-

- i) Malta is geographically  
 surrounded by "metric" countries  
 and with the conversion in the  
 United Kingdom, nearly all of  
 Malta's trade will be carried  
 out in metric units.

- ii) It would be opportune for Malta to embark on the change-over at a time when the setting up of a weights and measures inspectorate has been under active consideration.
- iii) The greater the industrialization in a country the greater is the ultimate cost of the change-over. In view of Malta's projected industrial expansion, an early decision on a metricisation policy is desirable.

The representative of the Treasury Department indicated that the present sub-committee should be restricted in its scope to weights and measures (lengths and capacities) only, as the question of decimal currency would have to be studied by a separate committee and eventually dealt with by the Central Bank. (see minutes of meeting as attachment "B").

The sub-committee concluded that a change to the metric system was highly desirable and that the method of tackling the problem in the United Kingdom should be adhered to as far as was practicable. The Scientific Adviser was requested to obtain the necessary detailed information on the change-over in the United Kingdom in order that the sub-committee could study the full implications.

### (3) Second Meeting

The required information was obtained and the agenda of the second meeting (copy as attachment "C") gave a brief outline of the approach to the change-over in the United Kingdom. The initiative in the matter had been taken by the British Standards Institution (B.S.I.) who, in 1962, published a pamphlet entitled "Change to the Metric System?" and in 1963 published a second pamphlet entitled "British Industry and the Metric System". (attachments "D" and "E" respectively).

Both of these publications had been produced after extensive discussion with industry and it was felt in most sectors that the change was inevitable and should proceed even in the absence of parallel moves in the U.S.A., and the President of the Federation of British Industries approached the British Government on the matter in early 1965. As a result, the President of the Board of Trade made a formal announcement in May 1965 to the effect that the British Government would support the change and the B.S.I. were asked to undertake the necessary background work.

The units selected by the B.S.I. were those of the Systeme International (the S.I. System) as recommended by the International Standards Organisation (I.S.O.) of which the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture is a correspondent member. The S.I. system differs slightly in notation from the classical metric system and is the system now being adopted by all countries making the change in accordance with I.S.O. recommendations. To date some 23 countries have adopted the S.I. system, the detailed working of which has been explained in a further publication of the B.S.I. entitled "The Metric System in the United Kingdom/The Use of S.I. Units" and dated December 1965. (Copy as attachment "F") As far as the writer is aware no countries have recently made or are contemplating making changes to systems not in accordance with I.S.O. recommendations.

The B.S.I. has now embarked on the metricisation of British Standards for stock materials, components and small tools, a task which should be completed in 1969. The British Government's target date of 1975 will thus allow about six years for the manufacture to convert his production.

The British Government is in touch with the situation through its Ministry of Technology which has appointed a committee to keep progress of the change under review and assist in removing obstacles, etc.

The sub-committee then considered proposals for a suggested line of action in Malta where, unlike the United Kingdom, there was no operative weights and measures inspectorate. The setting up of such an inspectorate in Malta, which it is understood is already receiving favourable and active consideration by the Government, would be an essential initial step towards metricisation. It would be necessary to appoint officers for this inspectorate at an early date as they would require overseas training and should participate in a metric education programme.

It is interesting to note that there is already some measure of metricisation in certain sectors (e.g. chemical and electrical engineering) and that the metric system has this year been introduced into the General School Certificate Examination which Maltese students have to take.

After considering all the relevant data the technical sub-committee unanimously agreed (see copy of minutes as attachment "G") to the following resolutions, which relate to weights and measures only, for transmission to Government:-

- 1) This Committee has taken note of the general trend towards the adoption of the metric system which now embraces 82.7% of the World's population.
- 2) The Committee notes that Malta is geographically surrounded by "metric" countries and with the changeover in the United Kingdom nearly all Malta's trade will have to be conducted in "metric" units.
- 3) The Committee draws attention to the fact that the greater the degree of development and industrialisation in a country the greater is the cost of the changeover. Malta is in a state

- of industrial expansion and the longer the delay in making the change the greater will be the ultimate cost.
- 4) The Committee strongly recommends that the Malta Government makes with the minimum delay, a formal pronouncement of a policy decision to convert to the metric system, and should in general follow a similar line of approach in the matter to that being adopted in the United Kingdom.
  - 5) The Committee understands that the Government has taken a recent decision to set up a Weights and Measures Inspectorate and recommends that the early appointment of trainee-officers to operate this Inspectorate is, in any event, desirable but most urgent if metricisation is to be adopted because these officers would be required to play an important part in the change-over. Funds for the purchase of the necessary standards and equipment should also be made available.
  - 6) In the event of the acceptance of resolution No. 4 by Government, the Committee recommends that Government should appoint a standing advisory committee (possibly similar to the present Committee in constitution) whose duty would be to keep Government closely advised of progress towards metricisation and to appoint working parties to deal with the manifold aspects of the matter. This standing committee would also advise Government on target dates for conversion.



- 7) The Committee draws attention to the fact that the Standing Advisory Committee suggested in (6) would require certain funds for promotion of the Metric System such as the issuing of pamphlets and posters and advertising in the newspapers and on the radio and television."

(4) Discussion

The foregoing discourse with appended resolutions contains no details of the merits of the S.I. system or reference to the manner in which Malta may already be partially committed to conformity with that system in the event of a change. At this stage it is felt that the primary consideration is the broad acceptance of the resolutions by Government, a formal pronouncement of policy, and the appointment of a suitable standing committee which could advise on working details and keep Government closely informed of progress. A clear cut policy and a direct approach with specified target dates in the various sectors are all very necessary to avoid the type of protracted confusion which took place in Japan for half a century. Such a change should not cause as much confusion in Malta as in some relatively undeveloped countries which have already taken the plunge.

It has been recorded that metricisation has overtaken certain industrial sectors in Malta, and this year has been introduced into some school examinations. Some new Maltese industries are already using metric weights and measures in their production and trading. In addition detailed proposals for the revision of the Weights and Measures Ordinance (Chapter 62 Vol. 1V Laws of Malta) on a metric basis have been worked out and submitted to the Department of Industry for consideration.

There is thus already a wind of change towards metricisation in Malta which would fortuitously be greatly facilitated by the enormous amount of technical background work which is now being carried out by the B.S.I. The results of this work are being made freely available to Malta through the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture which has been a member of the B.S.I. for many years. This Ministry maintains a library of all British Standards and receives all publications of the B.S.I. The activities and guidance of the B.S.I. would relieve Malta of a great deal of work and facilitate the smooth progress of such a change.

L-ARKIVI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

L.A.M. HAYWARD  
(SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR)  
Ministry of Trade, Industry & Agriculture  
17.9.66

Malta Board of Standards

Technical Sub-Committee Meeting  
to Advise on the Desirability  
of Introducing the Metric  
System into Malta

AGENDA

The meeting is to be held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 5th at the Offices of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture at Old Mint Street, Valletta.

- |    |  |                |
|----|--|----------------|
| 1) | Introductory note  | Memorandum "A" |
| 2) | The pros and cons of adopting the Metric System in Malta | Memorandum "B" |
| 3) | Draft resolutions  | Memorandum "C" |
| 4) | Any other business                                       |                |

Memorandum "A"

Introductory Note

At the Sixth Commonwealth Standards Conference held in London in July 1965 at which Malta was represented, the following resolution was passed:-

"The Conference considers that it would be useful at this time for Standards organisations to undertake a detailed assessment of the position and economic implications of a change to the Metric System on the lines of the report which has been undertaken in India, South Africa, and the United Kingdom."

It was therefore felt that the Malta Board of Standards would be an appropriate body to initiate an enquiry into the subject and a memorandum on "Conversion to the Metric System" was placed before the Sixth Meeting of the Malta Board of Standards held on 28.1.66.

At this meeting it was recommended that a sub-committee should be nominated to report on the desirability and practicability of Malta adopting the Metric System. It was suggested that the sub-committee should be comprised of the following:-

- one representative from the Treasury
- one representative from the Public Works Department
- one representative from the Education Department
- one representative from the Chamber of Commerce

One representative from the  
Federation of Malta Industries

the Mechanical Engineer -  
Department of Industry

The Scientific Adviser -  
Ministry of Industrial  
Development and Tourism

The present sub-committee has been constituted  
in accordance with the foregoing proposal and is  
charged with making recommendations for transmission  
to the Malta Board of Standards.

Some brief background data for the information  
of this committee appears in Memorandum "B".

Memorandum "B"

The Pros and Cons  
of Adopting the Metric System  
in Malta

At the present time there is a major international trend to convert to the Metric System which is already being used by 82.7% of the World's population.

Commissions have been operating in the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Central Africa to report on the desirability of converting to the Metric System and it appears to be a matter of time before complete conversion takes place in all of these territories. The United Kingdom Government has very recently (1965) accepted their Commissions report and taken a policy decision to complete conversion to the Metric System by 1972. New Zealand has announced its intention of converting to metric currency in the near future while Australia has already taken this step. Some relatively undeveloped ex-Colonial territories have already converted to the metric system e.g. Ghana, India and Pakistan.

The most important reasons for changing to the Metric System are of course those associated with relations with other countries in such spheres as trade which includes currency and weights and measures.

As far as Malta is concerned the metric system is already being used by some manufacturers but there are special reasons for effecting a complete conversion:-

1. Malta is geographically surrounded by 'metric' countries and when

the United Kingdom converts to this system the greater part of Malta's trade will be with metric countries.

- 2 A decision has very recently been taken to set up weights and measures inspectorate in Malta and it would be opportune for the Malta Government to make a policy decision on this matter before the inspectorate starts operations.
- 3 The greater the industrialisation in a country the greater the cost of the change-over. Malta is undergoing rapid industrial expansion at the present time and the longer the delay in the change-over the greater would be the ultimate cost.

Disadvantages of changing to the metric system are those of initial cost and the confusion which is bound to be caused to the local population in everyday matters such as land measurements and weights and measures relating to consumer goods. Issue of conversion charts is being undertaken in the United Kingdom to reduce such confusion among the general public.

Malta Board of Standards

Technical Sub-Committee to study the desirability and practicability of introducing the Metric System into Malta

The meeting was held at 10a.m. at the premises of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture on 5.5.66. The following were present:-

D. A. W. Hayward	Chairman
J. Camilleri	Representative from the Treasury
J. Gambina	Representative from the Public Works Dept.
C. Camilleri	Representative from the Education Department
Major A.J. Calascione	Representative from the Chamber of Commerce
M. de Giorgio	Representative from F.M.I.
M. Galea	Mechanical Engineer - Department of Industry
V. Pace Floridia	Secretary

The Chairman welcomed the members and explained the purpose and function of this sub-committee.

Mr. Galea stated that the I.S.O. have recommended their member countries to adopt the S.I. system for weights and measures. The Chairman mentioned that Malta had recently become a correspondent member of the I.S.O.

Mr. C. Camilleri stated that this Board should be concerned with weights and measures only as the question of currency is going to be dealt with eventually by the Central Bank. However, he added that the committee might perhaps comment broadly on the merits of using metric-currency.

Major Calascione asked whether it was the intention to adopt an international system of weights and measures or merely to introduce a metric conversion of the existing local system. *There was considerable*



discussion on this matter and members eventually agreed that it would be desirable for Malta to conform to the method of approach being adopted by the United Kingdom.

Mr. Gambina remarked that in view of the fact that machinery has to be imported from U.K., it would not be practicable for Malta to change over before the U.K. Mr. Galea said that in the chemical and electric field, the U.K. is already using the S.I. system.

The Chairman stated that the report written on the change-over in the U.K. had not yet been received by him and in the circumstances it was not possible to provide full information on the point raised by Major Calasciune.

Mr. de Giorgio stated that more information should be collected on the conversion to the S.I. system in other countries, particularly in the U.K., before the Committee can make firm recommendations to the Government on this subject. This was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman undertook to collect the necessary information and recall the sub-committee at a later date. He then thanked the members for their help.

Malta Board of Standards

Second Meeting of Technical Sub-Committee

to Advise on the Desirability of  
Introducing the Metric System  
into Malta

AGENDA

The meeting is to be held at 10.30 a.m. on 18th August 1966 at the offices of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture at Old Mint Street, Valletta.

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Minutes of the First Meeting   |                |
| 2. Introductory Note  | Memorandum "A" |
| 3. A brief history of the approach to the change-over in the United Kingdom | Memorandum "B" |
| 4. Present position and action programme in the United Kingdom              | Memorandum "C" |
| 5. Suggested line of action in Malta  | Memorandum "D" |

Memorandum "A"

Introductory Note

At the first meeting of this sub-committee held on 5.5.66 it was agreed that:-

- (a) Malta should consider adopting a similar approach to that being made in the United Kingdom.
- (b) More details should be obtained of the change-over being planned in the United Kingdom in order that the Committee could study the implications more closely.

Since this meeting on 5.5.66 the Scientific Adviser has been on leave in the United Kingdom and took the opportunity to visit the officer at the British Standards Institution who is dealing with this matter and all the available literature relating to the change-over in the United Kingdom has now been obtained.

Mr. M. Galea has also kindly obtained the following literature which will be of interest and possibly of use in due course and copies are distributed herewith to members of the Committee for information. It is to be noted however that this Committee is concerned solely with a general policy decision on the desirability for the change-over and not with technical detail.

- (a) Adoption of the Metric System in India.
- (b) Japan's transition to the Metric System.
- (c) Scientific Metrology on the International plane and the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures.

Memorandum "B"

A Brief History of the Approach  
to the Change-over in the United Kingdom

The starting point for the change-over in the United Kingdom was in May 1962 when the British Standards Institution published a pamphlet P.D. 4555 entitled "Change to the Metric System?" This pamphlet (a copy of which is tabled and marked "A") includes a preliminary study for a complete conversion of the United Kingdom to a metric system over a period of 20 years. A time schedule for various steps in the change-over was included. This was followed in October 1963 by another publication of the British Standards Institution entitled "British Industry and the Metric System (reference P.D. 5069) a copy of which is tabled and marked "B".

Both of these publications were produced after extensive discussion with industry and the second ("B") demonstrated that there was positive industrial support for the policy of change and this was subsequently discussed at a number of meetings organised by the Federation of British Industries (now the Confederation of British Industries) in 1964.

The consensus of opinion by industry was that the change-over was inevitable and that the sooner it was made the less money it would cost. It was felt in most sectors that the change should proceed irrespective of the absence of parallel moves in the U.S.A. and certain other countries. The result of these meetings was a letter from the President of the F.B.I. to the British Government in February 1965 endorsing the B.S.I.'s conclusions and this was followed by the Government statement of policy

on 24th May 1965 (see Appendix "A"). It will be noted that the Government formally requested the British Standards Institution to undertake the necessary background work.

In 1964 the British Standards Institution published:-

British Standard 3743:64

The International System (SI) Units  
a copy of which is tabled for information and marked "C".

In December 1965 the British Standards Institution published a Booklet P.D. 5686 entitled "The Metric System in the United Kingdom/The Use of S.I. Units". A copy of this publication is tabled for information and marked "D". At the present time the S.I. system is legally recognised in 23 countries. It is to be noted that many European countries which still operate on the classical metric system have not yet officially changed over to the S.I. system though this change only appears to be a matter of time.

Memorandum "C"

Present Position and  
Action Programme in the  
United Kingdom

Beyond suggesting that a 10-year period should be long enough for the majority of British industry to make the change, the Government did not lay down a precise timetable. The programme depends heavily of course on the speed at which metric British Standards can be made available. The BSI is tackling, as a first priority, the metricization of standards for stock materials, components and small tools, and some 1200 standards come into these categories. Until this work is complete, it is hoped within three years, the designer of end-products will not know what his metric resources are in terms of size and quality ranges. On this basis of timing the product manufacturer will have some six years to convert his production before the Government's target of 1975 is reached.

In the writing of metric standards the B.S.I. are drawing on ISO Recommendations wherever possible and, in their absence, on current metric practice on the Continent. The June issue of B.S.I. News, page 15, which is tabled gives an article which sums up the present policy and thinking of the B.S.I.

For the construction industry, a special programme is being developed by the B.S.I. to cater for the introduction of metric measures plus the concept of dimensionally coordinated building products. Again BSI is the focal point for this operation because of the crucial role of standards.

As regards units, the B.S.I. is proposing to use the metric units of the Systeme International (as set out in B.S.3763) wherever possible. Some of the uses of the system, particularly of multiples and sub-multiples, have still to be resolved internationally. B.S.I. took part in a meeting of ISO/TC 12 in Elsinore in June 1966 and it is hoped that a detailed guide to the use of SI units will result from these discussions. It seems likely that, for practical reasons, some non-SI units (the oar for instance) may be retained, but the endeavour is to reduce such exceptions to the minimum. After the Elsinore meeting the conclusions reached (in BSI News and elsewhere) will be publicized. The B.S.I. Journal which is published monthly will provide a useful source of progress and information on the metric change during the next few years.

Through the Ministry of Technology the Government has appointed a 12-man Standing Joint Committee to keep the progress of the change under review and to help remove obstacles to progress. The Committee therefore has a very wide brief, taking in not only standards work but problems of education, publicity, retail trade, currency and so on. BSI is represented on the Committee and it is expected that it will have a major influence on Government procurement policies, which should have special significance for encouraging metric demand during the changeover period.

The B.S.I. have made available a conversion slide from inch to metric units, an indent for which has been placed by the Standards Laboratory.

Memorandum "D"

Suggested Line of Action in Malta

At the first meeting of this Committee held on 5.5.66, it was agreed that it would be desirable for Malta to follow a similar line of approach to metricization to that being adopted in the United Kingdom.

There would however be many aspects of the change which would of force require adaption of local conditions. For example in Malta, unlike in the United Kingdom, there is at present no proper weights and measures inspectorate. The Malta Government has however recently decided on a policy to set up such an inspectorate, although unfortunately as yet no officers have been appointed to operate this Inspectorate. If metricization is adopted the officers of this Inspectorate would in all probability be required to take part in the 'metric' education programme as was the case in India. The early appointment of officers to this Inspectorate is technically and economically desirable prior to metricization because all new weights and measures would have to be stamped. In view of the fact that officers appointed to the Inspectorate will require a minimum of two years overseas training, early recruitment to fill these posts is any event desirable but most important if metricization is to be contemplated. Standard Weights and Measures and other essential equipment for such an Inspectorate would also take about two years to acquire. The delivery dates are at present over 18 months from date of order.

As was the case in the United Kingdom the primary step to be undertaken is for the Government to make a formal pronouncement of policy on metricization.



It now becomes necessary for this Committee to agree upon resolutions for passing to the Malta Board of Standards and thence to Government. The tentative draft resolutions put before this Committee for consideration at the previous meeting held on 5.5.66 are still valid but have been expanded and modified as under.

#### Tentative Draft Resolutions

- (1) This Committee has taken note of the general trend towards the adoption of the metric System which now embraces 82.7% of the World's population.
- (2) The Committee notes that Malta is geographically surrounded by "metric" countries and that when the changeover is complete in the United Kingdom nearly all Malta's trade will be conducted with "metric" countries.
- (3) The Committee draws attention to the fact that the greater the degree of development and industrialisation in a country the greater is the cost of the changeover. Malta is in a state of industrial expansion and the longer the delay in making the change the greater will be the ultimate cost.
- (4) The Committee strongly recommends that the Malta Government make with the minimum delay, a formal pronouncement of a policy decision to convert to the metric system, and should in general follow a similar line of approach in the matter to that being adopted in the United Kingdom.
- (5) The Committee is aware that the Government has taken a recent decision to set up a Weights and Measures Inspectorate and recommends that the early appointment of

trainee-officers to operate this Inspectorate is, in any event, desirable but most urgent if metricization is to be adopted because these officers would be required to play an important part in the change-over. Funds for the purchase of the necessary standards and equipment should also be made available.

- (6) In the event of the acceptance of resolution No. 4 by Government, the Committee recommends that Government should appoint a standing advisory committee (possibly similar to the present Committee in constitution) whose duty would be to keep Government closely advised of progress towards metricization and to appoint working parties to deal with the manifold aspects of the matter. This standing committee would also advise Government on target dates for conversion.
- (7) The Committee draws attention to the fact that the Standing Advisory Committee suggested in (b) would require certain funds for promotion of the Metric System such as the issuing of pamphlets and posters and advertising in the newspapers and on the radio and television.

Malta Board of Standards

Second Meeting of Technical Sub-Committee to Advise on the  
Desirability of Introducing the Metric System into Malta

The meeting was held at 11 a.m. at the premises of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture on August 18, 1966. The following were present:-

L.A.W. Hayward	Chairman
J. Gambina	Representative from the Public Works Department
C. Camilleri	Representative from the Education Department
Major A.J. Calascione	Representative from the Chamber of Commerce
M. Galea	Mechanical Engineer - Department of Industry
V. Pace Floridia	Secretary

Absent:-

J. Camilleri	Representative from the Treasury
M. de Giorgio	Representative from the Federation of Malta Industries

The Chairman welcomed the members and said that Mr. J. Camilleri from the Treasury was unable to attend while Mr. de Giorgio had met with an unfortunate accident and would therefore be absent.

The minutes of the first meeting which was held on May 5, 1966 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman pointed out that the Treasury Department Representative had stated at the previous meeting that this Board of Standards sub-committee should not deal with matters of currency as this aspect of decimal conversion would be studied by a different committee altogether and that this was something that would have to be finalized by the Central Bank.

The Chairman reviewed progress achieved since the first meeting and informed the members that he had obtained all the available literature relating to the change over in the United Kingdom. Mr. Galea had also obtained interesting literature on the adoption of the metric system in India and Japan.

The members then held a discussion on the change-over as well as the present position and action programme in the United Kingdom. The Chairman stated that the B.S.I. is keeping Malta closely informed of developments taking place in the United Kingdom. Major Calascione enquired as to the difference between the S-I system and the Metric System. Mr. Galea replied that the difference was rather a question of notation and definitions while the basic units were virtually the same.

Mr. Gambina stated that before adopting the S-I system its introduction at schools and the University should be taken in hand during the next three years. A complete changeover would afterwards be made during the ensuing six years. He added that doubtlessly it would be in the interests of Malta to follow U.K.'s example in changing to the Metric System.

Messrs. Camilleri and Galea informed members that the metric system had recently been introduced into school curricula in Malta and that the local mechanical and electrical engineering sections were already using the metric system.

The proposed draft resolutions were slightly modified after some discussion and it was then unanimously agreed that these resolutions should be presented to the Malta Board of Standards for onward transmission to the Malta Government. These resolutions are as follows:-

- 1) This Committee has taken note of the general trend towards the adoption

of the metric System which now embraces 82.7% of the World's population.

- 2) The Committee notes that Malta is geographically surrounded by "metric" countries and with the changeover in the United Kingdom nearly all Malta's trade will be conducted in "metric" units.
- 3) The Committee draws attention to the fact that the greater the degree of development and industrialisation in a country the greater is the cost of the changeover. Malta is in a state of industrial expansion and the longer the delay in making the change the greater will be the ultimate cost.
- 4) The Committee strongly recommends that the Malta Government make with the minimum delay, a formal pronouncement of a policy decision to convert to the metric system, and should in general follow a similar line of approach in the matter to that being adopted in the United Kingdom.
- 5) The Committee understands that the Government has taken a recent decision to set up a Weights and Measures Inspectorate and recommends that the early appointment of trainee-officers to operate this Inspectorate is, in any event, desirable but most urgent if metricization is to be adopted because these officers would be required to play an important part in the change-over. Funds for the purchase of the necessary standards and equipment should also be made available.
- 6) In the event of the acceptance of resolution No. 4 by Government, the Committee recommends that Government should appoint a standing advisory (possibly similar to the present

Committee in constitution) whose duty would be to keep Government closely advised of progress towards metricisation and to appoint working parties to deal with the manifold aspects of the matter. This standing committee would also advise Government on target dates for conversion.

- 7) The Committee draws attention to the fact that the Standing Advisory Committee suggested in (5) would require certain funds for promotion of the Metric System such as the issuing of pamphlets and posters and advertising in the newspapers and on the radio and television.

The Chairman thanked the members for their assistance and closed the meeting at 12.20 a.m.