

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE MINISTER OF  
COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Chinese representation in the United Nations

.....

1. In November last year at the personal request of Signor Fanfani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Malta was invited to support a resolution sponsored by Italy in the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution, copy of which is attached, sought the appointment of a committee to explore and study the China representation question in all its aspects. The committee was to report to the next Assembly. The support requested by Signor Fanfani was forthcoming from the Malta Delegation, but the resolution was defeated by 62 votes to 34 with 35 abstentions.

2. This year, once again, Italy proposes to introduce a resolution similar to the one introduced last year and on 2nd November, 1967 the Italian Ambassador asked whether the Malta Government would co-sponsor such a resolution or at least vote in favour. In reply the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs said that whilst sympathetic, the Malta Government could not co-sponsor and would study further the question of voting for the resolution.

3. In reply to a Note Verbale from the Chinese Embassy received by the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs in August the Ministry had informed the Embassy that the Malta Government would maintain the policy it has always followed on the question of the representation of China in the United Nations. In a further Note Verbale dated 3rd November the Embassy asked the Ministry to instruct its Delegation in the United Nations General Assembly to vote against the admission of Communist China and any proposal to set up a study committee in the General Assembly if such a proposal was raised in the debate. No

reply was sent to the Note Verbale and the Chinese Embassy communicated by telephone on two occasions with the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs on the subject. The last communication was on the 18th November to which a non-committal reply was given.

4. Following consultation with the Permanent Representative to the United Nations, the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs on 9th November informed the Italian Government that the Malta Delegation would abstain on the vote. The Delegation in New York was instructed accordingly.

5. The Maltese Ambassador to Rome was immediately called in at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and pressed strongly to persuade the Malta Government to vote for the resolution. This procedure was repeated by the Italian Ambassador in Malta with the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs several times.

6. The reasons prompting the Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs to adopt a neutralist attitude towards the resolution are the following:-

(1) Last year the Malta Delegation voted in favour not out of conviction but only after a personal appeal by Signor Fanfani addressed to the Prime Minister;

(2) The resolution was defeated very badly last year and is not unlikely to receive the same treatment this year;

(3) Malta had not yet established diplomatic relations with Nationalist China last year but has done so since;

(4) Nationalist China has made a generous gesture of friendship towards Malta since the establishment of diplomatic relations;

(5) The matter of the representation of China is one which does not directly affect Italy's

# SECRET

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Distr.  
LIMITED  
A/L.500  
21 November 1966  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-first session  
Agenda item 90

## RESTORATION OF THE LAWFUL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN THE UNITED NATIONS

Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Italy and  
Trinidad and Tobago: draft resolution

The General Assembly,

Having considered the question of the representation  
of China,

Believing that a solution of the question of  
Chinese representation, which accords with the  
principles of the Charter of the United Nations and  
the aim of universality, would further the purposes  
of the United Nations and strengthen its ability to  
maintain international peace and security,

Believing that the complexities of this question  
require the most searching consideration in order to  
pave the way to an appropriate solution, taking into  
account the existing situation and the political  
realities of the area,

1. Decides to establish a Committee of ...  
Member States, to be appointed by the General Assembly,  
with the mandate of exploring and studying the  
situation in all its aspects in order to make the  
appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly  
at its twenty-second session for an equitable and  
practical solution to the question of the representation  
of China in the United Nations, in keeping with the  
principles and purposes of the Charter;

2. Appeals to all Governments concerned to  
give assistance to the Committee in its search for  
such a solution.

SECRET



interests. Had it so affected Italy's interests the Ministry would have been inclined to take up a different position;

(6) The resolution does not enjoy the support of either Nationalist or Communist China;

(7) The new relationship which has been built up between Malta and Italy should not be assumed by Italy to imply that Malta should follow Italy in any international action which Italy recommends;

(8) The new relationship with Italy has not yet borne much fruit.

7. The following are arguments for voting in favour of the Italian resolution:-

(1) Signor Fanfani is again personally interested in the resolution;

(2) The Italian Government stresses the close friendship which has recently developed between Malta and Italy and the personal efforts which Signor Fanfani is making to help Malta in her economic and other problems;

(3) The Italians base their arguments in favour of their resolution on the universality of the United Nations Charter;

(4) The resolution is one of a procedural nature not in itself involving any decision for or against either of the Chinas.

8. It is for decision:-

(a) Whether to maintain the stand taken so far, namely, to abstain on the Italian resolution; or

(b) to vote for the Italian resolution.

21st November, 1967.