

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET

Memorandum on the Proposal to Incorporate the Malta
Brucellosis Laboratory into the "Near East Animal Health
Institute" through a United Nations "Special Fund" Project

The object of the scheme is to pursue the eradication of animal, especially goat, brucellosis from the Maltese islands and at the same time to make available to the whole Near East area (1) the extensive laboratory facilities that already exist in Malta for work on brucellosis and (2) the wealth of knowledge and experience already gained in Malta during more than 10 years' laboratory and field work on this disease.

The financial contribution towards this Special Fund Scheme that would be required from the Malta Government is approximately £50,000. This money is available from funds already allocated for Brucellosis research from U.K. sources. The United Nations Special Fund would contribute about \$ 750,000 (equivalent to about £270,000).

It is, therefore, evident from the above that Malta would not lose financially by adopting the scheme and the following points are put forward in favour of Malta's participation, namely:-

1. Establishing the centre would ensure that the present work by Dr. Alton in Malta will not be disrupted. Failure to do so would mean that the centre will be established elsewhere and Dr. Alton would be transferred from Malta by F.A.O.
2. The additional international experts who would come to Malta could be expected to provide an impetus towards the more rapid eradication of animal brucellosis. Progress in the control of brucellosis has been made and eradication of the disease is already in sight; the achievement of this objective would make Malta the first country in the world to eradicate caprine brucellosis.
3. Once this regional brucellosis centre was established it is probable that even more funds would be made available from various other sources (W.H.O. etc.) for specific research objectives to be undertaken in the centre.
4. International personnel living and working in Malta would spend a major part of their earnings here, as would trainees coming to Malta from the Near East area.
5. The scheme would include a number of local personnel, professional, technical, skilled and unskilled workers, who could be expected to acquire a variety of specialized skills.
6. Bearing in mind Malta's fame in this field of science (the cause of the disease was discovered here by Sir David Bruce and the part played by the goat

was.../...

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta

was discovered by Sir Themistocles Zammit) a unique opportunity exists for the island to contribute on an international scale to United Nations activities. This would have great prestige value and would demonstrate that aid to Malta was producing results that could be of use to a wider area.

Finally, it is felt that the reluctance of Government to accept this Special Fund project because it fears that such a comparatively small scheme might prejudice sympathetic consideration of some other more ambitious scheme which Malta might wish to put forward to the Special Fund in the near future is not well founded. Dr Kils Gotzsche of F.A.O. on his recent visit to Malta gave a verbal assurance to this effect - pointing out that this Brucellosis Scheme would be considered more a regional (Middle East) rather than a national (Malta) scheme.

9th November, 1967.