

Sitting No. 20/64.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge d'Aragon, Valletta, on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1964, at 10 a.m.

Presents: The Hon. Minister of Education,  
The Hon. Minister of Agriculture,  
Power & Communications,  
The Hon. Minister of Justice,  
The Hon. Minister of Works and  
Housing,  
The Hon. Minister of Health.

Absents: The Hon. Prime Minister and  
The Hon. Minister of Industrial  
Development & Commerce,  
who were away from the  
Islands on official business.  
The Hon. Minister of Labour and  
Social Welfare who was  
unwell.

OPM. 919/55.

Water Supply Position.

(Mr. A. Costello, Manager, Water Department,  
and Mr. S. Vella Lamin, Chief Water Engineer,  
were in attendance).

Mr. Vella Lamin explained  
that the rainfall had in recent years  
been 20% below average and at the  
same time the consumption of water had

increased by about 600,000 gallons per day. The total available yield was now about 8.5 million gallons per day whereas the total daily consumption of water had reached 9.6 million gallons. The adverse balance was being met out of reserves which at the moment stood at 35 million gallons. The position was already precarious and was deteriorating to such an extent that it called for a review of the general supply position.

The Cabinet agreed that the following measures be taken by the Water Department forthwith:

- i) The current water position in the Island to be given publicity by all possible means: Press, T.V., Radio, etc., and a public appeal to save water to be made. The cooperation of the Police and of Parish Priests in this regard to be exhibited;
- ii) All major consumers of water, including Malta Drydocks and the Services, to be urged to reduce consumption as much as possible;
- iii) The supply of second grade water for irrigation and other <sup>similar</sup> purposes to be increased;

iv) The Water Department, in consultation with the Minister, to take all other measures necessary to avoid wastage of water.

The Cabinet was to be informed within three weeks of the results of the above measures.

*Osmond Oliver*  
Prime Minister  
29. 7. 64

*Erj Bevan*  
Secretary to Cabinet.  
29. 7. 64