

✓ Sitting No. 47/64.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge
d'Oragon, Valletta, on Sunday, 27th December,
1964, at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Hon. Prime Minister
Hon. Minister of Industrial Developments
& Tourism.
Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Power
& Communications.
Hon. Minister of Justice.
Hon. Minister of Works and Housing.
Hon. Minister of Labour & Social
Welfare.
Hon. Minister of Health.

Absent: Hon. Minister of Education.

Council of Europe.

(Mr. E. Cuscheri, Administrative Secretary,
was in attendance)

The Hon. Prime Minister
read a letter he had received from the
Secretary General of the Council of Europe
informing him that the Council unanimously
expressed themselves in favour of Malta's
admission and decided to initiate
the accession procedure.

Malta by docks

(Mr. G. Vassallo, Administrative Secretary, was in attendance)

The Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare gave the Cabinet information he had received from the General Manager of the Malta Drydocks, Mr. N. S. Thompson, about the current dispute with the Metal Workers Section of the General Workers Union who had been enforcing an overtime ban since December 17 following the refusal by the management to meet a claim for arrears of pay. The management had proposed instead a collective agreement with the Union which included a Xmas. bonus of £5 to each employee and a 2% increase in pay every year for a period of three years in return of a guarantee from the Union that there would be no strikes and other industrial action in the Malta Drydocks during that period. This proposal had not so far been accepted by the Union.

It was known from Mr. Thompson that all casual employees had already been discharged and that further mass discharges would have to be resorted to if no early settlement was reached.

Hon. Ministers agreed that the Government should not go against the decision of the Council of Administration in this matter.

In this connection the Hon. Prime Minister informed the Cabinet that he knew from the Secretary of State, Mr. Bottomly, that Mr. Bailey was seeking solution of the dispute with the British Government out of Court. Mr. Christopher Bailey had repeatedly asked for, and eventually obtained, a meeting with the Hon. Prime Minister while the latter was in London recently.

Christopher Bailey
Prime Minister
28.12.64

Edg. Cassar
Secretary to Cabinet.
28.12.64