

✓ Sitting No. 42/65.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Office of the Hon. Minister of Industrial Developments & Tourism on Thursday, 1st July, 1965, at 10.30 am.

Present: Hon. Minister of Industrial Developments & Tourism.
 Hon. Minister of Education.
 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. Prime Minister who was away from the Islands.

MLSW 89/65.

Proposals by the Metal Workers' Section of the Malta Drydocks for a revised wage structure and fringe benefits.

The Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare informed the Cabinet that the Metal Workers' Section,

General Workers Union, of the Malta Drydocks had submitted proposals for a revised wage structure and fringe benefits. Hon. Ministers noted the reply of the Malta Drydocks in the sense (1) that these proposals could not be accepted and (2) that the Drydocks Management and the Union should be brought together by means of a Joint Consultative Committee where ways and means to achieve profitability in the yard would be discussed.

Marketing of Tomato Paste (Memo. No. 453)
(Maj. P. Castillo, Director of Agriculture, was in attendance)

The Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Power & Communications informed the Cabinet of the grave difficulties which farmers were experiencing in disposing of their tomato crop for canning purposes. This was mainly due to the fact that stocks of tomato paste held by canners were well above the local requirements. Canners were competing widely with each other and were finding it expedient to undersell their products below the maximum wholesale price established by the Government. It was stated that the canners had now proposed the setting up of a Tomato Canners Marketing Board the objects of which would be to

establish the purchase price of tomatoes for canning and to fix marketing procedures. The Board would take into account the interests of producers, canners and consumers and would manage the marketing of tomato paste in such a way as to create a subsidy fund for the eventual boosting of exports.

Hon. Ministers agreed that the matter merited further study. In the meantime the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism undertook to meet the canners and to see in what way ~~the~~ consumers could possibly be affected by the setting up of the proposed marketing Board.

Clifford Plummer
Prime Minister.

20. 7. 65

Ed. Bevan
Secretary to Cabinet.

20. 7. 65