

Memorandum for the Cabinet by
the Hon. The Prime Minister.

Organisation to deal with air
disasters in Malta.

The British Defence Services in Malta, in consultation with the Maltese Civil Authorities concerned (Comm. of Police, C.G.M.O., Director of Civil Aviation, and Civil Defence Commissioner), have been drafting a directive outlining the organisation which would go into action in the event of an "air disaster." The term "air disaster" applies to those aircraft crashes with which an airfield authority can not be expected to cope, without large-scale outside assistance, namely:

- (a) Crash of civil passenger-carrying aircraft.
- (b) Crash of military four-engined passenger-carrying aircraft.
- (c) Crash of any aircraft outside the boundaries of an airfield (such crashes may later be regarded as not having disaster proportions, on receipt of fuller information).

2. The main rescue responsibility (so long as Malta can not provide this service itself, and so long as the proposed Mutual Defence and Assistance Agreement is in force) would rest with the R.A.F. However, Civil Defence would assist, and the Malta Government Medical and Health Department would supply doctors and undertake treatment or disposal of civilian casualties. Malta Police would be in overall control at the scene of an air disaster on civil property, though Service operations would be under the command of a senior R.A.F. officer, who would co-ordinate with the civil Police.

3. The Director of Civil Aviation considers these arrangements to be satisfactory. The Attorney General has advised that the proposed directive fits well within the proposed Agreement on Mutual Defence and Assistance between the Governments of the United Kingdom and of Malta.

4. The Cabinet is requested to approve the proposed arrangements.

25th September, 1964.