

Records of Conversation between
the Hon. the Prime Minister and Mr J.A. Roberts
Deputy Secretary General, NATO,
on Wednesday 23rd September, 1964.

Mr Frank Maestroni of N.A.T.O. and the
Under Secretary for External Affairs were also present.

Mr Roberts handed over the Prime Minister a
copy of the resolution adopted by the Council of Nato
at its meeting of 16th September, 1964. Mr Roberts
said that Nato would like from the Government of Malta
their views on the relations which the Government would
like to have with Hafmed following Independence and
pending further developments in the relations between
Malta and Nato. The Nato Council was particularly
interested to know what the legal status of Hafmed
would be.

Mr Roberts explained that pending Independence
the North Atlantic Council could reach no firm decision
on its relations with Malta and it was difficult for
the Council to reach the required unanimity without first
having a clear picture of the intentions of the Malta
Government in relation to Nato. Mr Roberts suggested
that an immediate application for full membership of
Nato should ^{NOT} be submitted. It would pose an immediate
problem to the North Atlantic Council and it was necessary
to have time to condition the 15 members to a frame
of mind likely to accept unanimously application for
full membership. In the meantime Nato was prepared to
discuss matters with a delegation from Malta and would
study the legal aspects of future relations. Mr Roberts
suggested that the resolution handed over to the Prime
Minister should not be published.

Finally Mr Roberts asked the Prime Minister
to give him some tangible evidence that Malta would be
prepared to give full facilities to Hafmed and its
personnel to operate and enjoy all privileges and
immunities subsisting before Independence. He suggested
that it would be useful for him to return to Paris
with a document to this effect signed by the Prime
Minister.

/He

He suggested that the wording of the document should be in the following sense:

"The Government of Malta has taken note of the Resolution approved by the North Atlantic Council on 16th September, 1964.

Pending the outcome of discussions which might be held between the Government of Malta and NATO on the possibility of future arrangements, the Government of Malta confirms that the legal status of NATO headquarters, establishments, forces and installations will continue to be governed by the relevant laws, regulations and practices which have hitherto applied in Malta."

The Prime Minister in reply referred to the Speech from the Throne wherein a reference to Nato was made. He said his Government was prepared to ensure that Hafmed would continue to have its present facilities, privileges and immunities pending further developments but he could not exclude in any way eventual application to full membership. He promised to give immediate consideration to the resolution of the North Atlantic Council and to the representations made by Mr Roberts and he would give a reply to Mr Roberts tomorrow, if at all possible.

24th September, 1964

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION

Secretary General

Place du Marechal
de Lattre de Tassigny
Porte Dauphine
Paris XVI

KL Eber 50 - 20

Acting on the instructions of the North Atlantic Council, I have the honour to communicate to the Government of Malta the following resolution of the Council, adopted at its meeting of 16th September 1964:

"The North Atlantic Council,

"EXTENDS to the Government and people of Malta the congratulations of the North Atlantic Alliance on their forthcoming accession to Independence and welcomes Malta into the community of nations;

"NOTING the presence of NATO establishments, forces and installations in the territory of Malta,

"DECLARES itself ready, after the proclamation of independence, to examine with the Government of Malta the problems which might be raised by the presence of NATO establishments, forces and installations in Malta;

"EXPRESSES the hope that, pending the outcome of discussions which might be held between the Government of Malta and NATO on the possibility of future arrangements, the legal status of NATO establishments, forces and installations and, in particular, of NATO military headquarters, will continue to be governed by the relevant laws, regulations and practices which have hitherto applied in Malta;

"INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to communicate this Resolution to the Government of Malta."

(Sd) Manlio Brosio

L-Arkivji Nazzjonali ta' Malta