

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces of the Government of Malta

... The General Officer Commanding, Malta and Libya, has submitted the attached memorandum, containing proposals for the establishment of the Armed Forces of Malta.

2. Hon. Ministers are kindly requested to consider these proposals and to state to what extent those proposals should form the basis on which the details of implementation may be worked out.

3. For the guidance of Hon. Ministers, the United Kingdom Government has offered to meet the cost of the three Territorial regiments until the end of the current financial year, after which date the cost of retaining any such force will be a Malta Government liability. As regards the Royal Malta Artillery, the United Kingdom Government has offered to maintain it as a British Army Regiment until 1965 for use in Germany, with a supporting force in Malta, the position to be reviewed in that year.

L-ARKIVI NAZZJONALI TA' MALTA

19th November, 1964.

FORCES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

Preamble

1. Under the Agreement on Mutual Defence and Assistance, Article 2, the UK Government agreed to give assistance in mutual defence. This would involve giving all possible assistance to MALTA in the event of outside aggression. It follows, therefore, that should the situation demand it, the units and equipment required would be brought into MALTA from outside; this would particularly apply to the sophisticated sphere of anti-aircraft defence which involves very costly and complicated equipment.
2. Furthermore, under Article 3, the British Government has agreed, on request by the Government of MALTA, to provide assistance in the way of training, advice, technical assistance, repair and maintenance.

Aim

3. The aim of this paper is to advise the Government of MALTA how best to establish in MALTA their own military forces so that they have a trained armed body of soldiers available for any contingency.

Role

4. It is not envisaged that any such force would have to serve outside the Maltese Islands and the force should therefore be a volunteer body, training on a part-time basis.

Tasks

5. The most likely tasks for such a force would be:-
 - a. Assistance to the Civil Power in an Internal Security situation, including the provision of armed guards.
 - b. Assistance to the Civil Power in natural disasters and civil defence.
 - c. The provision of a mobile striking force for any eventuality.

Command

6. It is considered that during the period of the Defence Agreement with the UK, the Force would be closely connected with the UK forces in the island. In almost any eventuality, except perhaps the initial stages of Internal Security, the Maltese force will operate in conjunction with UK forces. It is felt, therefore, that it would be most expedient if the Maltese force remained under command of GOC MALTA & LIBYA, through HQ RMA as at present. The Government of MALTA will of course have the right of veto over any proposed use of the force.

/Liaison

Liaison

7. The GOC has been acting as Military Adviser to the Government of MALTA. However, in order that the Government of MALTA may be seen to have overall command of their own forces, it is recommended that GOC should be officially appointed Commander MALTA Land Forces by the Government of MALTA.

Training

8. To ensure the highest possible standard of training, the Maltese forces should train, as far as possible, in conjunction with the UK forces on the island. The allocation of ranges, training areas and other facilities would be undertaken by Headquarters MALTA & LIBYA in exactly the same way as is done at present.

Discipline

9. There is at present no code of discipline in force for the Malta Territorial Force. Previously the Malta Territorial Force Ordinance CAP 168 Section 12 did provide that the Army Act applied to men belonging to the force when they are being trained or exercised. The reference to the Army Act is in fact a reference to the Army Act of 1881 which is now out of date and has been superseded by the Army Act of 1955. It will be necessary for a new Ordinance to be passed and it is suggested that the Government of MALTA request this HQ (in conjunction with our legal advisers in LONDON) to draft a suitable Ordinance for the Government of MALTA.

Administration

10. In accordance with the Defence Agreement, it is envisaged that the UK Garrison will, as far as practicable, assist in the administration of the MALTA Forces. Suitable financial arrangements will have to be made; this might involve the attachment of a Government of MALTA Financial Adviser to HQ RMA and the setting up of a small pay office which could initially be supervised by the UK Command Paymaster.

Organisation of the Forces of the Government of MALTA

11. The Territorial Force now consists of three major units, 3 and 11 RMA(T) and 1 KOMR(T). As the air defence role would be the responsibility of the UK Government, in view of the tasks envisaged and in the interests of economy, it is recommended that all three units should be merged into one Territorial Infantry Battalion.

Redundancy Involved

12. Military Territorial redundancy as the result of such a decision would be as shown in the following table:-

/Current

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	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>
Current strength of TF	80	1187
TF Infantry Battalion at full establishment less permanent staff and band	30	586
Numbers to go	50	601
Expected wastage up to 31 March 65	2	326
Redundancy	48	275

13. There would be some civilian redundancy which might be in the region of 24 industrials and 10 non-industrials.

Provision of Equipment

14. It is the intention that the unit retained should be handed over appropriately equipped and that no charge should be made for equipment and stores handed over.

Permanent Staff

15. If an infantry battalion is retained, it is recommended that initially a UK permanent staff of not more than two officers and three other ranks, should be retained but this should in due course be replaced by a permanent staff of the regular RMA.

Handing Over of Accommodation

16. It is proposed to hand over to the Government of MALTA sufficient accommodation for whatever unit is retained. However, until the type and size of the unit is known, it is not possible to recommend which would be the most suitable accommodation to be transferred.

Costs of TF Unit

17. It is estimated that the approximate cost of maintaining a TF unit of the type envisaged would be £69,000 plus a further £2,600 for a TF band. These costs would be slightly reduced after the permanent staff commitment had been taken over by the regular RMA.

(sd) J. Frost,
Major General,
General Officer Commanding

MALTA

20 October, 1964

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