

MEMO FOR CABINETBY THE HON. MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARECLOSING OF JEWELLERS' SHOPS ON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS

On the 9th February, 1963, the Council of the Malta Jewellers Association had informed the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development and Tourism of the almost unanimous wish of Jewellers to close their shops on Saturday afternoons.

Since the new procedure to be adopted would imply an amendment to the Shops and Hawkers Business Act 1957 the matter was referred to the Minister of Labour for his comments.

Before discussions could be started it was found out that the Malta Jewellers Association was not a recognised body in terms of the Trade Union Act and after that the Malta Jewellers Association was duly affiliated to the General Retailers Union the matter was dealt with in earnest and as a result of discussions held between the Department of Labour and the Malta Jewellers Association through the General Retailers Union, it transpired that the unanimous idea was that Jewellers' retail shops should close at 1 p.m. on Saturdays and that the proposed amendment to the law would not in any way affect the general exemption enabling shops to open during Christmas time.

The Gozo Civic Council was asked to give its views on the contemplated amendment and on the 28th October, 1964, the President of the Council stated that he was against the introduction of the new amendment in view of the special circumstances that are met with in Gozo mainly that shop assistants are practically non-existent in Gozo.

Hon. Ministers are asked to agree to the amendment of the Shops and Hawkers Business Act 1957, whereby all Jewellers' shops in Malta only would have to close at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

12th November, 1964.