

MEMORANDUM BY THE HON. MINISTER OF JUSTICESupplies and Services (Amendment) Bill

Originally the Supplies and Services Act, 1948 was conceived as a temporary legislative measure and indeed section 12 provided that the Act was to continue in force for a period of two years and would then expire, unless continued in force from year to year by resolution of the Legislature.

Various regulations of vital importance have been made under the Act and, after reference to the various departments concerned it clearly emerges that those at present in force cannot now be dispensed with.

The Act has indeed been continued in force from year to year. Its operation has recently been extended by resolution of the House of Representatives for another year until the 30th December 1965.

When the resolution came up for discussion in Parliament, the Leader of the Opposition voiced his concern that this law should have to be continued in force from year to year when it was known that there was a permanent need for it. He expressed the wish that this legislation should once for all be placed on a permanent footing.

The Minister for Justice then declared that the Act would be placed on a permanent footing. It is clear that there is a continuing need for the provisions of the Act and the annual recourse to Parliament for extending its life is threatening in the circumstances to become a recovering source of embarrassment.

The Crown Advocate-General has therefore drawn up the attached Bill to place the Act on a permanent footing and Hon. Ministers are invited to approve it.

13th January, 1965.

A BILL
entitled

AN ACT further to amend the Supplies and Services Act,
1947.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives of Malta, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Supplies and Services (Amendment) Act, 1964, and shall be read and construed as one with the Supplies and Services Act, 1947, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act".

Repeal of
section 12 of
the principal
Act.

2. (1) Section 12 of the principal Act is hereby repealed without prejudice to anything done or omitted to be done thereunder.

(2) The other provisions of the principal Act and any regulations made thereunder and in force immediately before the date of commencement of this Act shall as from such date continue in force irrespective of any limitation of time contained in the resolution passed by the House of Representatives under the provisions of the said section 12 on the fourth day of December one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four.

Objects and Reasons

It is generally appreciated that the Supplies and Services Act, 1947, for the provisions of which there is a continuing need, should no longer be continued in force from year to year but should be placed on a permanent footing. This is what the present Bill seeks to do.