

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER FOR COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRSUnited Nations OPEX Programme - Negotiation of
Agreement by Malta

The United Nations OPEX Programme was set up in 1959 with the aim of providing developing countries with operational, executive and administrative personnel. Such personnel are made available at the request of Governments after an Agreement on Operational Assistance is signed between the United Nations and its Specialised Agencies on the one hand, and the Government on the other.

2. It is considered most useful for Malta to enter into such an agreement since, as a result, Malta would be in a position to request the United Nations to supply personnel for posts in the public service for which there are no qualified Maltese candidates. The Government's commitment would be limited to paying the appropriate Malta rate of salary for the post in question to the officer posted for duty in Malta, while the United Nations would make up the difference between the Malta rate and the normal U.N. rate out of their own funds. Officers recruited under this Agreement would be in the same position as other public servants in the Malta Civil Service and they would have a different status from experts provided under the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance. In other words, they would be solely responsible to, and under the exclusive direction of, the Government they are serving.

3. Enquiries have already been initiated with the U.N. Representative in Malta regarding the possibility of reaching an OPEX Agreement, and Hon. Ministers are invited to confirm that such an agreement may be proceeded with.

28th June, 1965.