

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET  
BY THE HON. PRIME MINISTER

Pensionability of Medical Officers

On the 28th September, 1965, the Cabinet agreed that all pensionable employees in the Government service (other than Magistrates) should be eligible for a full pension after 30 years service instead of 33 1/3 years as hitherto. Magistrates were to be offered the benefit of full pension after 25 years of service.

2. This decision produced the following reactions:
- (a) The Medical Association of Malta have expressed regret that their claim for a pension constant of 1/450 i.e. full pension after 25 years has not been met, and are asking for further negotiations before an amendment to the Pensions Regulations is presented to the House of Representatives for approval.
  - (b) The Magistrates, while thankful for the pension improvement offered to them, have reiterated their claim for a pension constant of 1/360 as in the case of Judges.
  - (c) The Crown Advocate General is gravely concerned that the new pension constant for Magistrates (1/450) has not been extended to Crown Counsel. This concern is shared by Hon. Minister of Justice.

3. Thus, in response to a claim by Medical Officers in the Government service, there has emerged an approved proposal which seems likely to please nobody. Moreover, it now transpires that the alteration of the general pension constant from 1/600 to 1/540 will result in persons joining the Malta Police Force after 19/1/62 earning a full pension at 28 1/3 years instead of 30 years as hitherto. The Commissioner of Police has no objection to his men retaining this "edge"; another amendment to the Pensions Regulations would

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be necessary to remove the automatic Police reduction to 28 1/3 years.

4. It is to be borne in mind that the Doctors, as indeed the Magistrates and others, have outstanding salary claims. The Government had informed the Medical Association that their pension claim was being "considered purely on its merits". The Association, on the other hand, have indicated that they intend to pursue their salary claims to a conclusion. This, in turn, will involve Government in the revision of other salaries besides the Medical.

5. The Cabinet is therefore invited to consider whether to implement its decision of September 28, 1965, or to authorise further negotiations with the Medical Association, in the first instance.

16th October, 1965.