

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET BY THE
HONOURABLE THE PRIME MINISTER.

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

As Ministers are aware, provision is made in section 28 of the Constitution of Malta for the renunciation, by citizens of Malta of any other citizenship held by **them** within a fixed period. In the case of those:

- a) who became citizens of Malta by virtue of section 23 of the Constitution the period fixed is two years after the appointed day;
- b) who became citizens of Malta by registration under the provisions of sections 24, 25 and 27 of the Constitution the period is six months from date of registration;
- c) citizens of Malta who attained the age of eighteen years and acquired the citizenship of another country have one year within which to renounce this other citizenship.

2. Of the citizens of Malta falling in category (a) of the preceding paragraph, only a few have actually renounced their other citizenship. A large number of those in categories (b) and (c) have not renounced their other citizenship and as a consequence, they have now lost their citizenship of Malta.

3. The Electoral Registrar has also drawn attention to the fact that he will have to expunge from the Electoral Register the names of all those citizens of Malta who will not have renounced by the 20th September, 1966, any other citizenship held by **them**.

4. In order to enable those persons with dual nationality to make up their minds whether to retain or give up their citizenship of Malta and linked with this, the loss of their vote, it is felt, and the Crown Advocate General after consultation, agrees, that the

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period, within which the citizens of Malta mentioned at paragraph 1(a), (b) and (c) may renounce any other citizenship held by **them** be extended until the 20th September, 1967, i.e. three years after the appointed day. This has to be done "by or under an Act of Parliament" as provided for under section 28(6) of the Constitution, viz:-

"Provision may be made by or under an Act of Parliament extending beyond the period specified in any provision of this section the period in which any person may make a renunciation of citizenship or make or register a declaration for the purposes of that provision of this section, and if such provision is made that person shall not cease to be a citizen of Malta upon the expiration of the period specified in this section but shall cease to be such a citizen upon the expiration of the extended period if he has not then made the renunciation, or made or registered the declaration, as the case may be."

5. Ministers are invited to give their concurrence to the proposed course of action.

8th July, 1966.

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