

Memo for Cabinet by the Hon. Minister
of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

Subletting of Government Premises
by External Affairs Officers

1. Mr. E.V. Saliba, who was appointed to the External Affairs Service in September 1965 requested a reduction in rent of his Maisonette at No. 3, Blossom Junction Sta. Lucia, or alternatively, permission to sublet these premises during his postings away from Malta on duty.

2. The Secretary, Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs points out that External Affairs Officers have to retain a home in Malta. The duration of each tour abroad is from two to six years, and a certain amount of their leave must be spent in Malta, apart from possibly longer periods between postings. Allowances, already insufficient have to be stretched to meet the extra expense to keep a home in Malta.

3. It is the policy of the Government not to allow sub-letting of its premises. Acceptance in this case could cause a dangerous precedent. Mr. J. Hibberd, who was, for a time, expecting to be attached to the High Commissioner's Office in London and Mr. P. Muscat, later made similar requests. Three more Government Officers attached to the High Commission, who are also Government tenants have not yet moved, but are certain to do so if Saliba's request is granted.

Other possible claimants would be Government Officers on long courses outside Malta, and migrants who would like to keep a home in Malta for a limited time in case they do not manage to settle happily abroad.

External Affairs Officers usually have more substantial allowances than either of these two kinds of possible applicants.

4. Saliba's request was originally turned down by the Lands Department. The Secretary, Ministry of Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs asks that the case be reconsidered.

5. Ministers are asked to consider whether the usual Government policy is to be adhered to, or whether an exception might be made in connection with External Affairs Officers serving abroad.

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13th September, 1966.