

Memorandum to Cabinet by the Minister of
Commonwealth and Foreign Affairs and the
Minister of Health

Agreement on the Temporary Importation, Free of Duty,
of Medical, Surgical and Laboratory Equipment for use
on Free Loan In Hospitals and other Medical Institutions
for purposes of Diagnosis or Treatment

This Agreement is a Council of Europe treaty signed in Strasbourg on 28th April, 1960 and to date ratified by 14 member States of the Council and signed by 1 other member.

The Agreement stipulates that Contracting Parties should make medical, surgical and laboratory equipment available on free loan to such other Contracting Parties as may, in exceptional circumstances have urgent need of it. These facilities may be granted only for use in hospitals and other medical institutions.

The importation of such equipment would be of a temporary nature and would not normally exceed six months.

The equipment must be admitted free of import duty, a step which is already permissible under the Malta Import Duties Act of 1964.

The Crown Advocate-General sees no legal objections to Malta acceding to the Agreement.

Malta stands to benefit from acceding to this agreement because our Medical Authorities would be able to receive specialized equipment not available in Malta and which will be urgently needed during an emergency. The Malta Medical Authorities would only loan equipment to other European countries provided there were sufficient stocks locally. For this reason Hon. members are invited to agree to Malta becoming a party to the Agreement.

24th January, 1967.