

Memorandum for Cabinet by the
Minister of Finance Customs and Port (Ad int)

Importation of a car free of duty by persons who
transfer their residence to Malta

In February, 1965, Cabinet discussed the verbal application of Mrs Hitchcock to consider the importation of her car to Malta as part of her personal belongings and to be exempted from the payment of Customs Duty. The then Minister of Industrial Development and Tourism was asked to discuss the matter with the Comptroller of Customs and to submit a report.

The report was discussed in Cabinet in November 1965, when it was agreed that persons who transfer their residence to Malta and who satisfy the Comptroller of Customs that they are chargeable with Income Tax at the rate of six pence in the pound (£) under Act V of 1964, be permitted to import into Malta one motor vehicle as part of their personal belongings free of import duty.

The relative legislation was enacted in September 1966 and consequently the person who started the ball rolling, viz. Mrs Hitchcock, will not benefit from this concession.

The question is whether ways and means should be found to enable Mrs Hitchcock and other persons in the same predicament to retain a car, up to now released to them under a temporary importation order, free of customs duty.

It is to be pointed out that during the second reading of the Bill in the House of Representatives, the Minister of Justice rebutted allegations by the Leader of the Opposition that Government was committed to exempt from Customs Duty a few persons who had already imported a car.

19th April, 1967.