

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Commander, Malta Land Force

Following the decision to retain the services of Colonel G.V. Micallef, as Commander, Malta Land Force, after he terminates his services in the British Army, consideration has been given to the manner in which such an appointment under the Government of Malta should be made and what conditions of employment would be appropriate to the appointment.

2. Unlike other officers of the R. M. A. who will, if they wish, be taken on by Government in September, 1970, whilst still currently in service, Col. Micallef will have come to the end of his British Army service in September 1969, and would in fact be re-employed under the Malta Government.

3. As a first step he will have to be commissioned as an officer in the Malta Land Force in the rank of Colonel. Until such time as the Armed Forces of Malta Act, at present in draft, becomes law, Colonel Micallef's obligations and responsibilities would have to be defined in a directive appointing him Commander. It is considered that it would be sufficient to say that he should "have the command, direction and superintendence of the Malta Land Force" in the same manner as the Commissioner of Police has for the Police Force. The appointment would be for three years from 1st October, 1969.

4. As to pay, the considered view here, based on current relativities in the United Kingdom, is that it would be appropriate for the Commander, Malta Land Force's pay to be equated to the salary of a Grade I Head. This in fact would give Col. Micallef an all-inclusive £1,874 per annum at current rates, from Malta funds. He would also be in receipt of a retirement pension from British funds of £1,174 p.a. He may also possibly benefit later on from any movement in salaries resulting from the Anomalies Commission's award.

5. As to leave entitlements, Col. Micallef's current British Army entitlement is 42 days annually, including Sundays, vacation leave, subject to the exigencies of the service, and 28 days' Terminal Leave, forfeited in the event of premature voluntary retirement. Sick leave is granted at the rate of 18 months on full pay, after which 28 days' invaliding leave is granted prior to boarding out. It is proposed that Colonel Micallef should continue to enjoy these entitlements, subject however to the understanding that he may later be required to conform with whatever leave entitlements may eventually be established for officers of the regular unit of the Malta Land Force.

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6. Colonel Micallef has suggested that, if it is the Government's wish that, additionally, the present Commander, Royal Malta Artillery, Colonel A. Samut Tagliaferro, be appointed Deputy Commander of the Malta Land Force, also with effect from 1st October, 1969, as used to be the case with former Commanders of the R. M. A., without any emoluments from Malta Government funds, steps should be taken to grant the Commander, Malta Land Force, the rank of Brigadier, as from that date, in order to show the necessary distinction in rank between the Commander and his Deputy. In fact, Colonel Micallef proposes the grant of local rank with effect from 1st October, 1969, and of substantive rank with effect from 1st October, 1970, when the regular regiment of the R. M. A. becomes part of the Malta Land Force.

7. By way of illustration, brigade strength normally consists of three regiments, and this would not be the case at present since the Malta Land Force only consists of two territorial units (1 K. O. M. R. and 3/11 Lt. Air Defence Regiment, R. M. A. (T)) and a small Logistics Unit. Brigade strength would be reached when the R. M. A. is incorporated in the Malta Land Force on 1st October, 1970. "Local rank" means the rank without the corresponding pay, whilst "substantive rank" carries the actual pay of the rank. In the case of the M. L. F., this distinction does not arise, since the pay of the post of Commander has already been determined. It is simply a question therefore of whether or not to accord the Commander the rank of Brigadier, if a Deputy Commander is appointed for the purpose of distinction in rank, and in spite of the fact that the strength of the M. L. F. does not at present warrant the rank.

8. Should the appointment of a Deputy Commander, before the R. M. A. becomes the responsibility of the Malta Government be agreed to, it would be necessary to obtain the agreement of the Commander British Troops Malta, to such an appointment being made in the case of Colonel Samut Tagliaferro.

- 9. Ministers are asked to say whether
 - (a) they agree with the terms proposed to be offered to Colonel Micallef for the post of Commander, Malta Land Force;
 - (b) the appointment of Col. Samut Tagliaferro, C. R. M. A., as Deputy Commander of the Malta Land Force be made, with effect from 1st October, 1969, and the Commander British Troops, Malta's agreement sought thereto;
 - (c) in spite of the fact that the strength of the Malta Land Force does not warrant it, the Commander, M. L. F., should be accorded the rank of Brigadier from 1st October, 1969.

26th August, 1969.