

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET
BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Exemption from Payment of Car Road Licence

In terms of sub-section 5 of Regulation 5 of the Police Licences Regulations, 1949, the Governor-General is empowered to remit or reduce any fee specified in the Schedule to the said Regulations.

2. The Commissioner of Police has received applications for a free road licence from two paraplegics who need special transport in connexion with their rehabilitation. The persons concerned are Miss Gina Xuereb of 99, Tonna Street, Sliema and Mr John A. Micallef of 101, Stuart Street, Gzira.

3. Miss Xuereb, who is 28 years old, is employed as a telephone operator at the Malta Rubber Factory and earns £6. 8s. 0d a week, part of which she contributes towards the family budget. She has a sister who is unemployed and a brother who earns £7. 0s. 0d per week as an electrician, while her father is an employee of the U.K. Ministry of Public Building and Works at a weekly wage of £10. 17s. 6d and also runs a carpentry shop at Sliema.

4. The licence applied for by Miss Xuereb is in respect of a Resalce conversion Mini Minor car (No. 59386). The Chief Government Medical Officer certifies that applicant is suffering from chronic disabilities of both lower limbs, more marked on the right side, which render walking difficult and restrict her ability to travel by public transport under rush hour conditions. He has, moreover, stated that in her case the use of a specially adapted motor car such as that described above is to be considered a necessity.

5. The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Welfare have recommended grant of the exemption requested while the Ministry of Finance have no objection to a reduction of the relative fee to the nominal sum of 2s. 6d. per annum.

In view ...

6. In view of the time taken to consider this application, which was dated 10th April, 1970, and forwarded to the Administrative Secretary by the Commissioner of Police on the 28th April, 1970, it is also for consideration whether the provisions of Legal Notice No. 40 of 1970, which came into effect on the 29th April, 1970, and which introduced an initial car registration fee ranging from £25 to £100, should be made to apply to Miss Xuereb.

7. Mr Micallef, who is 36 years old and married with two young children has been found employment as a Leading Stamper with the Public Lotto Department, where his current overall earnings range between £630 and £650 per annum. He pays £16 per annum rent and, while not known to possess any movable or immovable property, has the sum of £90 deposited in a local bank.

8. The licence applied for by Mr Micallef is in respect of a special hand-controlled Ford Anglia Saloon (No. 30781) on which he had the benefit of Customs exemption when it was made over to him by the Command Pay Office.

9. The Chief Government Medical Officer has confirmed that Mr Micallef is handicapped by the sequela of Poliomyelitis, which mainly effect his right lower limb and that he is only fit to drive a car similar to that acquired by him.

10. After taking into account the means and family circumstances of applicant the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Welfare have expressed themselves in favour of granting the exemption requested by him.

11. On the other hand, the Ministry of Finance, Customs and Port find themselves unable to recommend the application as they hold that, in the circumstances of the case, Mr Micallef would not suffer hardship were he to disburse the full licence fee.

Ministers ...

12. Ministers are invited to say whether the applications for exemption from the car road licence fee submitted respectively by Miss Gina Xuereb and Mr John A. Micallef should or should not be entertained so that His Excellency the Governor-General may be advised to approve accordingly.

13. Ministers are also invited to consider their decision on the point regarding the initial car registration fee in the case of Miss Xuereb.

2nd March, 1971.