

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET
BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Protocol amending Article 56 of the Chicago

Convention on International Civil Aviation

One of the most important technical bodies appointed by the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation is the Air Navigation Commission which is at present composed of twelve members appointed by the Council from among persons nominated by contracting States. These persons shall have suitable qualifications and experience in the science and practice of aeronautics. The Council requests all contracting States to submit nominations.

2. The Air Navigation Commission considers and recommends to the Council for adoption modifications of the Annexes to the Convention; establishes technical sub-commissions and advises the Council concerning the collection and communication to the contracting States of all information which it considers necessary and useful for the advancement of air navigation.
3. As complementary to the increase in the membership of the Council from twenty-seven to thirty due to Russia and other States acceding to the Convention, the Assembly of ICAO meeting at its Eighteenth Session in Vienna in June-July, 1971, adopted an amendment to Article 56 of the Convention in order to increase the membership of the Air Navigation Commission from twelve to fifteen. The Assembly also adopted a resolution recommending to all contracting States that they ratify the above-mentioned amendment to Article 56 as soon as possible and preferably before 1st December, 1971, so that the Air Navigation Commission to be newly appointed may be composed of fifteen members with effect from 1st January, 1972.
4. Malta does not, unfortunately, have citizens with the qualifications required to sit on the Air Navigation Commission and the proposed increase in the size of the Commission does not, therefore, affect our Island in any way. No amendment of local legislation is required.
5. In the circumstances, it is recommended that the Maltese Government ratifies the Protocol amending Article 56 and deposits the necessary instrument of ratification with the Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organisation as soon as possible and in any case before 1st December, 1971.

25th October, 1971.