

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET
BY THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Mr. Paul Caruana of 4, Simpson Street, Marsa, formerly employed as caretaker at the Education Department, alleges that he did not receive the amount of £35.4.6., due to him as arrears, and which amount was included in the Departmental Paylist for March, 1968.

2. A magisterial enquiry has been held and the matter has also been investigated by the Police. Whilst it has been proved that the "receipt" signature on the paylist is genuine and belongs to Caruana, all the evidence, including that of the Departmental paying officers, supports Caruana's claim that he did not receive the money. It is to be noted that Caruana is reported to have fallen sick at the time he was at the Education Office for the purpose of withdrawing these arrears.
3. The matter was also referred to the Crown Advocate-General who considered that prosecution, on the evidence available, was not recommended and advised that action should be taken by officers of the Account Section of the Education Department to pay the arrears due to Caruana out of private funds and then seek Finance authority for a remission of the amount paid. The Department, however, was not prepared to follow this line of action since it would be tantamount to an admission of blame and/or negligence on the part of the Accounts Officers.
4. Ministers may wish to approve the payment of the arrears amounting to £35.4.6. to Caruana, as advised by the Crown Advocate-General and that such approval should constitute sufficient authority for the Ministry of Finance and Customs to make available the necessary funds for what seems to be a "double payment."

27 OCT 1971

L-Arkiyi! Nazzjonali ta' Malta