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At a meeting of the Cabinet held at Castille on the 14th day of May, 1981, Ministers approved a Declaration concerning Malta's neutrality and directed that it be published in the Government Gazette. The declaration is the following:—

DECLARATION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA CONCERNING THE NEUTRALITY OF MALTA

The Government of the Republic of Malta

Faithful to the decision of the People of the Republic of Malta to eliminate all foreign military bases after March 31, 1979 and to contribute to peace and stability in the Mediterranean region by changing their country's unnatural role of a fortress into a centre of peace and a bridge of friendship between the Peoples of Europe and of North Africa;

Conscious of the special contribution the Republic of Malta can make towards that end by assuming a status of neutrality strictly founded on the principles of non-alignment;

Aware of the support which neighbouring European and Arab Mediterranean States will give to Malta's new role and to such a status of neutrality;

1. Solemnly declares that the Republic of Malta is a neutral state actively pursuing peace, security and social progress among all nations by adhering to a policy of non alignment and refusing to participate in any military alliance;

2. Affirms that such a status will, in particular, imply that:

(a) no foreign military base will be permitted on Maltese territory;

(b) no military facilities in Malta will be allowed to be used by any foreign forces except at the request of the Government of Malta, and only in the following cases:

(i) in the exercise of the inherent right of self-defence in the event of any armed violation of the area over which the Republic of Malta has sovereignty, or in pursuance of measures or actions decided by the Security Council of the United Nations; or

(ii) whenever there exists a threat to the sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity or territorial integrity of the Republic of Malta;

but the Government of Malta will immediately inform the neighbouring Mediterranean States which have made like Declarations welcoming the present Declaration and giving appropriate undertakings, of the steps taken under this paragraph;

(c) except as aforesaid, no other facilities in Malta will be allowed to be used in such manner or extent as will amount to the presence in Malta of a concentration of foreign forces;

(d) except as aforesaid, no foreign military personnel will be allowed on Maltese territory, other than military personnel performing, or assisting in the performance of, civil works or activities, and other than a reasonable number of military technical personnel assisting in the defence of the Republic of Malta;

(e) the shipyards of the Republic of Malta will be used for civil commercial purposes, but may also be used, within reasonable limits of time and quantity, for the repair of military vessels which have been put in a state of non-combat or for the construction of vessels; and in accordance with the principles of non-alignment the said shipyards will be denied to the military vessels of the two superpowers;

3. Expresses its hope that, with the concurrence of the Government of the Republic of Malta, neighbouring Mediterranean States will make like declarations welcoming the present Declaration and giving such undertakings as may be appropriate. The Government of the Republic of Malta will inform each of such States of the Declarations made by other States.

Flaqgha tal-Kabinet miżmuma f'Kastilja fl-14 ta' Mejju, 1981, il-Ministri qablu fuq Stqarrija dwar in-Newtralità ta' Malta u ordnaw li din tigi mxandra fil-Gazzetta tal-Gvern. L-istqarrija li appruvaw il-Ministri hija din li ġejja:—

**DIKJARAZZJONI MILL-GVERN TAR-REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA,
DWAR IN-NEWTRALITA' TA' MALTA**

Il-Gvern tar-Repubblika ta' Malta

Fidil għad-deċiżjoni tal-Poplu tar-Repubblika ta' Malta li jneħħi l-bażijiet militari barranin kollha wara l-31 ta' Marzu, 1979, u li jagħti kontribut għall-paċi u l-istabbilità fl-inħawi tal-Mediterran billi jibdel il-funzjoni mhux naturali ta' paxji minn fortizza f'centru ta' paċi u ta' pont ta' ħibberija bejn il-Popli ta' l-Ewropa u ta' l-Afrika ta' Fuq;

Konxju mill-kontribut speċjali li r-Repubblika ta' Malta tista' tagħmel għal dak il-ghan billi tilbes status ta' newtralità msejjes għal kollo fuq il-principi ta' non-allineament;

Billi jaf bl-appogg li l-Istati Ewropej u Għarab girien fil-Mediterran jagħtu għall-funzjoni ġidida ta' Malta u għal dak l-istatus tagħha ta' newtralità;

1. Jiddikjara sollemente illi r-Repubblika ta' Malta hija stat newtrali li jrid attivament jilhaq il-paċi, is-sigurtà u l-progress soċjali fost in-nazzjonijiet kollha billi jħaddan politika ta' non-allineament u jirrofta li jipparteċipa f'kull alleanza militari;

2. Jafferma illi dan l-istatus jimplika b'mod partikolari, illi:

(a) l-ebda bażi militari barranija ma tithalla fuq territorju Malti;

(b) l-ebda faċilitajiet militari f'Malta ma jithallew jiġu wżati minn xi forzi barranin hlief fuq talba tal-Gvern ta' Malta, u biss fil-kaži li ġejjin:

(i) fl-eż-żejt jidher minn iż-żgħix minn xi forzi barranin, minn iż-żgħix minn xi forzi barranin hlief fuq talba tal-Gvern ta' Malta, u biss fil-kaži li ġejjin;

(ii) kull meta jkun hemm theddida għas-sovranitā, l-indipendenza, in-newtralità, l-unità jew l-integrità territorjali tar-Repubblika ta' Malta;

iż-żgħid l-Gvern ta' Malta jgħarraf minnufih bil-miżuri meħuda skond dan il-paragrafu lill-Istati girien fil-Mediterran li jkunu għamlu dikjarazzjoni simili li aċċettaw din id-Dikjarazzjoni u li jkunu assumew impenji xierqa;

(c) minbarra fil-kaži msemmija hawn fuq. l-ebda faċilitajiet ohra f'Malta ma jithallew jintużaw b'tali mod u b'tali miżura li jwasslu għall-preżenza f'Malta ta' konċentrazzjoni ta' forzi barranin;

(d) minbarra fil-kaži msemmija hawn fuq, l-ebda personal militari li jkun qed jagħmel, jew jghin biex jitwettqu, xogħliljet jew attivitajiet ċivili, u ħlief ghadd ragonevoli ta' personal tekniku militari li jgħin fid-difiza tar-Repubblika ta' Malta;

(e) it-tarznari tar-Repubblika ta' Malta jintużaw għal skopijiet kummerċjali civili, iżda jistgħu wkoll jintużaw, flimiti ragonevoli ta' żmien u ghadd, għat-tiswija ta' bastimenti militari li jkunu tqoggew f'qagħda li ma jistgħux jiġi jidher jew għall-bini ta' vapuri; u skond il-principji ta' non-allineament l-imsemmija tarznari, iż-żeu mċabħħda lill-bastimenti militari taż-żewġ superpotenzi;

3. Jittama illi, bi qbil mal-Gvern tar-Repubblika ta' Malta, l-Istati girien fil-Mediterran jaġħmlu dikjarazzjonijiet simili li jaċċettaw din id-Dikjarazzjoni u jassumu dawk l-impenji li jkunu xierqa. Il-Gvern tar-Repubblika ta' Malta jgħarraf il-kull wieħed minn dawn l-Istati bid-Dikjarazzjonijiet magħmula minn Stati ohra.