

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET
BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Grant of permission to work to
Mr. Alan J. Webber - permanent resident

On the 28th June, 1968, Mr. Alan J. Webber was granted permission to take up permanent residence in Malta together with his wife provided they did not take up any employment (including self-employment, managerial post or directorship), trade, business, profession, vocation or calling.

On the 4th February, 1970, the Director of Labour and Emigration reported that he had received a complaint from Associated News (Malta) Limited stating that Mr. Webber was selling advertising space locally for the Financial Times and other English publications. It was also alleged that during 1969, Mr. Webber's remuneration for these services amounted to £3,000.

Mr. Webber was interviewed by the Immigration Authorities and he admitted that he had undertaken work for the Financial Times. He also said that he would be taking up other similar work. He was then warned to desist from such work immediately.

Mr. Sydney Henschel, Consultant to the Board of the Financial Times has written to the Government submitting that it is not possible to engage a Maltese national as he would have to spend some months at their offices to acquire the Financial Times' atmosphere as well as that of British Finance and Industry which they represent, and that such an exercise would be uneconomic. Mr. Webber was chosen as he was for many years Advertisement Director of a British National newspaper and for a number of years was a Director of one of the leading British Industrial and Financial Advertising Agencies. Mr. Webber is now applying for permission to help in the preparation of special features on Malta and to sell advertising space locally for the Financial Times.

The views of the Ministries concerned were sought. The Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, feels that although the general rule precluding permanent residents from doing any work whatsoever in Malta should stand, and agrees that a rigid control be exercised, exception ought to be made in particular cases. He considers that Mr. Webber's is a case in point and recommends that as his contributions are sporadic, his activities may be allowed. The Director of Labour and Emigration agrees with these views, to which the Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare, also subscribes.

The Director of Information also agrees that Mr. Webber may be allowed to continue his contributions, as a refusal now would antagonise one of the leading London papers which for some time

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has been giving good coverage and publicity to the industrial and tourist sectors of the economy, but he suggests that Mr. Webber (a) be asked to inform the Government every time he is given an assignment, so as to assess the frequency and income of the assignments, and (b) be approached informally and asked to start looking for some Maltese journalist who could be trained in this specialised job.

Ministers may wish to consider whether a licence is to be issued to Mr. Webber as recommended by the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Agriculture, and Labour, Employment and Welfare, valid for an initial period of one year provided Mr. Webber limits his activities to the preparation of special features on Malta for the Financial Times and the selling of advertising space locally for the same paper.

14th October, 1970.

CABINET MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY

THE PRIME MINISTER

(14/10/70)

MEMO. No.

1634

SUBJECT

Grant of permission to work to Mr Alan J. Webber -
a permanent resident.

CABINET DECISION REQUESTED

Whether Mr Alan J. Webber, a permanent resident,
should be given permission valid for an initial period of
one year, to sell advertising space locally for the Financial
Times and to prepare special features on Malta for the same
paper