

Sitting No. 3/63.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge d'Aragon, Valletta, on Wednesday, 9th January, 1963, at 10 am.

Presents: The Hon. Minister of Industrial Developments + Tourism.
The Hon. Minister of Education.
The Hon. Minister Agriculture, Power & Communications.
The Hon. Minister of Works and Housing
The Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare.
The Hon. Minister of Health

Absents: The Hon. Prime Minister
The Hon. Minister of Justice.

The minutes of Meeting No. 2/63 were read and confirmed.

New Power/Water Station (Memo. No. 5A).

Dr. V. Ragonesi informed the Cabinet that he had just been informed by cable that Dottor Craveri of Italconsult, Rome, would be submitting his observations on the proposed Power/Water Distillation project within the next seven days.

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Rate - Security Fund Investments (Memo. No. 76)

Mr. A. Selomane, Financial Secretary, was in attendance.

It was explained that the issue of currency notes in Malta was regulated by the Currency Notes Ordinance, 1949, which required that all the currency notes in circulation should be backed by an equivalent amount of investments plus a reserve of 10% of the face value of the notes.

Section 8(4)(iii)(b) of the Ordinance further provided that the whole or part of the moneys in the Rate - Security Fund in excess of 110 per centum of the face value of the notes should be transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and also that the annual appropriation out of the Currency Note Income Account of 1 per centum of the Fund should be wholly or partially discontinued for so long as it appeared that the necessity for such annual appropriation no longer existed.

There was now an appreciable increase in the middle market value of investments on account of the Rate Security Fund, and it was expected that at the end of the current financial year the total assets of the Fund would be in excess of 110 per centum of the face value of the currency notes in circulation.

Hon. Ministers therefore agreed that H.C. the Governor be advised to sanction the implementation of the two measures as contemplated in section 8(4)(iii)(b) of the Currency Notes Ordinance, 1949. The two measures were expected to yield an extra £558,000 to revenue.

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The Pharmaceutical Staff in the Medical and Health Department (Memo. No. 91).

Prof. C. Calisto, C.S.M., was in attendance.

The Cabinet was asked to consider the strong representations made by the Pharmacists in the Medical and Health Department for (a) a change in designation and (b) an increase in salary. The Hon. Minister of Health and the C.S.M. agreed that the designation "Junior Pharmacists" was a misnomer as these employees were junior to no other staff, and their work was not supervised by higher grade pharmacy staff. They discharged on their own work required in a medicinal dispensing establishment. They felt that that designation was also inappropriate and might even imply a sense of degradation for the holders of the posts. It was also becoming evident that pharmacists looked down on these Government posts and preferred to seek employments elsewhere. Fruitless efforts had ^{in fact} been made in the past

to recruit suitable candidates for the vacant posts of Junior Pharmacists in the Department.

There was also the question of salary attached to those posts, which compared very unfavourably with other similar posts in the Government service. It was therefore urged that the two questions of (a) change of designation and (b) revision of salary scales of Pharmacists in Government Hospitals should be tackled now in Cabinet and not wait for consideration by the newly appointed Special Anomalies Committee.

The question of the composition and the working of the Anomalies Committee was here raised. The Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare informed the Cabinet that he had received representations from certain staff associations about the composition of the Anomalies Committee. It was felt that it would be only just and proper that there should be on that Committee also one or two representatives of the Staff Associations.

The Cabinet decided to consider this matter further at the next meeting.

G. Fenech

Prime Minister.

15.1.63

[Signature]
Secretary to Cabinet
15.1.63