

✓ Sitting No. 4/53.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Ambasciata d'Onore
Valletta, on Thursday, 10th January, 1963, at
6 pm.

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

Absent: The Hon. Prime Minister who was
ill.

Letters from the Malta Labour Party and the
Christian Workers Party.

Mr. E. Cuschieri, Administrative Secretary, was
in attendance.

The Hon. Minister of Industrial
Developments & Tourism informed the Cabinet
that two letters had been received that
day: one from the Malta Labour Party
Parliamentary Group and the other from the
Christian Workers Party. Both letters had
been addressed to the Prime Minister

and dealt with the necessity of summoning urgently the Legislative Assembly to consider the latest train of events regarding Bailey's and their ~~dispute~~ with the possible consequences of their dispute with the Colonial Office.

Hon. Ministers confirmed that contrary to what was alleged in the letter from the Malta Labour Party Parliamentary Group they had no knowledge that it was the intention of Bailey's to close down. Not only, but as a result of a meeting which the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism had had that day with the United Kingdom Commissioner, they came to know that there was in fact enough work in the backyard for the present level of employment to be maintained at least up to December next.

For that reason the urgency of summoning the Legislative Assembly was not felt and it was decided that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly should be informed accordingly and given the true facts of the situation. It was decided also that a Press release should be issued with a view to allaying the fears of the public regarding the closure of Bailey's, as alleged in the letter from the Malta Labour Party Parliamentary Group. Before taking these steps the Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Tourism undertook to see the Hon. Prime Minister in hospital and seek his concurrence.

Dispute of the General Workers Union
with Bailey's.

The Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare sought the views of the Cabinet on the question whether he should set up a Committee of Enquiry to establish facts regarding the dispute of the General Workers Union with Bailey's over non-industrial staff with the Company. Hon. members felt that under the present circumstances it would be advisable for the Hon. Minister of Labour & Social Welfare to mark time and await developments.


Secretary to Cabinet
15. 1. 63

P. Fenech.
Prime Minister
15. 1. 63