

✓ Sitting No. 24/63.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Amburge
d'Aragn, Valletta, on Tuesday, 14th May, 1963,
at 10.30 a.m.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister
of Economic Planning & Finance,
The Hon. Minister of Industrial Development
& 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.

The minutes of Meeting No.
26/63 were read and confirmed.

OPM. 1019/63
(MH. 482/63)

Poultry farms in built-up areas.

The Cabinet considered
a submission made to the Hon. Minister
of Health by a number of landowners
complaining about the construction of a
poultry farm very close to a block of flats
and villas in Clarisse Street, St. John's.
The landowners feared that a nuisance
would be created by the poultry in

consequence of which the tenants of the flats and villas would want to vacate the buildings and thus a considerable financial hardship would be suffered. The Lord Mayor asked the Government to intervene and legislate against the building of poultry farms in built-up areas with a view to preventing the person or persons concerned from proceeding with the construction of the poultry farm in question.

The Cabinet did not feel that the Government should intervene in that particular case as it was thought that the nuisance complained of was more imaginary than real. It was confirmed that the birds were on deep litter and that the farm was kept clean. If foul matter was detected in the farm, action would be taken in accordance with the relative provisions of the Police Laws. The Cabinet, however, agreed that legislation should be enacted to make it necessary for a person in future for a ~~farmer~~ ^{person} to obtain a licence to keep poultry ^{or} other animals in any area other than a prohibited area.

OPM. 2250/58. New policy regarding agricultural holdings
(Memo. No. 38A).

The Cabinet agreed to modify slightly the policy which had already been agreed upon and approved by Cabinet at the meeting held on the 13th November, 1962, regarding the renewal of leases of farmhouses

owned rural land. It was considered essential, primarily in the interests of agriculture, that there should be inserted in the deed of emphyteusis a condition ensuring that no Government land was in future held under any title by any one farmer smaller in size than that resulting from the present sub-divisions of the land unless such land was capable of being divided into two or more economic units (namely about 20 tumoli for dry and semi-dry land and about 6 tumoli for irrigated land) and that where land would be so capable of sub-division no farmer would hold less Government land than one economic unit.

It was also desirable, both from an agricultural and an administrative point of view, that where land was untenanted (i.e. in those cases where the long lease had expired and the land was occupied without title) or where land, although tenanted, was being cultivated by persons other than the "recognised tenants", the offer of the land in emphyteusis should as a rule be made to the actual cultivator.

Colwyn Durrant

Prime Minister ^{21.5.63}

Charles

Secretary to Cabinet.

21.5.63