

✓ Sitting No. 51/63.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge d'Arg
Valletta, on Saturday, 23rd November, 1963, at
9.30 am.

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 Justice
The Hon. Minister of Works and
Housing.
The Hon. Minister of Labour and
Social Welfare.
The Hon. Minister of Health.

Absent: The Hon. Minister of Agriculture,
Power & Communications who
was away from the Island.

The minutes of Meeting No. 5,
were read and confirmed.

Land 1380/63.

Acquisition of land at Isirah required
in connection with the extension of a factory
(Memo. No. 214)

The Cabinet considered
the question of the acquisition of a plot

of land at Msireh, the property of the Birkirkara Parish Church, which was required in connection with the extension of a 25,000 square feet factory in that village.

It was agreed that the land now occupied by the factory, as well as other relevant details, should be shown on the plan (dated 13/6/63).

It was also observed that the plots of land required for the extension of the factory in question was not at Msireh but lay in the Birkirkara area.

Sec. 361/61

Amendments to the Customs Ordinance.
(Memo. No. 212).

Prof. J. Azzopardo, Attorney-General, and Mr. V. Beffert, Commissioner of Police, were in attendance.

A Bill was prepared entitled an Act further to amend the Customs Ordinance, Cap. 60. The purpose of the Bill was to amend the Customs Ordinance so as to provide for the better preservation and detection of smuggling. The penalties for smuggling offences would include imprisonments and in appropriate cases comparable to those referred to in section 362 (1)(a) of the Criminal Code it would be possible to effect searches for contraband goods in houses, buildings or other enclosures without the necessity of a warrant.

The Cabinet felt that searches should not be made without authority. It was therefore agreed that searches for contraband goods in houses, buildings or other enclosures carried out by Customs Officers should be authorized by the Comptroller of Customs and those made by the Police should be authorized by the Commissioner of Police.

It was also decided that the penalties for smuggling certain specified goods such as cigarettes, tobacco, wines and spirits should be heavier and should include imprisonment.

Other amendments relating to the detection of smuggling were mentioned and the Attorney-General was asked to re-draft the Bill accordingly.

6.00 p.m.

Five-Year Plan for 1964-69.

Mr. G. Cassarini, Administrative Secretary, and Mr. A. Salomone, Financial Secretary, were in attendance.

The Cabinet heard a statement by the Financial Secretary on the position of the second Five-Year Plan for 1964-69 vis-a-vis the reports on the matter by Professor Stolper.

Confirmation of written opinion

The files mentioned hereunder were circulated to Hon. Ministers whose written decision was as follows:

Sec. 1347/60. H.E. The Governor was advised to approve exemption from the payment of licence fee in respect of the storage of diesel oil in a 500-gallon tank by the Director of St. Joseph Institute, Hamoun.

Land 1165/63 H.E. The Governor was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of land at Bgair, Malta, required for the construction of a children's playground.

Land 846/63. H.E. The Governor was advised to sign Declaration for the inspection of garden at No. 5, Church Street, Balfour, with a view to its possible acquisition.

M. of J. 83/62. H.E. The Governor was advised to approve arrangements for the duties of Her Majesty's Judges.

P. Azzopardo
of Prime Minister
7.12.63

C. Chetcuti
Secretary to Cabinet
7.12.63