

Sitting No. 71/65

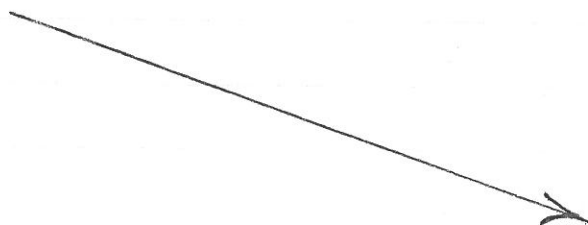
Cabinet Meeting held at the Ambasciata d' Aragon, Valletta, on Friday, 12th December 1965, at 8 p.m.

Presents: Hon. Prime Minister
 Hon. Minister of Industrial Development & Commerce
 Hon. Minister of Education
 Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Power & Communications
 Hon. Minister of Justice
 Hon. Minister of Works and Housing
 Hon. Minister of Labour and Social Welfare
 Hon. Minister of Health

OPM 545/65.

Declaration of Independence in Rhodesia
 (Mr. H. Pullicino, Secretary, Ministry for Commonwealth & Foreign Affairs, was in attendance)

Hon. Ministers considered and discussed the latest developments in Rhodesia. They agreed that the following statement be released:



After a Cabinet meeting held late this evening the Prime Minister authorized the release of the following statement:

The Government of Malta has received with sadness and regret the news of Mr Smith's unilateral declaration of independence for Rhodesia.

Malta's attitude towards such a step by Mr Smith's Government was clearly shown at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference last June and again at the United Nations' General Assembly last month.

The Government has supported every effort for a peaceful outcome of this very difficult problem and readily agreed to a meeting between Mr Wilson and Mr Smith being held in Malta.

Malta still holds to the principle of majority rule and it is earnestly hoped that common sense and good counsel will, even at this stage, avert violence and unnecessary hardship.

Edmond Dimech
Prime Minister.

16. 11. 65

Ed Dimech
Secretary to Cabinet.

16. 11. 65