

✓ Sitting No. 76/65.

Cabinet meeting held at the Ambrogio d'Agon, Valletta, on Wednesday, 1st Dec 1965, at 6 p.m.

Presents: Hon. Prime Minister

Hon. Minister of Industrial
Development & Tourism.

Hon. Minister of Education.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture,
Power & Communications

Hon. Minister of Justice

Hon. Minister of Works & Housing

Hon. Minister of Health.

Absents: Hon. Minister of Labour &
Social Welfare who was
away from the Island
on official business.

L. G. 1/35/IV Pensionability of Medical Officers
(Mr. E. Caschieri, Prof. G. Galea and
Dr. E. Muggi were in attendance)

Hon. Ministers were
informed of the strike action which
the Medical Association of Malta had
decided to take. On the advice of
the Advisory & Executive Board, the
Hon. Minister of Health, accompanied by
the Chief Government Medical Officer and
the Administrative Secretary, met
representatives of the Association later

in the evening, as a last minute attempt at conciliation. That attempt failed and Hon. Ministers agreed that the following statement be released:-

The Government has noted the decision taken by the Medical Association of Malta to order all doctors in Government service to go on strike today as from 8 a.m.

This action is being pursued in spite of the fact that the Government has offered to meet the Association's claim regarding the pensionability of its members in as fair a manner as is possible in the circumstances and to open negotiations on the Association's subsequent claim for a revision of its members' salaries.

Notwithstanding a last minute attempt at conciliation, which was made in order to avoid the hardship that may be caused to the public through the action of the Association, the Association remained intransigent and was not prepared to accept anything short of its original claim.

The Government has decided to do its utmost to provide essential medical facilities and to reduce hardship to the bare minimum, compatibly with the incredibly short notice of less than 24 hours given to it by the Association.

In order to avoid any misconceptions, the Government reaffirms the position that any strike action on the part of civil servants on the permanent establishment calls for disciplinary action entailing dismissal without pension.

Edmund Durell
Prime Minister.

21.12.65

Edg. Durell
Secretary to Cabinet.
21.12.65