

✓ Sitting No. 9/66.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Auberge d'Aragon, Valletta, on Tuesday, 10th March, 1966, at 12.15 p.m.

Present. Hon. Prime Minister
 Hon. Minister of Industrial Development
 & Tourism.
 Hon. Minister of Works & Housing.
 Hon. Minister of Labour & Social
 Welfare.
 Hon. Minister of Health.

Absent: Hon. Minister of Education, who was
 unwell.
 Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Power
 & Communications, and
 Hon. Minister of Justice, who
 were giving attention to
 other official business.

OPM. 523/66
 (MEPF. 761/65)

Joint Industrial Council; Wages Policy.
 (Mr. E. Cuschieri and Mr. S. Duggi were
 in attendance).

Hon. Ministers were informed
 of the submission made by the General
 Workers' Union for the implementation of a
 wages policy in Malta. The Union's main
 proposals were (a) an annual review of
 wages in the light of changes in the Cost of

Living Index, and (b) the negotiation of wage increases in advance, say for a period of one or two years, taking account of expected upwards movements in the cost of living and including a slight improvement in real wages.

Hon. Ministers considered the official and staff views of the Joint Industrial Council on the proposal to adopt forward wage revision on cost-of-living grounds. They appreciated the economic advantages of price stability inherent in a policy of spreading wage increases over a number of years rather than making global awards, possibly involving arrears, and would further consider the proposal on evidence of sufficient cost of living justification being adduced by the Staff Side.

Having regard to the imminent general elections, the framing of the Budget for the ensuing financial year, and the vagaries of the quantum of financial aid from Britain, it was felt expedient by Hon. Ministers, in any case, to let the matter stand over until after the elections when, after financial discussions with Britain and a final appraisal of the budget implications, a more informed approach could be made to the matter.

Isidoro Dimech
Prime Minister.

11. 6. 66

Ag. Baxxer

Sending to Cabinet.

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