

✓ Sitting No. 24/67.

Cabinet Meeting held at the Amburge d'Angon, Valletta, on Thursday, 23rd February, 1967, at 5.30 p.m.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister
 The Hon. Minister of Public Building
 & Works.
 The Hon. Minister of Justice and
 Parliamentary Affairs.
 The Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry
 & Agriculture.
 The Hon. Minister of Health
 The Hon. Minister of Labour,
 Employment & Welfare.

Absent: The Hon. Minister of Finance,
 Customs & Port, and
 The Hon. Minister of Education,
 Culture and Tourism
 who were indisposed.

(The Hon. Mr. E. Cuschieri, Mr. F.E. Amato Jurei
 and Dr. E. Digi were in attendance)

OPM. 520/66.

Rundown of British Defence Forces in Malta.

The Hon. Prime Minister
 informed the Cabinet of the contents of
 the letter he wrote to the British High
 Commissioner in the early hours of this morning.

Later the Prime Minister
 informed Ministers that Sir Geoffrey Long

called on him and informed him that the British Government were not insisting that the administrative measures taken by the Malta Government in regard to British Forces in Malta should be lifted while the talks were going on.

It was agreed that the Prime Minister should confirm his acceptance of the invitation to start negotiations in London to solve the present crisis between the two governments.

OPT. 150/64. Repatriation of Carmel Abela from the Bahamas. (Memo. No. 733)

Ministers considered Memorandum No. 733 and agreed that Carmel Abela should be repatriated under the conditions set out in the Memorandum.

Change of NATO Commands in Malta.

The Cabinet was informed of the proposed change of NATO Commands in the Mediterranean which would involve the placing of the Malta Headquarters under an Italian Commander-in-Chief.

OPT. 1081/66. Subletting of Government premises by External Affairs Officers while they are on duty abroad. (Memo. No. 656)

Ministers agreed in principle that External Affairs Service Officers be allowed to sublet their premises during the period of their postings away from Malta on duty. The conditions under which such permission should be granted was to be further considered by the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Commonwealth & Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office.

Caruana
 P. Prime Minister
 2.3.64

Edg. D'Amico
 Secretary to Cabinet.
 2.3.64