

✓ Sitting No. 32/69.

Cabinet meeting held at the Ambra d'Arzan, Valletta, on Tuesday, 15th April, 1969, at 6.00 pm.

Present: The Hon. Prime Minister
 The Hon. Minister of Finance, Customs and
 Post.
 The Hon. Minister of Public Buildings, Works,
 The Hon. Minister of Justice and
 Parliamentary Affairs.
 The Hon. Minister of Trade, Industry
 and Agriculture.
 The Hon. Minister of Health.
 The Hon. Minister of Education, Culture
 and Tourism.
 The Hon. Minister of Labour, Employment
 and Welfare.

Secretary/Treasurer, Sgo Civic Council.

(The Administrative Secretary was in attendance)

Ministers were informed of the procedure that had been adopted at the Office of the Prime Minister to appoint the Secretary/Treasurer of the Sgo Civic Council in succession to Mr. Louis Debono who was due to be transferred to Malta. The appointment was being objected to by the Sgo Civic Council, but it was pointed out that it was made as a result of a Selection Board appointed for the purpose at the Office of the Prime Minister and on the advice of the Public Service Commission. It was agreed that

The Administrative Secretary should inform unofficially the Commission that it was the wish of the Cabinet that they should possibly also hear the views of the Sgo Civic Council on the matter.

Malta Drydocks

(The Administrative Secretary was in attendance)

Ministers were informed of the report which the Consultants had submitted on the future control and administration of the Malta Drydocks.

OPM. 1234/67 ^{The} Budget for 1969/70; Introduction of a National Health Benefit Scheme (Memo. No. 864A) and other measures.

Ministers discussed the proposal for the introduction of a National Health Benefit Scheme on a cost sharing basis, as outlined in Memorandum No. 864A. It was agreed that more particulars ^{of the Scheme,} especially ~~the~~ its financial implications, were required before the proposal could be fully considered.

With regard to the Budget for 1969/70 Ministers agreed that the stamp duty on the transfer of immovable property be fixed at a uniform rate of 2%. Finance was also asked to consider the possibility ^{of introducing} other measures such as the levying of a betterment tax, the exemption from Customs duty of certain preventive medicines, free hospitalization

and a part of a special bonus to old pensioners.

Confirmation of Written Opinion

The files mentioned hereunder were circulated to Ministers whose written opinion was as follows:

Land 1118/68. H.E. the Governor General was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of land at Indja, required by the Government in connection with road widening.

Land 603/66. H.E. the Governor General was advised to sign Declaration for the acquisition of land at St. Paul's Bay, required in connection with the widening of Wardsja Lane, St. Paul's Bay.

20th May, 1969.

Edmund Pluie
Prime Minister

Ag. Cassar
Secretary to Cabinet.
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