

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINET BY THE
HON. PRIME MINISTER

Extension to Malta of International Convention
abolishing the Requirement of Legalisation for
Foreign Public Documents

An International Convention providing for the Abolition of the Legalization of Foreign Public Documents was signed at the Hague in 1961. The Convention was prepared by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on International Law.

2. The U.K. Government had informed us of their intention to ratify the Convention, and had invited the Malta Government to indicate whether we wished to have the provisions of the Convention extended to Malta in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 of the Convention.

3. In a recent communication from the Secretary of State, it was stated that the Convention is expected to be extended to most of the countries in the world, and that nearly all of the territories associated with the United Kingdom have already agreed to participate.

4. If Malta were to be excluded, persons born or married in the Island might experience considerable inconvenience and delay if required by a court or public authority abroad to produce civil status certificates because these documents would still have to be sent for legalization to Malta (and pending Independence, to the Colonial Office and Foreign Office in London) and back to the Consular post of the country concerned.

5. The Attorney General has advised that there would be advantage in extending the Convention to Malta, for which purpose no legislation would be required.

6. A copy of the Convention is available for perusal in the Office of the Secretary to Cabinet.

7. Hon. Ministers are invited to consider whether the Secretary of State may be informed that the Convention should be extended to Malta.

1st June, 1964.