



Malta Independence Act

CHAPTER 86

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ELIZABETH II



1964 CHAPTER 86

An Act to make provision for, and in connection with, the attainment by Malta of fully responsible status within the Commonwealth. [31st July 1964]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1.—(1) On and after such day as Her Majesty may by Order in Council appoint (in this Act referred to as “the appointed day”) Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom shall have no responsibility for the government of Malta. Fully responsible status of Malta.

(2) No Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed on or after the appointed day shall extend, or be deemed to extend, to Malta as part of its law; and on and after that day the provisions of Schedule 1 to this Act shall have effect with respect to the legislative powers of Malta.

2.—(1) On and after the appointed day the British Nationality Acts 1948 to 1964 shall have effect as if in section 1(3) of the British Nationality Act 1948 (Commonwealth countries having separate citizenship) there were added at the end the words “and Malta”. Consequential modifications of British Nationality Acts.

(2) Except as provided by section 3 of this Act, any person who immediately before the appointed day is a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies shall on that day cease to be such a citizen if he becomes on that day a citizen of Malta.

(3) Section 6(2) of the British Nationality Act 1948 (registration as citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies of women who

have been married to such citizens) shall not apply to a woman by virtue of her marriage to a person who on the appointed day ceases to be such a citizen under subsection (2) of this section, or who would have done so if living on the appointed day.

Retention of citizenship of United Kingdom and Colonies by certain citizens of Malta.

3.—(1) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, a person shall not cease to be a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies under section 2(2) of this Act if he, his father or his father's father—

- (a) was born in the United Kingdom or in a colony; or
- (b) is or was a person naturalised in the United Kingdom and Colonies; or
- (c) was registered as a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies; or
- (d) became a British subject by reason of the annexation of any territory included in a colony.

(2) A person shall not cease to be a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies under the said section 2(2) if either—

- (a) he was born in a protectorate or protected state, or
- (b) his father or his father's father was so born and is or at any time was a British subject.

(3) A woman who is the wife of a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies shall not cease to be such a citizen under the said section 2(2) unless her husband does so.

(4) Subject to subsection (5) of this section, the reference in subsection (1)(b) of this section to a person naturalised in the United Kingdom and Colonies shall include a person who would, if living immediately before the commencement of the British Nationality Act 1948, have become a person naturalised in the United Kingdom and Colonies by virtue of section 32(6) of that Act (persons given local naturalisation in a colony or protectorate before the commencement of that Act).

(5) Any reference in this section to a colony, a protectorate or a protected state is a reference to a territory which is a colony, a protectorate or a protected state, as the case may be, within the meaning of the British Nationality Act 1948, on the appointed day, and accordingly does not include a reference to Malta; and subsection (1) of this section shall not apply to a person by virtue of any certificate of naturalisation granted or registration effected by the governor or government of a territory outside the United Kingdom which is not such a colony, protectorate or protected state on the appointed day.

(6) Part III of the British Nationality Act 1948 (supplemental provisions) shall have effect for the purposes of this section as if this section were included in that Act.

4.—(1) Notwithstanding anything in the Interpretation Act 1889, the expression “colony” in any Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed on or after the appointed day shall not include Malta. Consequential modification and repeal of other enactments.

(2) On and after the appointed day—

(a) the expression “colony” in the Army Act 1955, the Air Force Act 1955 and the Naval Discipline Act 1957 shall not include Malta; and

(b) in the definitions of “Commonwealth force” in sections 225(1) and 223(1) respectively of the said Acts of 1955, and in the definition of “Commonwealth country” in section 135(1) of the said Act of 1957, at the end there shall be added the words “or Malta”.

(3) No Order in Council made on or after the appointed day under section 1 of the Army and Air Force Act 1961 shall operate to continue either of the said Acts of 1955 in force as part of the law of Malta.

(4) On and after the appointed day the provisions specified in Schedule 2 to this Act shall have effect subject to the amendments respectively specified in that Schedule, and Her Majesty may by Order in Council make such further adaptations in any Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom passed before this Act, or in any instrument having effect under any such Act, as appear to Her Majesty to be necessary in consequence of section 1 of this Act.

(5) Any Order in Council under the last preceding subsection may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Order in Council under that subsection, and may, if made after the appointed day, be made so as to take effect on that day; and any statutory instrument made under that subsection shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

(6) As from the appointed day the enactments specified in Schedule 3 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in relation thereto in the third column of that Schedule.

(7) Subsections (4) and (5) of this section, Schedule 2 to this Act and any Order in Council made under subsection (4) of this section shall not extend to Malta as part of its law.

5.—(1) In this Act, and in any amendment made by this Act Interpretation. in any other enactment, “Malta” means the Island of Malta and all other territories which at the passing of this Act are comprised in the State of Malta, and “the existing Constitution Order” means the Malta (Constitution) Order in Council 1961 as amended by the Malta (Constitution) (Amendment) Order in

Council 1962 and by the Malta (Constitution) (Modification) Order in Council 1963 and by any further Order in Council made before the appointed day.

(2) References in this Act to any enactment are references to that enactment as amended or extended by or under any other enactment.

Short title.

6. This Act may be cited as the Malta Independence Act 1964.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Section 1

LEGISLATIVE POWERS OF MALTA

1. The Colonial Laws Validity Act 1865 shall not apply to any law made on or after the appointed day by the legislature of Malta.

2. No law and no provision of any law made on or after the appointed day by that legislature shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to the law of England, or to the provisions of any Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, including this Act, or to any order, rule or regulation made under any such Act, and, subject to paragraph 5 of this Schedule, the powers of that legislature shall include the power to repeal or amend any such Act, order, rule or regulation in so far as it is part of the law of Malta.

3. The legislature of Malta shall have full power to make laws having extra-territorial operation.

4. Without prejudice to the generality of the preceding provisions of this Schedule—

(a) sections 735 and 736 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 shall be construed as if references therein to the legislature of a British possession did not include references to the legislature of Malta; and

(b) section 4 of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890 (which requires certain laws to be reserved for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure or to contain a suspending clause), and so much of section 7 of that Act as requires the approval of Her Majesty in Council to any rules of court for regulating the practice and procedure of a Colonial Court of Admiralty, shall cease to have effect in Malta.

5. Nothing in this Act shall confer on the legislature of Malta any power to repeal, amend or modify the constitutional provisions otherwise than in such manner as may be provided for in those provisions; and for the purposes of this paragraph "the constitutional provisions" means the following, that is to say—

(a) this Act;

(b) any Order in Council revoking the existing Constitution Order and providing for a new constitution for Malta to come into effect on the appointed day;

(c) any law, or instrument made under a law, of the legislature of Malta which, being a law or instrument made on or after the appointed day, amends, modifies, re-enacts with or without amendment or modification, or makes different provision in lieu of, any provisions of this Act, of the Order in Council first mentioned in this paragraph, or of any such law or instrument previously made.

Section 4.

SCHEDULE 2

AMENDMENTS NOT AFFECTING THE LAW OF MALTA

Diplomatic immunities

1. In section 461 of the Income Tax Act 1952 (exemption from income tax in the case of certain Commonwealth representatives and their staffs)—

- (a) in subsection (2), before the words “for any state” there shall be inserted the words “or Malta”;
- (b) in subsection (3), before the words “and ‘Agent-General’” there shall be inserted the words “or Malta”.

2. In section 1(6) of the Diplomatic Immunities (Commonwealth Countries and Republic of Ireland) Act 1952, before the words “and the Republic of Ireland” there shall be inserted the word “Malta”.

3. In section 1(5) of the Diplomatic Immunities (Conferences with Commonwealth Countries and Republic of Ireland) Act 1961, before the words “and the Republic of Ireland” there shall be inserted the word “Malta”.

Financial

4. In section 2(4) of the Import Duties Act 1958, before the words “together with” there shall be inserted the word “Malta”.

Visiting forces

5. In the Visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act 1933, section 4 (attachment and mutual powers of command) shall apply in relation to forces raised in Malta as it applies in relation to forces raised in Dominions within the meaning of the Statute of Westminster 1931.

6. In the Visiting Forces Act 1952—

- (a) in section 1(1)(a) (countries to which that Act applies) at the end there shall be added the words “Malta or”;
- (b) in section 10(1)(a) the expression “colony” shall not include Malta;

and, until express provision with respect to Malta is made by Order in Council under section 8 of that Act (application to visiting forces of law relating to home forces), any such Order for the time being in force shall be deemed to apply to visiting forces of Malta.

Ships and aircraft

7. In section 427(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, as substituted by section 2 of the Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949, before the words “or in any” there shall be inserted the words “or Malta”.

8. In the proviso to section 6(2) of the Merchant Shipping Act 1948, at the end there shall be added the words “or Malta”.

9. In the definition of “excepted ship or aircraft” in paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the Emergency Laws (Repeal) Act 1959, before the words “or in any” there shall be inserted the words “or Malta”.

10. The Ships and Aircraft (Transfer Restriction) Act 1939 shall not apply to any ship by reason only of its being registered in or licensed under the law of Malta; and the penal provisions of that Act shall not apply to persons in Malta (but without prejudice to the operation with respect to any ship to which that Act does apply of the provisions thereof relating to the forfeiture of ships).

SCH. 2

11. In the Whaling Industry (Regulation) Act 1934, the expression "British ship to which this Act applies" shall not include a British ship registered in Malta.

12. In section 2(7)(b) of the Civil Aviation (Licensing) Act 1960, the expression "colony" shall not include Malta.

Copyright

13. If the Copyright Act 1911, so far as in force in the law of Malta, is repealed or amended by that law at a time when sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 39 of Schedule 7 to the Copyright Act 1956 (which applies certain provisions of that Act in relation to countries to which the said Act of 1911 extended) is in force in relation to Malta, the said sub-paragraph (2) shall thereupon cease to have effect in relation thereto.

Commonwealth Institute

14. In section 8(2) of the Imperial Institute Act 1925, as amended by the Commonwealth Institute Act 1958 (power to vary the provisions of the said Act of 1925 if an agreement for the purpose is made with the governments of certain territories which for the time being are contributing towards the expenses of the Commonwealth Institute) at the end there shall be added the words "and Malta".

SCHEDULE 3

Section 4.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

Chapter	Short Title	Extent of Repeal
22 & 23 Geo. 5. c. 43.	The Malta Constitution Act 1932.	The whole Act.
26 Geo. 5. & 1 Edw. 8. c. 29.	The Malta (Letters Patent) Act 1936.	The whole Act.
7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 14.	The Malta (Letters Patent) Act 1959.	The whole Act.

Table of Statutes referred to in this Act

Short Title	Session and Chapter
Colonial Laws Validity Act 1865	28 & 29 Vict. c. 63.
Interpretation Act 1889	52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.
Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890	53 & 54 Vict. c. 27.
Merchant Shipping Act 1894	57 & 58 Vict. c. 60.
Copyright Act 1911	1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 46.
Imperial Institute Act 1925	15 & 16 Geo. 5. c. xvii.
Statute of Westminster 1931	22 & 23 Geo. 5. c. 4.
Visiting Forces (British Commonwealth) Act 1933	23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 6.
Whaling Industry (Regulation) Act 1934	24 & 25 Geo. 5. c. 49.
Ships and Aircraft (Transfer Restrictions) Act 1939	2 & 3 Geo. 6. c. 70.
Merchant Shipping Act 1948	11 & 12 Geo. 6. c. 44.
British Nationality Act 1948	11 & 12 Geo. 6. c. 56.
Merchant Shipping (Safety Convention) Act 1949	12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 43.
Income Tax Act 1952	15 & 16 Geo. 6. & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 10.
Diplomatic Immunities (Commonwealth Countries and Republic of Ireland) Act 1952	15 & 16 Geo. 6. & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 18.
Visiting Forces Act 1952	15 & 16 Geo. 6. & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 67.
Army Act 1955	3 & 4 Eliz. 2. c. 18.
Air Force Act 1955	3 & 4 Eliz. 2. c. 19.
Copyright Act 1956	4 & 5 Eliz. 2. c. 74.
Naval Discipline Act 1957	5 & 6 Eliz. 2. c. 53.
Import Duties Act 1958	6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 6.
Commonwealth Institute Act 1958	6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 16.
Emergency Laws (Repeal) Act 1959	7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 19.
Civil Aviation (Licensing) Act 1960	8 & 9 Eliz. 2. c. 39.
Diplomatic Immunities (Conferences with Commonwealth Countries and Republic of Ireland) Act 1961	9 & 10 Eliz. 2. c. 11.
Army and Air Force Act 1961	9 & 10 Eliz. 2. c. 52.

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