

MALTA - LIBYA : RIGHT OF ENTRY*

Malta and Libya signed an agreement enabling citizens of both countries to travel, work, set up residence and also own property in the two respective countries. The agreement was signed by Premier Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici and his Libyan counterpart Mohamed Zarrug Rajab. Dr Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici said the agreement laid the foundations for full cooperation between the two countries in the future. The two Premiers had met in Tripoli on August 20 when Premier Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici paid a ten hours visit to the Libyan capital. On his return Premier Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici had announced that the two countries had reached a verbal agreement which laid emphasis on the employment of Maltese workers in the Jamahiriya. Last month Mr Frewa was in Malta with the Minister for Public Services, Mr Mohamed Ali Mabrouk, for talks on the strengthening of cooperation in the economic and social fields and also to have discussions on the employment of Maltese workers in Libya. Yesterday Premier Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici said he hoped that Maltese-Libyan cooperation will promote peace in the mediterranean region and lessen the tensions bedevilling the region. Premier Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici thanked his counterpart, the Secretary of the General People's Council of the Jamahiriya, for his endeavours through which the meeting was a success. From Luqa the Libyan party went to the Jerma Palace hotel in Marsascala for a brief rest. Then, accompanied by the Senior Deputy Prime Minister Dr Joseph Cassar, Mr Zarrug Rajab had the first of two meetings with Premier Karmenu Mifsud Bonnici at Kastilha. Also attending the meeting were Dr Cassar, Dr Sceberras Trigona, Mr Freddie Micallef, Mr Wistin Abela and government officials as well as Mr Sidney Barbara of the Malta Shipbuilding Co. Last month Libyan Light Industry Minister Mr Musa Frewa had been in Malta with the Minister of Public Services, Mr Mohamed Ali Mabrouk for talks on the strengthening of cooperation in the economic and social fields and also to have discussions on the employment of Maltese workers in Libya.

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*[This text of an extract of a report that appeared in The Times, Malta on or about 6 November 1985, was provided by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta, Canberra who advised that the full terms of the agreement have not yet been made public.]