

CONFIDENTIAL



JHP
Cc Master Set.
Malta

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 November 1979

CALL BY DR. FENECH ADAMI

Dr. Adami called on the Prime Minister this afternoon at the House of Commons as arranged. Much of the talk was about Party matters and I shall not be producing a formal note of the talk. This letter records two points which may be of interest.

Dr. Adami, who described in some detail the attack on his home and his wife, said that Mintoff's only chance of surviving the next election lay in intimidation and violence. The Nationalist Party was doing well and a recent rally following the incident on Dr. Adami's house had been enthusiastically attended. But Dr. Adami was concerned as to whether the results of an election would be respected. He feared that there might be some form of intervention. He referred in this connection to the fact that there were now between two and three thousand Libyan students in Malta. Dr. Adami initially implied that the students would need to keep Mr. Mintoff in power but later seemed to imply that they might even intervene against Mr. Mintoff if they did not think he was taking a sufficiently strong line.

The other point of interest made by Dr. Adami was that the Nationalist Party's commitment to Europe was becoming a political issue in Malta. They would like to see Malta join the EEC although the Labour Party in Malta were opposed to Malta's membership, the Nationalist Party were rallying support in other member countries. Dr. Adami said that he had recently had a sympathetic hearing in Germany. He did not think that Maltese membership would create any problems for the Community. Although given an opening to express a view, the Prime Minister gave no indication whatever of HMG's likely attitude to an application for membership from a Nationalist Government in Malta.

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

SB