

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CABINETBY THE HON. THE PRIME MINISTER

Request by the British Council to exchange  
their present premises for the building known  
as the Malta Garrison Officers Library

The Military Authorities have intimated that they no longer require the building now occupied by the Malta Garrison Officers Library, and that the building will shortly be returned to the Government.

2. The British Council Representative, in a letter dated 16th January, 1964, has applied for the lease of these premises which he considers much more suitable in every respect as the seat of the British Council than the premises now occupied by the Council at West Street, Valletta.

3. The proposals of the British Council Representative are briefly as follows:

(a) that the lease they presently hold from Government on the premises at Nos. 81 and 85, West Street, Valletta, and which expires on 31st December, 1971, be transferred to the Garrison Library premises;

(b) that the repairs and re-decorations required to restore the Garrison Library to a good condition shall be carried out at the expense of the British Council, who have funds available for this purpose (these funds have to be spent or committed by March 31st next);

(c) that the Council is prepared to consider any proposal which the Committee of the Garrison Library might make for an amalgamation of the Library's and the Council's library services.

4. Only (a) and (b) above are of direct concern to Government, and the Council's proposal can therefore be considered to consist of these two points alone, as far as the Government is concerned. The Council's present lease on the premises in West Street is held at a yearly rent of £5.

5. Hon. Ministers are invited to give their views on this matter.

20th February, 1964.