

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET BY THE HON. MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSINGSite for Ministry of Works Building

On the 10th November, 1964, Cabinet decided that the site bordered by Queensway, Kingsway and Ordnance Street, Valletta should not be utilised for an Administration Block to house the Ministry of Works and Housing or any other Ministry.

As provision has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for the erection of a Ministry of Works Building and as works are programmed to start in the second year of the plan, a final effort has been made to find a suitable site capable of taking a building to house the Public Works and Housing Departments, which are dispersed in eight different premises in Valletta and the Statistics Department.

The following sites have been considered:-

I Valletta(a) Site in Bakery Street corner with Archbishop Street

This site belongs to Government and is readily available. It is also very centrally placed. But it is much too small and the streets around are too congested to allow adequate parking facilities for the department's cars.

(b) Site in Britannia Street

This is the area occupied by the Forage Barns now used as Office by D.E.L.S.W. The site area would probably suffice but this would mean the complete demolition of the Barns which are historical monuments and the eviction of Delia's woodwork factory. Parking would also present considerable problems though less than in the case of Site (a).

(c) Site in South Street corner with Old Mint Street

This land adjoins the General Workers Union Headquarters. It is very centrally placed and is easily accessible for the public. But the site is too small and parking would be almost impossible.

II Floriana(d) Site near Lintorn Barracks (Cable Yard)

This site is owned in freehold by the War Department but apparently it is not much used. It is of sufficient area and is readily accessible by car and on foot. Parking presents no problem. Practically the only difficulty is that it is not Government owned.

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-Arkiyji Nazjonali ta' Malta

(e) Open Space near Granaries

This is the site between Montgomery House and the Catholic Institute building. The site is very restricted but a building could be put up if it is made to straddle the prolongation of Strait Street so as to make use of both plots. The site is central and accessible but is bound to be rather noisy.

(f) Lintorn Barracks

These buildings may, if made available to the Government, be adapted for use as a Ministry of Works and Housing building but it would not be as ideal as a modern building tailor-made to meet present day requirements of the largest Government Department. Moreover it is understood that if the Lintorn Barracks were to be released, they would admirably serve the requirements of the Police Department which is not adequately housed at present in the former Central Civil Hospital.

All in all, it is considered that the site which is the most suitable is that near the Lintorn Barracks (Cable Yard) and Hon. Ministers are asked to approve the selection of this site so that an immediate start may be made on the designing of the Building.

16th January, 1965.

M.W.H.248/63