

MEMORANDUM BY THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE AND TOURISM ON A PROPOSAL FOR THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF CONCRETE CAISSONS AT  
PIETA CREEK.

On the 5th July, 1966, a meeting was held at the Office of the Director of Industry during which a proposal by a German firm, Messrs. Philip Holzman Aktiengesellschaft to construct and assemble 7 concrete caissons in Malta was discussed. The Firm proposed to transport the completed caissons by sea to Libya where they would be used to form a breakwater quay. Those present included representatives of the Ministry of Trade Industry and Agriculture, Director of Public Works, Commissioner of Land, Port Manager and the Malta Government Tourist Board.

In effect the project involved the construction of piers and dolphins at a deep water quay. It was pointed out that the required depth could only be found at Pieta Creek below Sa Maison Bastion. The Company would have to construct a wharf 135 meters long and finger piers and dolphins to a width of 28 metres. The Director of Public Works was of the opinion that permission to the Company should be given only after the Company would have submitted the fullest details of the project. In view of the widening of the road that was soon to be carried out at Sa Maison, Government could insist on a right of way across the site.

Another point was the Company's requirement to moor the caissons temporarily in safe waters, and various points in Marsamxett Harbour were indicated for this purpose. The Tourist Board has stressed the adverse effect that such a proposal could have on the Yachting Centre development at Marsamxett Harbour. Even though the Company's project was a temporary one, the possibilities of placing this project in other likely localities, (such as, for example, Marsaxlokk or Kalkara Creek) should be studied further.

Note has been taken of the fact that 300 Maltese workmen will be employed in the project, and a considerable amount of capital was to be expended by the Company, but we would not like to be in a position to have to terminate the proposed concession for any reason if this would entail the cessation of employment for these workers.

Another point that should be kept in view is the interest shown by a foreign investor who had submitted a proposal and is giving further attention for the mooring of a 600-bed floating hotel in Hay Wharf, Pieta. Having in mind the urgent need for more hotel beds, one cannot disregard the possibilities of such a project and weigh it against the granting of a concession for the construction of caissons on the same site.

L-Arkivji nazzjonali ta' Malta

Secretary, Ministry of Trade Industry and Agriculture has written to the Company by means of a letter of intent dated 22nd July, 1966 a copy of which is attached for ~~your~~ reference. The Minister of Finance Customs and Port has asked whether I would agree to the issue of the necessary permit required by the Company.

May I suggest, as is stated earlier, that everything possible should be done to keep Marsamxett Harbour free for the Yachting Centre activities. Moreover, I cannot fail to see the adverse effects for the proposed activity, since this means the carrying out of an unsightly activity in a part of the harbour which attracts so much attention from the tourist and the public in general. Hon. Ministers may wish to consider this matter and to agree that the Government should not commit itself further with the Company, and that no permit should be issued to them for the carrying out of their project at Hay Wharf, Pieta or any other locality in Marsamxett Harbour. Furthermore Hon. Ministers may wish to give the fullest consideration to the other proposals and views contained in this memorandum.

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4th October, 1966.

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22nd July, 1966.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to refer to my discussion with your Mr. Holtschneider and your letter of the 1st July regarding the use of an area by Sa Maison Bastion in Pieta Creek for the construction of concrete caissons.

Your request has been discussed with other Government Departments and I am pleased to say that agreement in principle is indicated.

The Director of Public Works informed me that the area in question forms part of a major project. However, he pointed out that subject to agreement between you and him on a co-ordinated plan to work it may be possible for the two projects to be undertaken simultaneously.

The proposed berthing arrangements in Msida and Pieta Creeks have been further considered in the light of the development of those waters into a yachting centre. It is not desirable to berth the caissons awaiting towage in those creeks. The Commander Royal Naval Harbour Services may be approached by you for the hire of first class berths in the Grand Harbour. Alternatively strong moorings would have to be laid by you in some other harbour or bay such as Dwejra in Gozo or Marsaxlokk. If your efforts to find alternative berthing arrangements fail Government may re-consider your request for berthing arrangements in Pieta Creek. However, in that case it must be made very clear at this stage that berthing would be limited to Pieta Creek and the caissons would have to be moved to destination before the end of June 1967.

It is presumed that you would wish to examine the sea-bed to satisfy yourself that the area is suitable for your project. The Director of Public Works would also wish to discuss plans for your work site in order to agree on a co-ordinated plan of the two projects.

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L-Arkivji nazzjonali ta' Malta

You would also have the opportunity to meet the Commissioner of Land to discuss the terms of the lease or encroachment permit.

I would, therefore, be grateful to learn when you intend to visit the island again to examine the details of your work site with the departments concerned.

Secretary,  
Ministry of Trade,  
Industry & Agriculture.

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