

MEMORANDUM TO CABINET  
BY THE PRIME MINISTER

Deutsche Welle

Following the decisions taken in Cabinet on the 4th and 6th March, 1970, an Agreement was entered into with Deutsche Welle on the 9th March, 1970 and a licence issued to them on the same date.

One major problem at this stage is the siting of the "Government" studios and transmitting station which had been referred to in page 3 of Cabinet Memo No. 1371B which read as follows:-

"Mr Roesler of Deutsche Welle has been to Malta to examine the adequacy and suitability of the two sites for the studios and transmitting station which Deutsche Welle will be providing for the Government (and of the two sites for Deutsche Welle's own receiving and transmitting stations). A general tour of the Island in search of possible sites was made.

Mr Roesler came to the conclusion that the promontary at Galiet Marku limits of St Julians was ideal for the "Government" transmitting station because of the configuration and lie of the land and the possibility of running cables into the sea as part of a grounding system. L-Imqarqá, limits of St Paul's Bay which had been suggested as an alternative site was suitable but has certain short-comings. The surrounding land and the high land to the North would result in loss of radiated power and consequently a shorter range of coverage. More funds would have to be spent on this site than on Galiet Marku, although the difference

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would not be prohibitive. These considerations have to be weighed, however, against the much higher value of the Qaliet Marku site, its potential for other uses and the fact that it has not as yet been surrendered to the Government.

Mr Roesler also felt that Notre Dame Ravelin in Floriana (which is still used by the British Authorities) would be suitable for the Government's Broadcasting studios although it would be necessary to ascertain that there would be no aesthetic or planning objections to the erection of buildings and a high mast."

The Agreement binds the Government to make suitable sites available as soon as possible and not later than 9th September, 1970.

Notre Dame Ravelin, the site proposed for the studios, is due for surrender by the British Authorities in early 1971 and if Government's approval in principle is given to its use for this purpose, an approach would be made to the British Authorities with a view to obtaining its earlier surrender.

Deutsche Welle have now made it very clear that the ideal site for a transmitting station intending to broadcast to Southern Europe is Qaliet Marku at Bahar ic-Caghaq and that their technicians were not at all happy about the alternative site which had been mentioned previously i.e. l-Imqarqca.

Qaliet Marku poses three problems:-

- (a) it is a valuable developable site and its use as a transmitter site would preclude any extensive building development;
- (b) there may be aesthetic objections to an array of high antennae;
- (c) it is still in the hands of the British

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authorities and it is not scheduled for surrender in the near future,

It is possible that the transmitting station could be set up under "joint-user" arrangements with the British Authorities while Qaliet Marku continues to be held by them but before an approach is made to the British Authorities on either surrender or joint use, it would be necessary to get Government's approval in principle to the use of the site for this purpose in the light of (a) and (b) above.

Ministers may wish to consider whether they agree in principle that:-

- (a) the "Government" studios be located at Notre Dame Ravelin;
- (b) the "Government" transmitting station be located at Qaliet Marku.